

INR6607
THEORIES OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
3 | credits

I. General Information

Meeting days and times: Mondays, Period 5-7 (11:45-2:45)

Class location: Anderson 216

Instructor(s):

Name: Aida A. Hozic

Office Building/Number: Anderson 311

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Office Hours: Monday 10:30-11:30, or by appointment

Course Description

This seminar introduces students to the field of International Relations (IR). The course has three main purposes: (1) to familiarize students with key debates in IR; (2) to help students identify theoretical approaches and empirical problems that they would like to focus on in their research; and (3) to help prepare MA and PhD students for comprehensive exams in IR, if they chose that option.

NB: *Students who plan to take the comprehensive exam in IR should not take this syllabus as an exhaustive guide to the field of IR but rather as a starting point.* Hundreds of articles are written every year. It is impossible to cover this large, diverse, and dynamic field in one semester. To be adequately prepared for the exam, you will need to develop a general sense of the discipline, acquired both by following citation trails in the readings for this course and by familiarizing yourselves with the general IR reading list.

NB, Part 2: IR is the most self-reflexive subfield of political science. Each year, scholars write dozens of excellent articles that examine how/when/why IR scholars fall short in their analyses of world politics. These are important debates, and we will talk about several of them in this class. These conversations also reveal that one could structure a class like this one in many different ways. Should we study paradigms? Topics? “Great Debates?” The course is an invitation for you to think about how you would structure a similar seminar or introductory course in International Relations.

Prerequisites: None.

General Education Designation: none.

Course Materials

- The syllabus consists of books, journal articles, and book chapters.

Materials will be available through Canvas and UF Library.

Materials Fee: N/A

II. Course Goals

Course Objectives

By the end of this seminar, students will:

- Develop an advanced understanding of major theoretical approaches in International Relations.
- Critically engage with foundational and contemporary debates in the discipline
- Analyze the relationship between IR theory and empirical research, with an emphasis on identifying how theories shape problem selection, evidence gathering, and interpretation in world politics.
- Examine the historical development of the field and its intersections with questions of race, gender, class, empire, and global political economy.
- Develop skills for scholarly research in IR, including conceptualization, literature review, theoretical framing, and academic writing at a level appropriate for graduate work and comprehensive examinations.
- Reflect on and evaluate competing approaches to structuring knowledge in IR (e.g., by paradigms, topics, or debates) and their implications for teaching, research, and disciplinary self-understanding.
- Enhance oral communication skills through seminar discussion leadership, structured debate, and peer critique.

Student Learning Outcomes

A student who successfully completes this course will be able to:

- Identify and explain the core assumptions, arguments, and critiques of major theoretical approaches in International Relations.
- Compare and contrast theoretical traditions in terms of their epistemological and ontological foundations, explanatory logics, and empirical applications.
- Critically evaluate the strengths, limitations, and scope conditions of competing IR theories.
- Apply theoretical perspectives to analyze specific historical or contemporary cases in world politics.

- Synthesize complex theoretical literature in clear, concise, and well-structured written assignments.
- Present theoretical arguments effectively in oral form, facilitating informed and inclusive seminar discussion.
- Provide constructive, evidence-based peer feedback consistent with scholarly standards.

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 (%):

1. Diary (20%)
 2. Response Papers (15%)
 3. Discussion Leader/Presentation (10%)
 4. Book Review (15%)
 5. Final Paper (30%)
 6. Participation (10%)
- TOTAL: 100%**

Grading Scale

Letter Grade	Number Grade
A	100-92.5
A-	92.4-89.5
B+	89.4-86.5
B	86.4-82.5
B-	82.4-79.5
C+	79.4-76.5
C	76.4-72.5
C-	72.4-69.5
D+	69.4-66.5
D	66.4-62.5
D-	62.4-59.5
E	59.4-0

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

Week 0 – Background

These are important background readings on the discipline of IR. I have included them for reference because they provide a lot of important context that we would cover if we had an entire year together. We will talk about many of these issues throughout the term, but I recommend that you have a look at some of these in the first two weeks of the academic year, since Labor Day delays the actual start of the semester.

