



INR 2001 Introduction to International Relations

Fall 2024 Online

Instructor: Long Xiao

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Office Hours on Zoom: Wednesday & Thursday, 3 pm – 4:30 pm (or by appointment on Zoom)

<https://ufl.zoom.us/j/93795153282?pwd=jbxvJdf4xOf5pXBOD0j8NQruiRjNk.1>

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

Course Description

The world after the Second World War has seen an ever-changing landscape, and such changes are accelerated by crucial political, economic, and cultural factors that all intertwine with each other. International Relations is a subfield of the academic discipline of Political Science that studies world politics and international affairs from theoretical and systematic perspectives. The course will introduce students to the core concepts and approaches in the study of international relations as well as the relevant cases to which they can be applied. We will discuss various topics in international politics, such as war, international cooperation, and the global economy, as well as how to think about them using different theoretical frameworks. Students will be embarking on a journey that will help them better understand the world that we currently live in, and they will be able to better equip themselves with the abilities to ask and answer the “why and how” questions to many world events.

Learning Objectives

By the end of this course, given sufficient efforts, you will:

- Understand the basic structure of international politics;
- Be familiar with major theories and perspectives of international relations as lenses that we can use to learn about our world and conduct our roles in it;
- Be able to apply critically the said theories and approaches to both historical and current issues;
- Be able to identify major actors, issues, and determinants in international politics as well as their roles.

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).

Required Readings

Textbook - Karen Mingst and Heather Elko McKibben. *Essentials of International Relations*. 9th Edition. ISBN: 978-0-393-87217-0. <https://wwnorton.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.

Reading – Besides the required textbook, articles, book chapters, and online materials will be used in this class. All the readings are mandatory, and they are supposed to complement the lectures and the textbook. While some of them will be uploaded directly to the Canvas Files, others are freely available online.

You should read the assigned materials before the given day's lecture. In other words, all readings that are listed **under** a certain date should be finished **before** that date. I will make all non-textbook readings freely available through Canvas or directly through links on the syllabus. It is imperative that you have a good comprehension 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, you should annotate it, such as highlighting or circling essential messages. Take notes as you see fit. It is always better to get the basic arguments of every piece than to read every sentence.

Grades Distribution and Assessments

Weekly Quizzes: 30%

- The weekly quizzes are an important way for the instructor to evaluate your understanding of the course material, such as main concepts, significant events, and important relations in world politics.
- **12 weekly quizzes will be distributed to students across the entire semester.** Each quiz will consist of 10 questions that can include multiple-choice, true-or-false, and matching. Each quiz can be finished within 20 minutes. They will be mainly based on class lectures.
- The lowest quiz grades will be dropped. The remaining 11 quiz grades will be used to calculate the weighted grade. Each quiz will have 10 points. A quiz will be posted and made available for the entire Friday of each of the quizzed weeks. Please see the course schedule for further information.

Response Papers: 15%

- Response papers are based on the textbook and non-textbook readings. In these papers, you are writing about and engaging with the readings. It is an opportunity for you to express your thoughts on the material both critically and constructively.

- **3 response papers are due on different dates.** You are welcome to submit them at any time up until the due time. Each has 6 points, and it should be no less than 350 and no more than 500 words.
- For each response paper, you may choose one module that you have read up to one week before the due date and discuss both the textbook and non-textbook readings. Further explanations will be provided during lectures.

News Reports Analyses: 15%

- News reporting heavily reflects international relations. Students are encouraged to read about how different news sources report the same global event and consider their similarities and differences.
- **2 news analysis papers are due on different dates.** You are welcome to submit them at any time until the due time. Each has 6 points, and it should be no less than 450 and no more than 600 words.
- For each news analysis paper, you may choose any event with global significance (i.e., known and reacted to by people residing in other countries). You should make sure that the event is covered by at least two credible news outlets and compare and contrast the coverage by different outlets. Further details will be provided during lectures.

Written Exams: 40%

- Exams allow you to demonstrate your understanding of key concepts and theories, and they enable you to apply critical thinking skills through clear and concise articulation.
- **One exam is given around the mid-point of the semester, and one is given at the end of the semester.** They are of equal weight and comprised of 7 short answer questions and one long answer question.
- Both exams will be posted and made available to you for a two-day period. Exam I will be posted on Wednesday and Thursday, October 16-17; Exam II will be posted on Tuesday and Wednesday, December 3-4. The second exam is not cumulative.
- A short answer question should be answered with no more than 150 words. A long answer question should have no more than 450 words.

