

INR 3603: THEORIES OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
Fall 2024, MWF 4:05–4:55 pm @ Anderson 101

Instructor: Prof. Ido Oren
320 Anderson Hall
Mobile phone: [provided on Canvas]
Email: oren@ufl.edu
<https://oren064.wixsite.com/idooren>

Office hours:

M & W 5:00–5:45 pm @ 320 Anderson Hall
Th 3:30–5:00 pm @ <https://ufl.zoom.us/j/3047799955>
Or by appointment

Course Description and Required Texts

We will carefully consider five books written by major scholars of international relations. All five scholars share the assumption that the varied interactions among states and nonstate actors in the global arena are vital elements of our world. But they differ greatly from each other in the conceptual perspectives that they employ to analyze world politics. The primary objective of the course is to develop an appreciation of the ways in which perspectives shape different understandings of "international relations."

The five books vary from one another not only in theoretical perspective but also in analytical style. 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 statistical analysis. The secondary objective of the course is to familiarize you with some of the ways in which social scientists establish their claims to knowledge of their subject matter.

Please purchase the following required books from your favorite vendor.

- 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]
- Bruce Russett, *Grasping the Democratic Peace: Principles for a Post-Cold War World*.
- Robert Vitalis, *White World Order, Black Power Politics: The Birth of American International Relations*.

Note that an e-book version of the Waltz book is accessible via the UF Libraries portal (to access the libraries remotely, make sure to activate your VPN). Copies of the other books are available at the Course Reserves counter at UF Library West. They may be checked out for a maximum of two hours and they may not be taken out of the building.

Course Requirements

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

Thought Pieces: Each one of these three take-home assignments will require you to write a 4–6 pages essay, in which you will be challenged to demonstrate a firm grasp of 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, to give another example, I may provide you with an official foreign policy statement issued by the U.S. 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 Wednesday, October 2, at 4 pm (just before class), and will be due on Monday, October 7, at 4 pm. The second assignment will be posted on Wednesday, November 6, at 4 pm and will be due on Wednesday, November 13, at 9 am. The third assignment will be posted on Wednesday, December 4, at 12 pm, and will be due on Monday, December 9, 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/question related to the reading materials assigned for the following week. The prompts will be posted on Canvas on Fridays at 5:00 pm and the assignment will be due the following Monday at 4:00 pm. 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: 94 points or higher = A; 90–93.9 = 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.

Academic misconduct: UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code.” On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” The Honor Code (<https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/process/student-honor-code/>) specifies several behaviors that violate this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor in this class.

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.

Health and wellness resources:

- U Matter, We Care: If you or a friend are/is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu or 352-392- 1575 so that a team member can reach out.
- Counseling and Wellness Center: <https://counseling.ufl.edu/>, 392-1575; and the University Police Department: 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.
- Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS) Student Health Care Center, 392-1161. University Police Department, 392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies). <http://www.police.ufl.edu>

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 Course overview

I. REALIST PERSPECTIVES

August 26 Waltz, chapter 1 (pp. 1-15)

August 28 Waltz, chapter 2 (16-41)

August 30 Waltz, chapter 3 (42-79)

September 2 No class (Labor Day)

September 4 Waltz, chapter 4 (80-123)

September 6 Waltz, chapter 5 (124-158)
Reaction piece #1 posted on Canvas at 5:00 pm

September 9 Waltz, chapter 6 (159-186)
Reaction piece #1 due at 4:00 pm

September 11 Waltz, chapter 7 (187-223)

September 13 Waltz, chapter 8 (223-238)
Reaction piece #2 posted on Canvas at 5:00 pm

September 16 Wrap-up of Waltz
Reaction piece #2 due at 4:00 pm

September 18 An interlude: On writing clearly and concisely

- 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>
- Skim the whistle-blower’s letter at <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2019/09/26/us/politics/whistle-blower-complaint.html>

September 20 Mearsheimer, 1-67

September 23 Mearsheimer, 75-90, 96-99, 108-137

September 25 Mearsheimer, 138-162, 168-172, 190-202, 232-261

September 27 Mearsheimer, 264-272, 322-359

September 30	Mearsheimer, 360-411
October 2	Wrap-up of Mearsheimer Thought piece assignment #1 posted on Canvas at 4:00 pm
October 4	No class (Rosh Hashanah)
	II. A LIBERAL-INSTITUTIONALIST PERSPECTIVE
October 7	Keohane, chaps. 1-2 (5-30) Thought piece assignment #1 due at 4:00 pm
October 9	Keohane, chaps. 3-4 (31-64)
October 11	Keohane, chapter 5 (65-84) Reaction piece #3 posted on Canvas at 5:00 pm
October 14	Keohane, chapter 6 (85-109) Reaction piece #3 due at 4:00 pm
October 16	Keohane, chapter 7 (110-134)
October 18	No class (Homecoming)
October 21	Keohane, chapter 8 (135-181)
October 23	Keohane, chaps. 9-10 (182-242)
October 25	Keohane, chapter 11 (243-259) Reaction piece #4 posted on Canvas at 5:00 pm
October 28	Wrap-up of Keohane Reaction piece #4 due at 4:00 pm
	III. A LIBERAL-WILSONIAN PERSPECTIVE
October 30	Russett, chaps. 1-2 (3-42)
November 1	Russett, chapter 3 (43-71)
November 4	Russett, chapter 4 (72-98)
November 6	Russett, chapter 5 (99-118) Thought piece assignment #2 posted on Canvas at 4:00 pm
November 8	Russett, chapter 6 (119-138)

November 11 No class (Veterans Day)

IV. A CRITICAL-REFLEXIVE PERSPECTIVE: THE COLOR LINE IN IR

November 13 Vitalis, Introduction and chap. 1 (1-45)
Thought piece assignment #2 due at 9:00 am

November 15 Vitalis, chaps. 2-4 (46-84)
Reaction piece #5 posted on Canvas at 5:00 pm

November 18 Vitalis, chaps. 5-6 (85-120)
Reaction piece #5 due at 4:00 pm

November 20 Vitalis, chaps. 7-9 (121-168)

November 22 Vitalis, Conclusion (169-181)

November 25/27 No classes (Thanksgiving)

December 2 Wrap-up of Vitalis

December 4 Make-up session
Thought piece assignment #3 posted on Canvas at 12:00 pm

December 9 Thought piece assignment #3 due at 12:00 pm