- E.H. Carr, *The Twenty Years' Crisis 1919-1939*, Palgrave MacMillan, 2001 (originally published in 1939)
- J. David Singer. 1961. "The Level-of-Analysis Problem in International Relations." *World Politics* 14 (1): 77–92.
- Morton A. Kaplan. 1966. "The New Great Debate: Traditionalism Vs. Science in International Relations." *World Politics* 19 (1): 1–20.
- Yosef Lapid. 1989. "The Third Debate: on the Prospects of International Theory in a Post-Positivist Era." *International Studies Quarterly* 33 (3): 235–254.
- Tickner, J. Ann. "You Just Don't Understand: Troubled Engagements between Feminists and IR Theorists." *International Studies Quarterly* 41, no. 4 (1997): 611–32.
- Friedrich Kratochwil. 2006. "History, Action and Identity: Revisiting the 'Second' Great Debate and Assessing Its Importance for Social Theory." *European Journal of International Relations* 12 (1): 5–29.
- Nicolas Guilhot. 2008. "The Realist Gambit: Postwar American Political Science and the Birth of IR Theory." *International Political Sociology* 2 (4): 281–304.
- Patrick Thaddeus Jackson and Daniel H. Nexon. 2009. "Paradigmatic Faults in International Relations Theory." *International Studies Quarterly* 53 (4): 907–930.
- Daniel Maliniak et al. 2011. "International Relations in the U.S. Academy." *International Studies Quarterly* 55 (2): 437–464.
- Brian C. Schmidt. 2013. "On the History and Historiography of International Relations." In *Handbook of International Relations*, 2nd ed., edited by Walter Carlsnaes, Thomas Risse, and Beth A. Simmons, 3–28. London: Sage.

- Jeremy Weiss. 2013. "E. H. Carr, Norman Angell, and Reassessing the Realist-Utopian Debate." *The International History Review* 35 (5): 1156–1184.
- Colin Wight. 2013. "Philosophy of Social Science and International Relations." In *Handbook of International Relations*, 2nd ed., edited by Walter Carlsnaes, Thomas Risse, and Beth A. Simmons, 29–56. London: Sage.
- Scott Hamilton. 2016. "A Genealogy of Metatheory in IR: How 'Ontology' Emerged from the Inter-Paradigm Debate." *International Theory* 9 (1): 136–170.

Week 1 - Introductions

August 25, 2025

We will discuss the readings, assignments, and presentations via Zoom as I will be attending a conference during that week.

Week 2 – Labor Day

September 1, 2025

There will be no class. Holiday.

Week 3 – The International

September 8, 2025

- John A. Hobson. 1906. "The Ethics of Internationalism." *International Journal of Ethics* 17 (1): 16–28.
- W.E.B. Du Bois. 1915. "The African Roots of War." *The Atlantic Monthly* 115 (5): 707–714.
- Benoy Kumar Sarkar. 1919. "Hindu Theory of International Relations." *American Political Science Review* 13 (3): 400–414.
- Stanley Hoffmann. 1977. "An American Social Science: International Relations." *Daedalus*, 106 (3), 41–60
- Robert Vitalis. 2000. The Graceful and Generous Liberal Gesture: Making Racism Invisible in American International Relations. *Millennium*, 29 (2), 331-356
- Brian C. Schmidt. 2005. "Paul S. Reinsch and the Study of Imperialism

and Internationalism.” Chapter 2 in *Imperialism and Internationalism in the Discipline of International Relations*, edited by David Long and Brian Schmidt, 43–69. SUNY Press.

Week 4 – Anarchy And Structure I

September 15, 2025

- Book review options:
 - Kenneth Waltz. 1959. *Man, the State, and War: A Theoretical Analysis*. New York: Columbia University Press.
 - Robert Gilpin. 1981. *War and Change in World Politics*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Readings:
 - William C. Wohlforth. 2008. “Realism.” In *The Oxford Handbook of International Relations*, edited by Christian Reus-Smit and Duncan Snidal, 131–148. New York: Oxford University Press.
 - Robert Jervis. 1978. “Cooperation Under the Security Dilemma.” *World Politics* 30 (2): 167–214.
 - Kenneth N. Waltz. 1979. *Theory of International Politics*. Reading: Addison-Wesley, Ch. 5–6. This book is the most famous book in all of IR. You should buy it and read the whole thing. Any version will do.
 - Helen Milner. 1991. “The Assumption of Anarchy in International Relations Theory: a Critique.” *Review of International Studies* 17 (1): 67–85.