Assignment	Total Score	Weight
Weekly Quizzes	11 * 10 = 110	30%
Response Papers	3 * 6 = 18	15%
News Reports Analyses	2 * 6 = 12	15%
Written Exams I & II	2 * 100 = 200	40%

Late Submission Policies

Excused late submissions must be consistent with university policies and require appropriate documentation. Additional information can be found [here](#)

[\(https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/\)](https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/). Eligible circumstances will be given make-up opportunities for exams and quizzes, provided the affected students have proper documentation.

To account for unforeseen circumstances, online assignments will be given a 1-hour grace period after the deadline. Although your assignment will be marked as late, there will not be any penalty. No assignments will be accepted after that period has passed.

Late submissions will not be accepted except in cases of documented illness, legal duties, or civic/university functions. If you anticipate missing an assignment and have a valid excuse, please email me within the same week to discuss making up the work; if you have missed an assignment due to unforeseen circumstances, please email me as soon as possible.

Grading Policy

The following cutoffs will be used for grades:

A: $93\% \leq A \leq 100\%$

A-: $90\% \leq A- < 93\%$

B+: $87\% \leq B+ < 90\%$

B: $83\% \leq B < 87\%$

B-: $80\% \leq B- < 83\%$

C+: $77\% \leq C+ < 80\%$

C: $73\% \leq C < 77\%$

C-: $70\% \leq C- < 73\%$

D+: $67\% \leq D+ < 70\%$

D: $63\% \leq D < 67\%$

D-: $60\% \leq D- < 63\%$

E: $E < 60\%$

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/#gradingpoliciestext>.

Course Evaluations

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/>. I take this feedback seriously and use your constructive feedback to improve the course for future offerings. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester; you will be notified when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at the link provided above.

Resources

Accommodations

Students with disabilities requesting accommodation should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, you will receive an accommodation letter to share with me. If you need accommodation, please follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

Health & Wellness Resources

If you or someone you know is struggling with any crisis, including but not limited to gender, sexual, racial, or domestic violence, there are many communities and University of Florida resources available. Some of these include:

- • U Matter, We Care (umatter@ufl.edu, 352-392-1575, umatter.ufl.edu)
- • RESPECT – UF Division of Student Affairs (respect.ufsa.ufl.edu)
- • Counseling and Wellness Center – available 24/7 (352-392-1575, counseling.ufl.edu)
- • Student Health Care Center (352-392-1161, shcc.ufl.edu)
- • Multicultural & Diversity Affairs (352-392-1217, multicultural.ufl.edu)
- • UFPD Office of Victim Services (352-392-1111, police.ufl.edu)
- • UF Health Shands Emergency Room / Trauma Center (352-733-0111)

Academic Integrity

All students are required to abide by the University of Florida's Academic Honesty Guidelines, which may be viewed at <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/judicial/procedures/honestybrochure.php>. Most obviously, this means cheating on exams and plagiarism on papers is unacceptable. Examples of plagiarism include but are not limited to submitting entire papers written by others, submitting portions of papers written by others, copying text without quotations and proper citation, or paraphrasing text without proper attribution in a footnote. In addition to harming your professional career, academic dishonesty will destroy your ability to learn from this class.

In-Class Recording

While students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures, the ways these recordings may be used are strictly controlled. The only purposes allowed are for personal educational use, in connection with a complaint to the university, or as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. All other purposes are prohibited. Students may not publish recorded lectures without the instructor's written consent.

Course 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 within the first two days of each week, and you can access them at your own pace. Please note that there may be more than one recording for each of the lectures. So please be mindful when you are trying to access them.

Module 1: What is IR?; How to study it?

Lecture 1 (Aug. 22): Course Introduction; Syllabus Review

Lecture 2 (Aug. 26): World Politics and How to Study it.

