

INR 2001: International Relations (UFO)

University of Florida

Syllabus: Spring 2026



Instructor: Margaret Eduonoo

Number of credit hours: 3

Email: m.eduonoo@ufl.edu

Office hours: T (10:00-11:30), R (2:00-3:30), or by appointment

Office Hours Link: <https://calendly.com/m-eduonoo>

General Education Subject Area: S (Social and Behavioral Science) and N (International)

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 applied to analyze concepts such as power and national interest in relation to social, political, and economic issues. Students will gain both empirical and theoretical knowledge that will strengthen their critical understanding and informed perspectives on key issues in world politics.

Learning Outcomes:

Students will be able to:

- I. Identify the actors of the international system, including states, international organizations, and transnational groups.
- II. Use basic social and behavioral science principles to examine important themes, concepts, and theories of international relations.
- III. Analyze the role key historical events played in the development of the international system.
- IV. Discuss the interaction among international actors about theories of foreign policy and international relations as applied to social, political, and economic issues.

For the *General Education Subject Area Objectives*, you may find the information about this course by clicking here (<https://undergrad.aa.ufl.edu/general-education/gen-ed-program/subject-area-objectives/>). The designations of this course are S (Social Science) and N (International).

Course Material:

Required Textbook

We will use one textbook in this course:

Karen Mingst and Heather Elko McKibben. *Essentials of International Relations*. 9th Edition. ISBN: 978-0-393-87217-0. <https://www.norton.com/books/9780393872187#/about-the-book/product-details>

Note: An older edition of this book (8th edition) is available for download online. It has roughly the same outline, but some of the case studies are outdated, and it is one chapter short. Make sure to prepare for necessary adjustments if you decide to use that version of the book.

Materials and Supply Fee: N/A

The course is structured into weekly lectures that will complement and clarify assigned readings. All readings listed **under** a certain date should be completed **before** that date. Students are encouraged to have a good understanding of the material covered in both the readings and the lectures. To do this, always seek to get the basic arguments first. Then, as you read the text, annotate it by highlighting or circling the relevant details and key ideas. Take notes as needed.

In addition to these readings, you are encouraged to read the international news sections of major newspapers, e.g., *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, and *The Christian Science Monitor*, and popular news podcasts, e.g., *The World in 30 Minutes* and *the World Next Week*, and other relevant sources of your choice.

Grades Distribution and Assessments

WEEKLY DISCUSSIONS (20%):

- The weekly discussion is a reflective exercise to promote engagement and learning of the course material.
- There will be a discussion question almost every week. Students will respond to some questions individually and others in groups. The questions will be mainly based on lectures, class readings, and current events. Students are expected to respond to at least another student's post. I will provide additional instructions and a grading rubric on Canvas.

QUIZZES (10%):

- There will be **6** quizzes on specific dates. The purpose of the quizzes is to give you practice engaging with news articles for a selected week's lecture and readings. Please see below for additional information.

NEWS ANALYSIS PAPER (25%):

- News coverage provides a window into the dynamics of international relations. For this assignment, you will analyze a global event using one major theoretical framework and at least two key concepts from this course. Your analysis should draw from at least two reputable news outlets, which may include *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *The Christian Science Monitor*, or similar publications.
- You will submit **3** news analysis papers (specific dates are below). **I will drop your lowest score when calculating your final grade.**

GRADING RUBRIC:

Criteria	Score (Points)
Introduction: concise summary encapsulating the main point of the event and a thesis statement	2.5
Body: demonstrates an excellent understanding of a major theory and concepts; explains how a selected theory and concepts are applicable in analyzing the event	3.5
Conclusion: clearly states a critique and provides some reflection	2
News sources: two or more	1
Citations and reference	1

EXAMS (45%):

- There will be **3** closed-textbook and closed-note exams; each exam will cover the conceptual and theoretical material from four chapters. All exams will be posted and made available to you for **2** days (please see below for specific dates).
- All exams carry equal weight. The format includes multiple-choice, true-or-false, matching, and short-answer questions.

IMPORTANT DATES:

Exam I	Monday-Tuesday, February 9-10
Exam II	Thursday-Friday, March 12-13
Exam III	Monday-Tuesday, April 20-21
News Analysis Papers (3)	Sunday: February 22, March 8, and April 2

SUMMARY OF GRADES:

Assignment	Total Score	Weight
Weekly discussions	$10 * 6 \text{ points} = 60$	20%
Quizzes	$6 * 5 \text{ points} = 30$	10%
News analysis paper	$3 * 10 \text{ points} = 30$	25%
Exams	$3 * 50 \text{ points} = 150$	45%

GRADING SCHEDULE:

A	$93\% \leq A \leq 100\%$	$A- 90\% \leq A- < 93\%$
B+	$87\% \leq B+ < 90\%$	$B 83\% \leq B < 87\%$
C+	$77\% \leq C+ < 80\%$	$C 73\% \leq C < 77\%$
D+	$67\% \leq D+ < 70\%$	$D 63\% \leq D < 67\%$
E	$E < 60\%$	$D- 60\% \leq D- < 63\%$

Non-whole numbers (.5 to .9) will be rounded up to the next whole number.