Week 5 – Anarchy And Structure II

September 22, 2025

- Book review options:
 - Robert O. Keohane. 1984. *After Hegemony: Cooperation and Discord in the World Political Economy*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.
 - G. John Ikenberry. 2001. *After Victory: Institutions, Strategic Restraint, and the Rebuilding of Order after Major Wars*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.
- Readings:

- Robert O. Keohane. 1982. "The Demand for International Regimes." *International Organization* 36 (2): 325–355.
- Stephen Krasner. 1982. "Structural Causes and Regime Consequences: Regimes as Intervening Variables." *International Organization* 36 (2): 185–205.
- Robert Axelrod and Robert O. Keohane. 1985. "Achieving Cooperation Under Anarchy: Strategies and Institutions." *World Politics* 38 (1): 226–254.
- Kenneth A. Oye. 1985. "Explaining Cooperation under Anarchy: Hypotheses and Strategies." *World Politics* 38 (1): 1–24.
- Joseph M. Grieco. 1988. "Anarchy and the Limits of Cooperation: A Realist Critique of the Newest Liberal Institutionalism." *International Organization* 42 (3): 485–507.

Week 6 – Anarchy And Structure Iii – Further Responses

September 29, 2025

- Book review options:
 - John J. Mearsheimer. 2001. *The Tragedy of Great Power Politics*. New York: WW Norton & Company.
 - Charles L. Glaser. 2010. *Rational Theory of International Politics*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.
- Readings:
 - Duncan Snidal. 2013. "Rational Choice and International Relations." In *Handbook of International Relations*, 2nd ed., edited by Walter Carlsnaes, Thomas Risse, and Beth A. Simmons, 85–111. London: Sage.
 - James D. Fearon. 1995. "Rationalist Explanations for War." *International Organization* 49 (3): 379–414.
 - Gideon Rose. 1998. "Neoclassical Realism and Theories of Foreign Policy." *World Politics* 51 (1): 144–172.
 - John J. Mearsheimer. 2001. *The Tragedy of Great Power Politics*. New York: WW Norton & Company, Ch. 1 and 10.
 - Jonathan Kirshner. 2022. *An Unwritten Future: Realism and Uncertainty in World Politics*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, Ch. 1 and 2.

Week 7 – Domestic Politics I: Regime Type, Public Opinion, And Leaders

October 6, 2025

- Book review options:
 - Jack Snyder. 2013. *Myths of Empire: Domestic Politics and International Ambition*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press.
 - Elizabeth N. Saunders. 2011. *Leaders at War: How Presidents Shape Military Interventions*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press.
 - Keren Yarhi-Milo. 2014. *Knowing the Adversary: Leaders, Intelligence, and Assessment of Intentions in International Relations*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.
- Readings:
 - Kenneth Schultz. 2013. “Domestic Politics and International Relations.” In *Handbook of International Relations*, 2nd ed., edited by Walter Carlsnaes, Thomas Risse, and Beth A. Simmons, 478–502. London: Sage.
 - Robert D. Putnam. 1988. “Diplomacy and Domestic Politics: The Logic of Two-Level Games.” *International Organization* 42 (3): 427–460.
 - James D. Fearon. 1994. “Domestic Political Audiences and the Escalation of International Disputes.” *American Political Science Review* 88 (3): 577–592.
 - Bruce Russett. 1994. *Grasping the Democratic Peace: Principles for a Post-Cold War World*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.
 - Jessica L. Weeks. 2008. “Autocratic Audience Costs: Regime Type and Signaling Resolve.” *International Organization* 62 (1): 35–64.
 - Michael R. Tomz and Jessica L.P. Weeks. 2013. “Public Opinion and the Democratic Peace.” *American Political Science Review* 107 (4): 849–865.