- Textbook, Chapter 1 (14 pages); Chapter 3: p. 66-68 (2 pages)

Quiz 1 (Aug. 30)

Module 2: Historical Contexts and the Emergence of Modern States

Lecture 3 (Sept. 3): From the Ancient Time to the Cold War

- Textbook, Chapter 2: p.18-39 (21 pages)
- Thucydides, "The Melian Dialogue," in *The History of the Peloponnesian War*. (on Canvas)
- BBC, "The Thirty Years War", *In Our Time*. ([Access here](#))

Lecture 4 (Sept. 4): International Politics in the Modern Era

- Textbook, Chapter 2: p. 40-63 (23 pages)

Quiz 2 (Sept. 6)

Module 3: Theoretical Perspectives in International Relations

Lecture 5 (Sept. 9): Realism and Liberalism

- Textbook, Chapter 3: p. 69-89 (20 pages)
- Paul Formosa, "Guide to the classics: Immanuel Kant's Toward Perpetual Peace and its relevance to the war in Ukraine," *The Conversations*. ([Access here](#))
- Walter Russell Mead, "The Jacksonian Revolt," *Foreign Affairs*. (On Canvas)

Lecture 6 (Sept. 10): Constructivism and Other Theories;

- Textbook, Chapter 3: p. 89-100 (11 pages)
- Marcos Farias Ferreira, “Introducing Critical Theory in International Relations,” *E-International Relations*. (On Canvas)

Quiz 3 (Sept. 13)

Module 4: Levels of Analysis in International Relations

Lecture 7 (Sept. 16): Three Levels of Analysis in International Relations

- Textbook, Chapter 4: p. 119-139 (20 pages)
- Yan Xuetong, “Why a Bipolar World Is More Likely than a Unipolar or Multipolar One,” *The HuffPost*. ([Access here](#))
- Jamie Miscik, “Intelligence and the Presidency,” *Foreign Affairs*. (On Canvas)
- David Singer, “International Conflict: Three Levels of Analysis,” *World Politics*. (On Canvas)

Quiz 4 (Sept. 20)

Module 5: Power and the State

Lecture 8 (Sept. 23): Power and How to Use it?

- Textbook, Chapter 5: p. 140-159 (19 pages)
- John Benedict, “Global Power Distribution and Warfighting in the 21st Century,” *Joint Force Quarterly* 83. (On Canvas)
- Chia-Chien Chang and Alan H. Yang, “Weaponized Interdependence: China’s Economic Statecraft and Social Penetration against Taiwan,” *Foreign Policy Research Institute*. (On Canvas)

Lecture 9 (Sept. 24): State Power and Foreign Policymaking

- Textbook, Chapter 5: p. 160-175 (15 pages)
- John Mearsheimer, “America Unhinged,” *National Interest*. ([Access here](#))
- Stephen Wertheim, “The Price of Primacy: Why America Shouldn’t Dominate the World,” *Foreign Affairs*. ([Access here](#))

Quiz 5 (Sept. 27)

Response Paper 1 Due; on Modules 2-4 (Sept. 29)

Module 6: War and Peace

Lecture 10 (Sept. 30): What are Wars?

- Textbook, Chapter 6: p. 176-194 (18 pages)
- John J. Mearsheimer, “Sister Camilla and the Anarchic Schoolyard,” (On Canvas)
- Bruce Russett, “Democratic Norms and Culture?” in *Grasping the Democratic Peace* (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1993): p. 30-42. (On Canvas)

Lecture 11 (Oct. 1): How to Prevent Wars and Make Peace?

- Textbook, Chapter 6: p. 195-218 (23 pages)
- Brett Ashley Leeds, “Do Alliances Deter Aggression? The Influence of Military Alliances on the Initiation of Militarized Interstate Disputes.” *American Journal of Political Science* 47(3): 427–439. (On Canvas)
- Woodrow Wilson, The Fourteen Points. (A quick summary [here](#))

Quiz 6 (Oct. 4)

Module 7: International Laws and Cooperation

Lecture 12 (Oct. 7): Why and How to Cooperate?

- Textbook, Chapter 7: p. 220-233 (13 pages)

Lecture 13 (Oct. 8): International Law

- Textbook, Chapter 7: p. 234-255 (21 pages)

Quiz 7 (Oct. 11)

News Analysis 1 Due (Oct. 13)

Exam I (Oct. 16 & Oct. 17)

Module 8: International Political Economy

Lecture 14 (Oct. 21): Entities and Processes in International Economy.

