

INR4931/AFA4931
RACE AND INTERNATIONAL POLITICS
3 | credits

I. General Information

Meeting days and times: Tuesday, Period 8-9; Thursday, Period 9

Class location: FAC0127

Instructor(s):

Name: Aida A. Hozić

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Office Hours: Tuesday 1:00 – 3:00 p.m., or by appointment

Course Description

Scholarship in international relations has often given limited attention to how ideas about race and racism have shaped world politics, even though the field developed in a historical context marked by empire, migration, and hierarchies among peoples. This course engages classic and contemporary scholarship on what W.E.B. Du Bois termed the “color line”—the problem of racial division and its relationship to global order.

We examine how racial categories and racialized hierarchies have influenced (and been influenced by) major themes in international politics: imperial governance and decolonization; the emergence of IR as a discipline; antisemitism; U.S. foreign policy and the international dimensions of civil rights struggles; Afro-Asian solidarity and Non-Alignment during the Cold War; and debates over political voice, recognition, and authority in global institutions.

The course equips students to assess competing arguments about when and how race matters in international relations, and how it intersects with power, security, political economy, and shifting geopolitical alignments.

Prerequisites: None.

General Education Designation: none.

Course Materials

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

Materials will be available through Canvas and the UF Library.

Materials Fee: N/A

II. Course Goals

Course Objectives

By the end of this course, students will:

- Develop a clear understanding of how race and racism have shaped international politics, including empire, war, decolonization, migration, and global governance.
- Learn key concepts used to analyze race in world politics—such as racialization, hierarchy, whiteness, colonialism, and racial capitalism—and how scholars use them to explain international outcomes.
- Examine how international relations as a field has approached (and often overlooked) race and why bringing race into analysis changes what questions we ask and what evidence we consider.
- Practice reading academic texts critically by identifying central claims, concepts, evidence, and underlying assumptions.
- Analyze historical and contemporary case studies to evaluate competing interpretations of how race operates across borders and within international institutions.
- Strengthen skills in academic writing through evidence-based argumentation, clear organization, and correct use of sources and citations.
- Build confidence in discussion and oral communication by asking informed questions, contributing to class conversation, and engaging respectfully with differing interpretations.

Student Learning Outcomes

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

- Define and accurately use core terms for studying race in international politics (e.g., racialization, empire, hierarchy, decolonization, global order).
- Summarize and explain the main arguments of course readings, distinguishing between claims, concepts, and evidence.
- Compare different scholarly explanations for how race matters in international affairs, noting what each approach emphasizes and what it leaves out.
- Apply course concepts to interpret specific international events or cases (historical or contemporary), using evidence from readings and credible outside sources when assigned.
- Write focused analytical essays that present a clear thesis, engage at least two perspectives from the course, and support claims with appropriate evidence and citation.
- Evaluate arguments critically by identifying strengths, limitations, counterarguments, and the kinds of evidence that would strengthen or challenge a claim.
- Participate effectively in discussion by posing questions, responding thoughtfully to peers, and practicing respectful disagreement grounded in the readings.

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](#).

Participation – attendance and engagement in class discussion – is an important part of the final grade. Students who miss more than one-third of classes, without adequate explanation and documentation, will not be able to pass the class.

Graded Components (%):

1. Diary (30%)
2. Group Projects (20%)
3. Book Review (10%)
4. Visual Project (10%)
5. Final Exam/Reflection Paper (25%)
6. Attendance and Participation (5%)

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 Political Science credit.

IV. Calendar

Week 1 – Introductions

January 13, 2026

Introductions: research interest, academic journeys. Overview of the syllabus - readings, assignments, and presentations.

January 15, 2026

Du Bois, W. E. B. “The Color Line Belts the World,” *Collier’s* Vol. 38, No. 4 (October 20, 1906): 30

Frantz Fanon, “The Fact of Blackness,” in *Black Skin, White Masks*, translated by Charles Lam Markmann. Grove Press. 1967. 82–108.

Haine, Renee et al. *Race: The Floating Signifier*. (Stuart Hall lecture). San Francisco, California, USA: Kanopy Streaming, 2014. Film.

Week 2 – Race and the Discipline

January 20, 2026

Robert Vitalis, “The Graceful and Generous Liberal Gesture: Making Racism Invisible in American International Relations,” *Millennium* 29:2, June 2000

Errol A. Henderson, “Hidden in Plain Sight: Racism in International Relations Theory,” *Cambridge Review of International Affairs*, 26(1), 2013

January 22, 2026

Lake, David A. "White Man's IR: An Intellectual Confession." *Perspectives on Politics* 14:4. 2016. 1112-1122.