A minimum grade of C is required for general education credit. For more information on the UF policies for assigning grade points (and GPA calculations), please visit

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/#gradingpolicies>

Policies and Procedures

Office Hours

I hold three hours (3 hours) per week, but you may schedule a meeting outside of those hours if you are unavailable during that time. Please make use of office hours, as that is the time I allocate to be 100% available to you. If you have any questions or concerns about course requirements, please talk to me sooner rather than later. Use the Calendly link at the top of this syllabus to book a meeting.

This course complies with all UF academic policies. For information on those policies and for resources for students, please see this [link](#).

Course Overview and Schedule:

This course is 100% online. All lectures, assignments, and exams are conducted via Canvas. Although this course is asynchronous and self-paced, students must complete assignments and exams (with set due dates) based on assigned readings and lectures. Recordings of lectures will be posted on Canvas on the first business day of each week, and you can access them at your own pace. Please note that there may be more than one lecture video in a week.

Week 1 (Jan. 12): Introduction and How to Study World Politics

Syllabus review, general requirements, and logistics.

Approaches to International Relations

- Textbook, Chapter 1: p. 3-17 (14 pages); Chapter 3: p. 66-68 (2 pages)
- Assignment:
 - Discussion 1 (1/18)

Week 2 (Jan. 20): Historical Contexts and the Emergence of Modern States

Understanding contemporary international relations by looking to the past.

- Textbook, Chapter 2: p. 18-39 (21 pages) and p. 40-63 (23 pages)
- Assignment:
 - Discussion 2 (1/25)

Week 3 (Jan. 26): Theoretical Perspectives in International Relations

Realism, Liberalism, Constructivism, and Other Theories

- Textbook, Chapter 3: p. 69-89 (20 pages) and p. 89-100 (11 pages)
- Quiz 1 (1/29-30)
- Assignment:
 - Discussion 3 (2/1)

Week 4 (Feb. 2): Levels of Analysis in International Relations

Three Levels of Analysis in International Relations: International System, State, and Individual

- Textbook, Chapter 4: p. 102-118 (16 pages) and p. 119-139 (20 pages)
- Quiz 2 (2/5-6)

Week 5 (Feb. 9): Power and the State

The Centrality of States, Power, and Foreign Policy Decision Making

- Textbook, Chapter 5: p. 140-159 (19 pages) and p. 160-175 (15 pages)
- Exam I (2/9-10)
- Assignment:
 - Discussion 4 (2/15)

Week 6 (Feb. 16): War and Peace

Wars: How to Prevent them and make Peace

- Textbook, Chapter 6: p. 176-194 (18 pages) and p. 195-218 (23 pages)
- Quiz 3 (2/19-20)
- Assignments:
 - News Analysis Paper #1 (2/22)
 - Discussion 5 (2/22)

Week 7 (Feb. 23): International Laws and Cooperation

Why and How States Cooperate and International Law

- Textbook, Chapter 7: p. 220-233 (13 pages) and p. 234-255 (21 pages)
- Quiz 4 (2/26-27)
- Assignment:
 - Discussion 6 (3/1)

Week 8 (Mar. 2): International Political Economy

- Textbook, Chapter 8: p. 256-277 (21 pages; Read until the section titled “The Regionalization of Trade and Beyond”) and p. 278-303 (25 pages)
- Assignments:
 - News Analysis Paper #2 (3/8)
 - Discussion 7 (3/8)

Week 9 (Mar. 9): International Organizations

- Textbook, Chapter 9: p. 306-329 (23 pages; Read until the section titled “The European Union-Organizing Regionally”) and p. 330-350 (20 pages)
- Exam II (3/12-13)

Week 10 (Mar. 16): Spring Break

Week 11 (Mar. 23): Human Rights

- Textbook, Chapter 10: p. 352-367 (15 pages) and p. 368-388 (19 pages)
- Quiz 5 (3/26-27)
- Assignment:
 - Discussion 8 (3/29)

Week 12 (Mar. 30): Environmental Politics

- Textbook, Chapter 11: p. 391-406 (15 pages) and p. 406-422 (16 pages)
- Quiz 6 (4/2-3)
- Assignment:
 - Discussion 9 (4/5)

Week 13 (Apr. 6): Human Security

- Textbook, Chapter 12: p. 425-440 (15 pages) and p. 442-458 (16 pages)
- Assignments:
 - News Analysis Paper #3 (4/12)
 - Discussion 10 (4/12)

Exam III (Apr. 20-21)