Week 8 - Constructivism

October 13, 2025

- Book review options:
 - Neta C. Crawford. 2002. *Argument and Change in World Politics: Ethics, Decolonization, and Humanitarian Intervention*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

- Michael Barnett, *Eyewitness to a Genocide: The United Nations and Rwanda*, Cornell University Press, 2002
- Michael Barnett and Martha Finnemore. 2004. *Rules for the World: International Organizations in Global Politics*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press.
- Readings:
 - Emanuel Adler. 2013. “Constructivism in International Relations: Sources, Contributions, and Debates.” In *Handbook of International Relations*, 2nd ed., edited by Walter Carlsnaes, Thomas Risse, and Beth A. Simmons, 112–122. London: Sage.
 - Wendt, Alexander. “Anarchy Is What States Make of It: The Social Construction of Power Politics.” *International Organization* 46.2 (1992): 391–425.
 - Martha Finnemore. 1996. *National Interests in International Society*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, Ch. 1.
 - Alexander Wendt. 1999. *Social Theory of International Politics*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, Chs. 1, 3, 6. This book is also a classic. You should buy it and read the whole thing.

Week 9 – Constructivism II

October 20, 2025

- Book review options:
 - Audie Klotz. 1995. *Norms in international relations: The struggle against apartheid*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press. (2nd edition will be published in December 2025)
 - Emmanuel Adler. 2019. *World Ordering: A Social Theory of Cognitive Evolution*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Readings:
 - Emanuel Adler and Vincent Pouliot. 2011. “International Practices.” *International Theory* 3 (1): 1–36.
 - Martha Finnemore and Kathryn Sikkink. 1998. “International Norm Dynamics and Political Change.” *International Organization* 52 (4): 887–917.
 - Jennifer Sterling-Folker. 2000. “Competing Paradigms or Birds of a Feather? Constructivism and Neoliberal Institutionalism Compared.” *International Studies Quarterly* 44 (1): 97–119.

- Jennifer Mitzen. 2006. "Ontological Security in World Politics: State Identity and the Security Dilemma." *European Journal of International Relations* 12 (3): 341–370.
- Ronald R. Krebs and Patrick Thaddeus Jackson. 2007. "Twisting Tongues and Twisting Arms: The Power of Political Rhetoric." *European Journal of International Relations* 13 (1): 35–66.
- David McCourt. 2016. "Practice Theory and Relationalism as the New Constructivism." *International Studies Quarterly* 60 (3): 475–485.
- Michal Ben-Josef Hirsch and Jennifer M. Dixon. 2021. "Conceptualizing and Assessing Norm Strength in International Relations." *European Journal of International Relations* 27 (2): 521–547.

Week 10 – Critical Theories and Post-Structuralism

October 27, 2025

- Book review options:
 - Roxanne Lynn Doty. 1996. *Imperial Encounters: The Politics of Representation in North-South Relations*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press.
 - Jenny Edkins, *Missing: Persons and Politics*, Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2011
- Readings:
 - Handbook: Maja Zehfuss. 2013. "Critical Theory, Poststructuralism, and Post-colonialism." In *Handbook of International Relations*, 2nd ed., edited by Walter Carlsnaes, Thomas Risse, and Beth A. Simmons, 145–169. London: Sage.
 - Robert W. Cox. 1981. "Social Forces, States and World Orders: Beyond International Relations Theory." *Millennium: Journal of International Studies* 10 (2): 126–155.
 - Roxanne Lynn Doty. 1993. "Foreign Policy as Social Construction: a Post-Positivist Analysis of U.S. Counterinsurgency Policy in the Philippines." *International Studies Quarterly* 37 (3): 297–320.
 - Ido Oren. 1995. "The Subjectivity of the 'Democratic' Peace: Changing US Perceptions of Imperial Germany." *International Security* 20 (2): 147–184.
 - Lene Hansen. 2006. *Security as Practice: Discourse Analysis*

and the Bosnian War. London: Routledge, Ch. 1–2.

Week 11 – Feminist Theory and Approaches

November 3, 2025

- Book review options:
 - Cynthia Enloe. 2014. *Bananas, Beaches and Bases: Making Feminist Sense of International Politics*. Berkeley: University of California Press.
 - Shirin Rai. 2024. *Depletion: The Human Cost of Caring*. Oxford University Press.
- Readings:
 - Laura Sjoberg and J. Ann Tickner. 2013. “Feminist Perspectives on International Relations.” In *Handbook of International Relations*, 2nd ed., edited by Walter Carlsnaes, Thomas Risse, and Beth A. Simmons, 170–184. London: Sage.
 - Cynthia Weber. 1994. “Good Girls, Little Girls, and Bad Girls: Male Paranoia in Robert Keohane’s Critique of Feminist International Relations.” *Millennium* 23 (2): 337–349.
 - J. Ann Tickner. 1997. “You Just Don’t Understand: Troubled Engagements Between Feminists and IR Theorists.” *International Studies Quarterly* 41 (4): 611– 632.
 - Lauren Wilcox. 2009. “Gendering the Cult of the Offensive.” *Security Studies* 18 (2): 214–240.
 - J Ann Tickner, Jacqui True, A Century of International Relations Feminism: From World War I Women's Peace Pragmatism to the Women, Peace and Security Agenda, *International Studies Quarterly*, Volume 62, Issue 2, June 2018, Pages 221–233

