INR2001: Introduction to International Relations
Summer B 2025 | 3.00 credits

I. General Information

Class location: Online (100%)

Instructor: Mai Frndjibachian
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    Office/Building: Anderson Hall, Room 010
    Office Hours: Thursdays 11am−1pm (EST) on **ZOOM** or **in-person by appointment**

Course Description

Introduction to concepts and analytical tools for studying interactions among international actors: states, international organizations, and transnational groups. Social and behavioral science principles are used to analyze concepts such as power and national interest as they relate to social, political, and economic issues. Specifically, the course consists of two parts: The first part focuses on the major theoretical approaches used to understand global politics, including realism, liberalism, constructivism, Marxism, postcolonialism, poststructuralism, and feminism. The second part focuses on understanding global politics through a range of contemporary issues/dynamics. Ultimately, competence in these areas enables students to better understand themselves, their neighbors, other cultures and times, and the principles governing the sociopolitical world; and to participate fully and responsibly as informed citizens in local, national, and global matters.

Prerequisites

General Education Designation: Social and Behavioral Sciences (S)
Social Science courses must afford students an understanding of the basic social and behavioral science concepts and principles used in the analysis of behavior and past and present social, political, and economic issues. **Social and Behavioral Sciences (S)** is a sub-designation of Social Sciences at the University of Florida. These courses provide instruction in the history, key themes, principles, terminology, and underlying theory or methodologies used in the social and behavioral sciences. Students will learn to identify, describe and explain social institutions, structures or processes. These courses emphasize the effective application of accepted problem-solving techniques. Students will apply formal and informal qualitative or quantitative analysis to examine the processes and means by which individuals make personal and group decisions, as well as the evaluation of opinions, outcomes or human behavior. Students are expected to assess and analyze ethical perspectives in individual and societal decisions.

Secondary General Education Designation: International (N)
International courses promote the development of students' global and intercultural awareness. Students examine the cultural, economic, geographic, historical, political, and/or social experiences and processes that characterize the contemporary world, and thereby

comprehend the trends, challenges, and opportunities that affect communities around the world. Students analyze and reflect on the ways in which cultural, economic, political, and/or social systems and beliefs mediate their own and other people's understanding of an increasingly connected world.

All General Education area objectives can be found here.

Course Materials

- Baylis, J., Smith, S., & Owens, P. (Eds.). (2023). The Globalization of World Politics (GWP): An Introduction to International Relations (9th ed). Oxford University Press.

Materials will be available through the following means:
Students are responsible for obtaining access to the textbook. Please note that there are different editions. We will read the most recent edition (9th) published in 2023 for this course. Students should also familiarize themselves with the UFL VPN service for the film review portion of the course (instructions will be provided on Modules). Other materials will be uploaded to and available on Canvas.

Materials Fee: N/A

II. Course Goals

Course Objectives
In this course we will:
- The course is designed as a broad introduction into the study of global politics, providing instruction in the history, terminology, and underlying theory used in the field of international relations.
- We will explore the major scholarly tradition as well as contemporary issues often examined by the various approaches.

Student Learning Outcomes
A student who successfully completes this course will be able to:
- Demonstrate competence in the terminology, concepts, theories, and methodologies used within the discipline.
- Communicate knowledge, ideas, and reasoning clearly and effectively in written and oral forms appropriate to the discipline.
- Analyze information carefully and logically from multiple perspectives, using discipline-specific methods, and develop reasoned solutions to problems.

III. Graded Work

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found in the [Catalog](#).

Graded Components

TOTAL: 100%

Exam I (25%):
Exam I is on **July 18** and will be **available on Canvas between 6:00AM and 11:59PM (EST).** This exam will be based on readings and lectures covered in **Module 1 through Module 3**. Students will have **2 hours** to complete the exam once they start. The exam is open book and consists of two sections, each with equal weight on the exam grade. You will be required to answer **20 multi-format questions**, including but not limited to multiple choice, true/false, and short-answered questions (for short-answered questions, your answer should be no more than 4-5 typing lines). You are only allowed **1 attempt** at completing the exam.

Exam II (25%):
Exam II is on **August 8** and will be **available on Canvas between 6:00AM and 11:59PM (EST).** This exam will be based on readings and lectures covered in **Module 4 through Module 6**. Students will have **2 hours** to complete the exam once they start. The exam is open book and consists of two sections, each with equal weight on the exam grade. You will be required to answer **20 multi-format questions**, including but not limited to multiple choice, true/false, and short-answered questions (for short-answered questions, your answer should be no more than 4-5 typing lines). You are only allowed **1 attempt** at completing the exam.

