

INR 3603: THEORIES OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
Fall 2019, MWF 9:35–10:25 pm

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Office hours: M&F 10:30–11:30 am; W 3:00–4:00 pm (or by appt.)

Course Description and Required Texts

We will carefully consider six books written by major scholars of international relations. All six 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 six 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*.
- Martha Finnemore, *National Interests in International Society*.
- 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. Copies of the other five 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 take-home "thought pieces" and (b) class attendance and participation.

Thought Pieces: Each one of these three take-home assignments will require you to write a 4–6 page 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 sent to you on Friday, September 20 at 9 am (just before class), and will be due on Wednesday, September 25 (in class and via Canvas). The

second assignment will be sent on Friday, November 1, at 9:00 am and will be due on Wednesday, November 6 (in class and via Canvas). The third assignment will be sent on Wednesday, December 4, at 9 am, and will be due on Monday, December 9, at 11:00 am (in my office and via Canvas). For your convenience, these dates are indicated on the class schedule below. Late submissions will be penalized at a rate of 5 points (that is, 5 percent of the maximum total score for the class) per 24 hours.

Class attendance and participation: I expect you to attend class sessions regularly and to complete all the readings in timely fashion, as specified by the schedule below. Ten percent (ten points) of the total grade for the class will be based on class attendance and participation. My criteria for evaluating attendance/participation are as follows. You will earn 10 points if you attend class regularly and participate frequently in class discussions (demonstrating familiarity with the readings); 8–9 points if you attend class regularly and participate sporadically in class discussions; 6–7 points if you attend class regularly and (almost) never participate, or if you attend class and participate sporadically; 5 points or less if you attend class sporadically and never participate.

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

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| • Thought piece #1 | 25% |
| • Thought piece #2 | 30% |
| • Thought piece #3 | 35% |
| • Attendance/participation | 10% |

For each assignment/exam, 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, but you must request them prior to the deadline. Retroactive extensions will not be granted under any circumstances.

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/). 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 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 21 Course overview

I. REALIST PERSPECTIVES

August 23 Waltz, pp. 1–15

August 26 Waltz, 16–41

August 28 Waltz, 42–79

August 30 No class (annual meeting of the American Political Science Association)

September 2 No class (Labor Day)

September 4 Waltz, 80–123

September 6 Waltz, 124–158

September 9 Waltz, 159–186

September 11 Waltz, 187–238

September 13 Wrap-up of Waltz

September 16 Mearsheimer, 1–67

September 18 Mearsheimer, 75–90, 96–137

September 20 Mearsheimer, 138–162, 168–172, 181–202, 224–233
Thought piece assignment #1 sent at 9:00 am

September 23 Mearsheimer, 234–261, 264–272, 288–304, 322–333

September 25 Mearsheimer, 334–411
Thought piece assignment #1 due in class and (by 9:30 am) via Canvas

II. A LIBERAL-INSTITUTIONALIST PERSPECTIVE

September 27 Keohane, 5–30

September 30 No class (Rosh Ha-Shanah)

October 2 Keohane, 31–64

October 4 No class (Homecoming)

October 7 Keohane, 65–84

October 9	No Class (Yom Kippur)
October 11	Keohane, 85–109
October 14	Keohane, 110–134
October 16	Keohane, 135–181
October 18	No class
October 21	No class
October 23	Keohane, 182–242
October 25	Keohane, 243–259

III. A LIBERAL-WILSONIAN PERSPECTIVE

October 28	Russett, 3–42
October 30	Russett, 43–71
November 1	Russett, 72–98 Thought piece assignment #2 sent at 9:00 am
November 4	Russett, 99–118
November 6	Russett, 119–138 Thought piece assignment #2 due in class and (by 9:30 am) via Canvas

IV. A CONSTRUCTIVIST PERSPECTIVE

November 8	Finnemore, 1–33
November 11	Finnemore, 34–68
November 13	No class (Veterans Day)
November 15	Finnemore, 69–127
November 18	Finnemore, 128–149

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

November 20	Vitalis, 1–45
November 22	Vitalis, 46–84
November 25	Vitalis, 85–120

November 27/29	No class (Thanksgiving break)
December 2	Vitalis, 121–168
December 4	Vitalis, 169–181 Thought piece assignment #3 sent at 9:00 am

December 9	Thought piece assignment #3 due by 11:00 am (in my office and via Canvas)