Week 12 – Sovereignty, Race and Empire – The International Revisited

November 10, 2025

- Book review options:
 - Robert Vitalis. 2015. *White World Order, Black Power Politics: The Birth of American International Relations*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press.

- Adom Getachew. 2019. *Worldmaking after Empire: The Rise and Fall of Self-Determination*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.
- Readings:
 - Olivia U. Rutazibwa. 2020. “Hidden in Plain Sight: Coloniality, Capitalism and Race/ism As Far As the Eye Can See.” *Millennium: Journal of International Studies* 48 (2): 221–241.
 - Zoltán I Búzás. 2021. “Racism and Antiracism in the Liberal International Order.” *International Organization* 75 (2): 1–24.
 - Ida Danewid. 2021. “Policing the (Migrant) Crisis: Stuart Hall and the Defence of Whiteness.” *Security Dialogue*: 1–17.
 - Richard W. Maass. 2023. “Racialization and International Security.” *International Security* 48 (2): 91–126.
 - Rosenberg, Andrew S. 2024. “Race and Systemic Crises in International Politics: An Agenda for Pluralistic Scholarship.” *Review of International Studies* 50.3: 457–475.

Week 13 – Power, Hierarchy, Networks

November 17, 2025

- Book review options:
 - David A. Lake. 2009. *Hierarchy in International Relations*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press.
 - Ayse Zarakol. 2017. *Hierarchies in World Politics*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Readings:
 - Michael Barnett and Raymond Duvall. 2005. “Power in International Politics.” *International Organization* 59 (1): 39–75.
 - Henry Farrell and Abraham Newman. 2019. “Weaponized Interdependence.” *International Security* 44 (1): 42–79.
 - Janice Bially Mattern and Ayşe Zarakol. 2016. “Hierarchies in World Politics.” *International Organization* 70 (3): 623–654.
 - Meghan McConaughy, Paul Musgrave, and Daniel H. Nexon. 2018. “Beyond Anarchy: Logics of Political Organization, Hierarchy, and International Structure.” *International Theory* 10 (2): 181–218.

Week 14 – Thanksgiving Holiday

November 24, 2025

NO CLASS.

Week 15 – The World Order and IR In Crisis

December 1, 2025

- Book review options:
 - Benno Teschke. 2003. *The Myth of 1648: Class, Geopolitics, and the Making of Modern International Relations*. London: Verso.
 - Ayşe Zarakol. 2022. *Before the West: The Rise and Fall of Eastern World Orders*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2022.
- Readings:
 - Stephane J. Baele and Gregorio Bettiza. 2020. “‘Turning’ Everywhere in IR: On the Sociological Underpinnings of the Field’s Proliferating Turns.” *International Theory*: 1–27.
 - G. John Ikenberry. 2020. *A World Safe for Democracy: Liberal Internationalism and the Crises of Global Order*. New Haven: Yale University Press, Ch. 1.
 - David A. Lake. 2013. “Theory is Dead, Long Live Theory: The End of the Great Debates and the Rise of Eclecticism in International Relations.” *European Journal of International Relations* 19 (3): 567–587.
 - John J. Mearsheimer and Stephen M. Walt. 2013. “Leaving Theory Behind: Why Simplistic Hypothesis Testing Is Bad for International Relations.” *European Journal of International Relations* 19 (3): 427–457.
 - Qin Yaqing. 2016. “A Relational Theory of World Politics.” *International Studies Review* 18 (1): 33–47

V. University Policies and Resources

This course complies with all UF academic policies. For information on those policies and for resources for students, please see [this link](https://syllabus.ufl.edu/syllabus-policy/uf-syllabus-policy-links/).” (The direct link is <https://syllabus.ufl.edu/syllabus-policy/uf-syllabus-policy-links/>.)