Film Review (20%):
Students must write a film review for ***"Quo Vadis, Aida?" (2020).*** The movie can be accessed for free on **Kanopy** by using **UFL VPN service**. The review must be approximately **1000 words**, and students must write about the movie's relevance in global politics using what they have learned in the course. **Students can watch the movie at their own time, BUT the film review must be submitted to Canvas on July 25 at 11:59 PM (EST).**

Weekly Reflection (30%):
Students must write a total of **five (5) weekly reflections**, one reflection for each week of the Summer B semester. Weekly reflections must be approximately **400-500 words each**. You can treat them as your notes on what you think or feel about the readings/topics raised in the week. **Reflection must be submitted at the end of each week at 11:59 PM (EST).** Each reflection is worth 5 points, to be evaluated based on the following criteria:

Criteria	Excellent (Full Points)	Developing (Middle Range)	Needs Improvement
Length & Timeliness (1 pt)	Meets word count (400–500 words) and submitted on time	Slightly over/under word count (approx. 600 or 300 words) OR submitted late	Very short/incomplete (approx. 100-200 words) OR chronically late

Criteria	Excellent (Full Points)	Developing (Middle Range)	Needs Improvement
Engagement with Content (2.5 pts)	Thoughtfully engages with multiple key ideas; shows original insight or critical reflection	Addresses key ideas with some thought; mostly accurate but may lack depth	Minimal or superficial engagement; unclear or off-topic
Personal Reflection & Connection (2 pts)	Makes meaningful connections to self, prior knowledge, or real-world examples	Some effort to relate content to personal experience or broader issues	No personal reflection or connection is evident
Clarity & Effort (0.5 pt)	Well-organized, clearly written, polished, and thoughtful	Understandable, but may be disorganized or rushed	Unclear, disjointed, or careless; minimal effort

Grading Scale

A = 100–94	A– = 90–93	B+ = 87–89	B = 84–86
B– = 80–83	C+ = 77–79	C = 74–76	C– = 70–73
D+ = 67–69	D = 64–66	D– = 61–63	E = ≤60

See the UF Catalog's "Grades and Grading Policies" for information on how UF assigns grade points.

Note: A minimum grade of C is required to earn General Education credit.

IV. Calendar

Date	Topic	Readings/Preparation	Work Due
Module 1: Introduction to the course and to global politics			
June 30, 2025	Introduction	Review course syllabus and requirements	
July 1, 2025	Global Politics	GWP Chap 1 GWP Chap 2	Reflection #1 due
July 2, 2025	History of Modern International Order	GWP Chap 3 GWP Chap 4	
July 3, 2025	Current Global Order	GWP Chap 5 GWP Chap 6	
July 4, 2025	NO CLASS	Independence Day	
Module 2: Approaches to International Relations			
July 7, 2025	Realism	GWP Chap 9 Interview: John Mearsheimer	Reflection #2 due

July 8, 2025	Liberal Internationalism	GWP Chap 7 Interview: Andrew Moravscik	
July 9, 2025	Social Constructivism	GWP Chap 13 Interview: Erik Ringmar	
July 10, 2025	Marxism	GWP Chap 8 Ask Prof. Wolff: Capitalism(s)	
July 11, 2025	Feminism	GWP Chap 10 Interview: Cynthia Enloe	
Module 3: Approaches to International Relations II			
July 14, 2025	Post/Decolonialism	GWP Chap 11 Interview: Robbie Shilliam	Reflection #3 due
July 15, 2025	Poststructuralism	GWP Chap 12 Interview: Charlotte Epstein	
July 16, 2025	Why (not) -isms	Why isms are evil (Lake)	
July 17, 2025	Review		
July 18, 2025	Exam I	Exam I will be available on Canvas **between 6:00AM and 11:59PM (EST).**	Students will have **2 hours** to complete the exam once they start.
Module 4: Understanding global politics			
July 21, 2025	Security/War	GWP Chap 14 GWP Chap 15	Begin/Continue working on the film review
July 22, 2025	Global Economy	GWP Chap 16 GWP Chap 28	
July 23, 2025	IOs	GWP Chap 20 GWP Chap 21	
July 24, 2025	Regionalism and NGOs	GWP Chap 23 GWP Chap 22	
July 25, 2025	Film review submission	Finish work on the film review for "Quo Vadis, Aida?" (2020)	Submit film review to Canvas on July 25 **before 11:59 PM (EST)**
Module 5: Understanding global politics II			
July 28, 2025	Nationalism	GWP Chap 31 E-IR: Secession	Reflection #4 due
July 29, 2025	International Law and Rights	GWP Chap 19 GWP Chap 32	
July 30, 2025	Intervention	GWP Chap 33 R2P Doctrine	
July 31, 2025	Refugees	GWP Chap 26 E-IR: Refugees	

August 1, 2025	Terrorism	GWP Chap 29 E-IR: Terrorism	
Module 6: Understanding global politics III			
August 4, 2025	Environment	GWP Chap 24 E-IR: Climate change	Reflection #5 due
August 5, 2025	Global Health	GWP Chap 25 E-IR: Covid-19	
August 6, 2025	Poverty	GWP Chap 27 E-IR: Global poverty	
August 7, 2025	Review		
August 8, 2025	Exam II	Exam II will be available on Canvas **between 6:00AM and 11:59PM (EST).**	Students will have **2 hours** to complete the exam once they start.

