

INR 3603: THEORIES OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Fall 2023, MWF 9:35–10:25 pm @ FAB 105

Instructor: Stephanie Denardo, PhD Candidate, International Relations
Department of Political Science
Email: denardo01@ufl.edu
Office: AND 201b, located on second floor of Anderson Hall

Office hours:

Wednesdays: 11:00am – 12 pm @ AND 201b

Fridays: 11:00am – 12 pm @ AND 201b

*Or by appointment

Course Description and Required Texts

What are theories of International Relations? What, and to whom, do they address? In what historical contexts did they arise? In this course, we will carefully read six books written by major scholars of international relations, each who share the assumption that the varied interactions among states and nonstate actors in the global arena are vital elements of the world system. But they differ from each other in the conceptual perspectives they use to analyze global politics, such as the meanings and practices of “power,” “security,” and “cooperation.”

The primary objective of this course is to appreciate the ways in which the variety of perspectives we will read and discuss shape different understandings of “international relations,” and their implications for studying global politics today. The six books and scholars vary from one another not only in theoretical perspective, but also in their analytical lenses. Some of the analyses consist primarily of abstract reasoning about global politics, while others are empirical in their orientation, ranging from archival and textual analysis, through historical case studies– to feminist and critical analyses applied to both abstract and empirical reasoning. The secondary objective of the course is to familiarize yourself with some of the ways in which social scientists establish their claims to knowledge of their subject matter. Finally, a third objective is to reflect on the particular historical contexts and dynamics of global politics within which these scholars wrote, and to consider the ways in which their theories are still applicable today.

Please purchase the following required books:

- Kenneth Waltz, *Man, the State, and War*. [Any edition is fine]
- John J. Mearsheimer, *The Tragedy of Great Power Politics*. [Updated edition, published in 2014]

- Robert Keohane, *After Hegemony: Cooperation and Discord in the World Political Economy*. [Any edition is fine]
- Martha Finnemore, *National Interests in International Society*.
- Robert Vitalis, *White World Order, Black Power Politics: The Birth of American International Relations*.
- J. Ann Tickner, *Gender in International Relations: Feminist Perspectives on Achieving Global Security*.

Please let me know if you need any assistance accessing these books. An e-book version of Waltz's book is accessible via the UF Libraries portal online (to access the libraries remotely, make sure to activate your VPN). Copies of the other five books are available to check out at UF Library West.

Course Requirements

Grades will be based on (a) three "thought pieces;" (b) five short "reaction pieces;" and (c) class attendance.

Thought Pieces: 4-6 page (double spaced) take-home essay assignment (3 total essays). For each essay assignment, you will be challenged to demonstrate a firm grasp of the theoretical perspectives covered in class. For example, I may ask you to interpret a recent international political event from the perspective of one (or more) of these theories. Or, I may provide you with an official policy statement such as from NATO Heads of State and Government and ask you how one (or more) of the theorists we read would react to it. The first "thought piece" assignment will be posted on Canvas on Monday, October 2, at 10:30 am and will be due on Monday, October 9, at 9 am. The second assignment will be posted on Wednesday, November 8, at 9 am and will be due on Monday, November 13, at 9 am. The third assignment will be posted on Wednesday, December 6, at 9 am, and will be due on Monday, December 11, at 12 pm. For your convenience, these dates are indicated in red font on the class schedule below. Late submissions will be penalized at a rate of 3 points (that is, 3 percent of the maximum total score for the class) per 24 hours.

Short Reaction Pieces: Five times during the semester you will be required to respond briefly to a prompt and/or short article /video interview related to the reading materials assigned that week. The reaction pieces should be 2-3 pages each (double spaced). The prompts and additional resources needed will typically be posted on Canvas on Fridays at 10:30 am and the assignment will be due the following Monday at 9:00 am (but note two exceptions during Labor Day and Thanksgiving weekends). The relevant dates are indicated in red font on the course schedule. Late submissions will be penalized at a rate of 0.5 points per 24 hours.

Class attendance: I expect you to attend class sessions regularly and to complete all the readings in timely fashion, as specified by the schedule below. Five percent (five points) of the total grade for the class will be based on attendance. I will randomly take attendance

ten times during the semester. You will earn 5 points if you attend 9 or 10 of these sessions; 4 points if you attend 8 sessions; 3 points if you attend 7 sessions; 2 points if you attend 6 sessions; 1 point if you attend 5 sessions; zero points if you attend 4 sessions or less.

The final grade for the course will be distributed as follows:

- Thought piece #1 20%
- Thought piece #2 25%
- Thought piece #3 30%
- Short reaction pieces (4 points each) 20%
- Attendance 5%

For each assignment you will receive a numerical score, not a letter grade. Your final cumulative score will be translated into a letter grade according to the following schedule: 93 points or higher = A; 90–92.9 = A-; 87–89.9 = B+; 83–86.9 = B; 80–82.9 = B-; 77–79.9 = C+; 73–76.9 = C; 70–72.9 = C-; 67–69.9 = D+; 63–66.9 = D; 60–62.9 = D-; <60 = E.