- Textbook, Chapter 8: p. 256-277 (21 pages; Read until the section titled “The Regionalization of Trade and Beyond”)
- Aaditya Mattoo and Arvind Subramanian, “From Doha to the New Bretton Woods,” *Foreign Affairs*. (Access [here](#))
- “Global Trade After the Failure of the Doha Round,” *New York Times*. (Access [here](#))
- Brad McDonald, “International Trade: Commerce among Nations,” *IMF*. (On Canvas)
- Jim Tankersley, “How Tariffs Work, and Why China Won’t See a Bill,” *New York Times*. ([Access here](#))

Lecture 15 (Oct. 22): Global Finance and Its Politics

- Textbook, Chapter 8: p. 278-303 (25 pages)
- Miles Kahler and David Lake, “Governance in a Global Economy: Political Authority in Transition,” *Political Science & Politics*. (On Canvas)

Quiz 8 (Oct. 25)

Module 9: International Organizations

Lecture 16 (Oct. 28): Organizations in World Politics I

- Textbook, Chapter 9: p. 306-329 (23 pages; Read until the section titled “The European Union-Organizing Regionally”)

Lecture 17 (Oct. 29): Organizations in World Politics II

- Textbook, Chapter 9: p. 330-350 (20 pages)

Quiz 9 (Nov. 1)

Response Paper 2 Due; on Modules 5, 6, 8 (Nov. 3)

Module 10: Human Rights

Lecture 18 (Nov. 4): Human Rights and Human Wrongs

- Textbook, Chapter 10: p. 352-367 (15 pages)
- Thomas Franck, “Are Human Rights Universal?” *Foreign Affairs*. (On Canvas)

Lecture 19 (Nov. 5): The Global Politics of Human Rights

- Textbook, Chapter 10: p. 368-388 (19 pages)
- Elliott Abrams, “Reorganizing U.S. Promotion of Democracy and Human Rights,” *Council on Foreign Relations*. ([Access here](#))
- Ethan Kapstein, “The New Global Slave Trade,” *Foreign Affairs*. (On Canvas)
- “Why Has the Syrian War Lasted 11 Years?” *BBC*. ([Access here](#))
- Ahmed, Kaamil. 2022. “Whoever Says Syria's Safe Is a Liar’: Country's Tourist Drive at Odds with Human Rights Record.” *The Guardian*. ([Access here](#))

Quiz 10 (Nov. 8)

Module 11: Global Environmental Politics

Lecture 20 (Nov. 12): Climate Change in the Context of IR

- Textbook, Chapter 11: p. 391-406 (15 pages)
- Joshua Busby, “As the Stakes Rise, Climate Action Loses Momentum,” *Current History*. (On Canvas)
- John Broome, “The Ethics of Climate Change,” *Scientific American*. ([Access here](#))
- Henry Shue, “Global Environment and International Inequality,” *International Affairs*. (On Canvas)

Lecture 21 (Nov. 13): Natural Resources and the Commons Problem

- Textbook, Chapter 11: p. 406-422 (16 pages)
- Garrett Hardin, “The Tragedy of the Commons,” *Science*. (On Canvas)

Quiz 11 (Nov. 15)

News Analysis 2 Due (Nov. 17)

Module 12: Human Security and Global Health

Lecture 22 (Nov. 18): Human Security and Migration

- Textbook, Chapter 12: p. 425-440 (15 pages)
- Garrett Hardin, “Lifeboat Ethics: The Case Against Helping the Poor,” *Psychology Today* 8. (On Canvas)
- Sadako Ogata, “Striving for Human Security,” United Nations. ([Access here](#))

Lecture 23 (Nov. 19): Global Health; Exam Review and Q&A Session

- Textbook, Chapter 12: p. 442-458 (16 pages)
- David Fidler, “The World Health Organization and Pandemic Politics,” *Think Global Health*. ([Access here](#))
- “Covid-19 and Food Security: What You Need to Know,” *Center for Strategic and International Studies*. ([Access here](#))

Quiz 12 (Nov. 22)

Fall Break Holiday (Nov. 25 – 29)

Response Paper 3 Due; on Modules 10-12 (Dec. 1)

Exam II (Dec. 3 & Dec. 4)