V. University Policies and Resources

Attendance policy
Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at:
https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx.

Students requiring accommodation
Students who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the Disability Resource Center (DRC) by visiting https://disability.ufl.edu/students/get-started/. It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

UF course evaluation process
Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online. Students can complete evaluations in three ways:

1. The email they receive from GatorEvals
2. Their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals
3. The central portal at https://my-ufl.bluera.com

Guidance on how to provide constructive feedback is available at https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/.

University Honesty Policy
University of Florida students are bound by the Honor Pledge. On all work submitted for

credit by a student, the following pledge is required or implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment." The Student Honor Code and Conduct Code (Regulation 4.040) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code, as well as the process for reported allegations and sanctions that may be implemented. All potential violations of the code will be reported to Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution. If a student is found responsible for an Honor Code violation in this course, the instructor will enter a Grade Adjustment sanction which may be up to or including failure of the course. For additional information, see https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-student-conduct-code/.

In-class recording
Students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures. However, the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled. The only allowable purposes are (1) for personal educational use, (2) in connection with a complaint to the university, or (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. All other purposes are prohibited. Specifically, students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor.

A "class lecture" is an educational presentation intended to inform or teach enrolled students about a particular subject, including any instructor-led discussions that form part of the presentation, and delivered by any instructor hired or appointed by the University, or by a guest instructor, as part of a University of Florida course. A class lecture does not include lab sessions, student presentations, clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving solely student participation, assessments (quizzes, tests, exams), field trips, private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the faculty or guest lecturer during a class session.

Publication without permission of the instructor is prohibited. To "publish" means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section. Additionally, a recording, or transcript of a recording, is considered published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, leaflet, or third-party-note/tutoring services. A student who publishes a recording without written consent may be subject to a civil cause of action instituted by a person injured by the publication and/or discipline under UF Regulation 4.040 Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code.

Procedure for conflict resolution
Any classroom issues, disagreements or grade disputes should be discussed first between the instructor and the student. If the problem cannot be resolved, please contact Ben Smith (bbsmith@ufl.edu, 352-273-2345). Be prepared to provide documentation of the problem, as well as all graded materials for the semester. Issues that cannot be resolved departmentally will be referred to the University Ombuds Office (http://www.ombuds.ufl.edu; 352-392-1308) or the Dean of Students Office (http://www.dso.ufl.edu; 352-392-1261).

Resources available to students

Health and Wellness

- U Matter, We Care: If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu, 352-392-1575, or visit U Matter, We Care website to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.
- Counseling and Wellness Center: Visit the Counseling and Wellness Center website or call 352-392-1575 for information on crisis services as well as non-crisis services.
- Student Health Care Center: Call 352-392-1161 for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need, or visit the Student Health Care Center website.
- University Police Department: Visit UF Police Department website or call 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).
- UF Health Shands Emergency Room / Trauma Center: For immediate medical care call 352-733-0111 or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608; Visit the UF Health Emergency Room and Trauma Center website.
- GatorWell Health Promotion Services: For prevention services focused on optimal wellbeing, including Wellness Coaching for Academic Success, visit the GatorWell website or call 352-273-4450.

Academic Resources

- E-learning technical support: Contact the UF Computing Help Desk at 352-392-4357 or via e-mail at helpdesk@ufl.edu.
- Career Connections Center: Reitz Union Suite 1300, 352-392-1601. Career assistance and counseling services.
- Library Support: Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources. Call 866-281-6309 or email ask@ufl.libanswers.com for more information.
- Teaching Center: 1317 Turlington Hall, Call 352-392-2010, or to make a private appointment: 352-392-6420. Email contact: teaching-center@ufl.edu. General study skills and tutoring.
- Writing Studio: Daytime (9:30am-3:30pm): 2215 Turlington Hall, 352-846-1138 | Evening (5:00pm-7:00pm): 1545 W University Avenue (Library West, Rm. 339). Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers.
- Academic Complaints: Office of the Ombuds; Visit the Complaint Portal webpage for more information.
- Enrollment Management Complaints (Registrar, Financial Aid, Admissions): View the Student Complaint Procedure webpage for more information.