Other Matters/Policies

Individual extra-credit work is not allowed.

Deadline extensions may be granted under special circumstances; if you anticipate such circumstances, please do not hesitate to ask for an extension. But you must do so prior to the deadline; retroactive extensions will not be granted.

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (<https://disability.ufl.edu/>). Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

Requirements for class attendance, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies posted at <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>

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. More information about in-class recording is available at <http://aa.ufl.edu/policies/in-class-recording/>

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance

on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

Class/Reading Schedule

August 23 Introduction and Course overview

I. REALIST PERSPECTIVES

August 25 Waltz, chapter 1 (pp. 1–15)

August 28 Waltz, chapter 2 (16–41)

August 30 Waltz, chapter 3 (42–79)

September 1 Waltz, chapter 4 (80–123)
Reaction piece #1 posted on Canvas at 10:30 am

September 4 No class (Labor Day)

September 6 Waltz, chapter 5 (124–158)
Reaction piece #1 due at 9:00 am

September 8 Waltz, chapter 6 (159–186)

September 11 Waltz, chapter 7 (187–223)

September 13 Waltz, chapter 8 (223–238)

September 15 No class (Assigned online video)
Conversations with History: Kenneth Waltz
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F9eV5gPIPZg>
Reaction piece #2 posted on Canvas at 10:30 am

September 18 Online class (Reflecting on the art of writing, or how to write well)

- Jane Rosenzweig, “The Whistle-Blower Knows How to Write,” *New York Times*, Sept. 27, 2019, at <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/09/27/opinion/whistleblower-complaint.html>

Reaction piece #2 due at 9:00 am via Canvas

- September 20 No class (Assigned readings with lecture slides)
Mearsheimer, 1-67
- September 22 Mearsheimer, 75-90, 96-99, 108-137
- September 25 No class (Yom Kippur)
- September 27 Mearsheimer, 138-162, 168-172, 190-202, 232-261
- September 29 Mearsheimer, 264-272, 322-359
- October 2 Mearsheimer, 360-411
Thought piece assignment #1 posted on Canvas at 10:30 am
- October 4 "Conversations in International Relations: Interview with John J. Mearsheimer"
<https://indianstrategicknowledgeonline.com/web/31Interview%20with%20John%20J.%20Mearsheimer.pdf>
- October 6 No class (Homecoming)

II. A LIBERAL-INSTITUTIONALIST PERSPECTIVE

- October 9 Keohane, chaps. 1-2 (5-30)
Thought piece assignment #1 due at 9:00 am
- October 11 Keohane, chaps. 3-4 (31-64)
- October 13 Keohane, chapter 5 (65-84)
Reaction piece #3 posted on Canvas at 10:30 am
- October 16 Keohane, chapter 6 (85-109)
Reaction piece #3 due at 9:00 am
- October 18 Keohane, chapter 7 (110-134)
- October 20 Keohane, chapter 8 (135-181)
- October 23 Keohane, chaps. 9-10 (182-242)
- October 25 Keohane, chapter 11 (243-259)

October 27 Reflecting on Keohane and a Liberal Perspective:
“Discord in Global Politics: An Interview with Professor Robert Keohane”
<https://harvardpolitics.com/interview-with-professor-robert-keohane/>
Reaction piece #4 posted on Canvas at 10:30 am

III. A CONSTRUCTIVIST PERSPECTIVE

October 30 Finnemore, chapter 1 (1–33)
Reaction piece #4 due at 9:00 am

November 1 Finnemore, chapter 2 (34–68)

November 3 Finnemore, chaps. 3 (69–88)

November 6 Finnemore, chapter 4 (89–127)

November 8 Finnemore, chapter 5 (128–149)
Thought piece assignment #2 posted on Canvas at 10:30 am

November 10 No class (Veterans Day Holiday)

IV. FEMINIST PERSPECTIVES OF GLOBAL POLITICS

November 13 Tickner, Preface- chap. 1 (ix – 26)
Thought piece assignment #2 due at 9:00 am

November 15 Tickner, chap. 2 (27 – 66)

November 17 Tickner, chap. 3 (67 – 96)

November 20 Tickner, chap. 4—5 (97 – 144)
“J. Ann Tickner on how gender impacts politics & international relations,” *Academic Influence*
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JUmt90ZXQ-A>
Reaction piece #5 posted on Canvas at 10:30 am

November 22 No class (Holiday)

November 24 No class (Holiday)

V. A CRITICAL-REFLEXIVE PERSPECTIVE: COLOR LINES AND INTERSECTIONS IN IR

November 27	Vitalis, Introduction and chaps. 1—2 (1–54) Reaction piece #5 due at 9:00 am
November 29	Vitalis, chaps. 3—4 (55–84)
December 1	Vitalis, chaps. 5–6 (85–120)
December 4	Vitalis, chaps. 7–9 (121–168)
December 6	Vitalis, Conclusion (169–181) Thought piece assignment #3 posted on Canvas at 10:30 am
December 11	Final Thought Piece Due 12 pm