Zvobgo, Kelebogile, and Meredith Loken. “Why Race Matters in International Relations.” *Foreign Policy*, 2020.

Week 3 – The Invention of Race

January 27, 2026

Readings:

Vucetic, Srdjan, and Randolph B. Persaud. "Race in international relations." *Race, Gender, and Culture in International Relations*. Routledge. 2018. 35-57

Ba, Oumar. "Race and international relations." *Handbook of International Relations*. Edward Elgar Publishing. 2025. 22-36.

January 29, 2026

Itzigsohn, José and Brown, Karida L. "1. Double Consciousness: The Phenomenology of Racialized Subjectivity". *The Sociology of W. E. B. Du Bois: Racialized Modernity and the Global Color Line*. New York University Press, 2020. 27-61.

Week 4 – Race is Not Just a Color

February 3, 2026

Sartre, Jean-Paul. *Anti-Semite and Jew*. Translated by George J. Becker, with a new preface by Michael Walzer. Schocken Books. 1995

February 5, 2026

Rafter, Nicole Hahn. "White Trash: Eugenics as Social Ideology." *Society* 26.1. 1988.

Dyer, Richard. "The Matter of Whiteness," in Paula Rothenberg (ed.) *White Privilege: Essential Readings on the Other Side of Racism*. Worth Publishers. 2005.

Week 5 – Race and Reproduction

February 10, 2026

Lebensborn Program, The Holocaust Encyclopedia

Alexandra Minna Stern, From "Race Suicide" to "White Extinction": White Nationalism, Nativism, and Eugenics over the Past Century, *Journal of American History*. 109:2. 2022. 348–361

February 12, 2026

Abrahamsen, Rita, et al. "Confronting the international political sociology of the new right." *International Political Sociology* 14.1: 94-107. 2020.

Week 6 – Race in Comparative Perspective

February 17, 2026

Pred, Alan. "Somebody Else, Somewhere Else: Racisms, Racialized Spaces and the Popular Geographical Imagination in Sweden." *Antipode*. 1997. 29: 383-416.

McNamee, Lachlan. "Colonial Legacies and Comparative Racial Identification in the Americas." *American Journal of Sociology* 126.2. 2020. 318-353.

February 19, 2026

Dikötter, F. Group definition and the idea of 'race' in modern China (1793–1949). *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, 13(3). 1990. 420–432.

Han, Enze, and Daniel Marwecki. "Racialised International Order? Traces of 'Yellow Peril' Trope in Germany's Public Discourse Toward China." *Cambridge Review of International Affairs* 36.3. 2023. 391-409

Week 7 – Race, Colonialism, and Slavery

February 24, 2026

Sharman, J.C., and Ayşe Zarakol. "Global Slavery in the Making of States and International Orders." *American Political Science Review* 118.2 (2024): 802–814.

Fischer, Brodwyn, and Keila Grinberg. "Slavery and Freedom in Nineteenth-Century Brazil." *The Boundaries of Freedom: Slavery, Abolition, and the Making of Modern Brazil*. Ed. Brodwyn Fischer and Keila Grinberg. Cambridge University Press, 2022. 1–32.

February 26, 2026

Glanville, Luke. "Resilience and Domination: Resonances of Racial Slavery in Refugee Exclusion," *International Studies Quarterly*, 68:3. 2024.

Week 8 – Race and the Economy

March 3, 2026

Tilley, Lisa., & Shilliam, Robbie. "Raced Markets: An Introduction." *New Political Economy*, 23:5. 2018. 534–543.

Alami, Ilias, and Vincent Guermond. "The Color of Money at the Financial Frontier." *Review of International Political Economy* 30.3. 2023. 1073-1097

March 5, 2026

Lockwood, Erin. "The Antisemitic Backlash to Financial Power: Conspiracy Theory as a Response to Financial Complexity and Crisis." *New Political Economy* 26.2. 2021. 261-270.

Week 9 – Race and War

March 10, 2026

Bell, Duncan. "Before the Democratic Peace: Racial Utopianism, Empire and the Abolition of War." *European Journal of International Relations* 20:3. 2014. 647-670.

Barber, A. D. "Scientific racism, race war and the global racial imaginary." *Third World Quarterly*, 40:2. 2019. 207–223.

March 12, 2026

Sabaratnam, Meera. "Bring Up the Bodies: International Order, Empire, and Re-thinking the Great War (1914–1918) From Below." *European Journal of International Relations* 29:3.2023. 553-575

Sen, Somdeep. "The Colonial Roots of Counter-insurgencies in International Politics," *International Affairs*, 98:1. 2022

Week 10 – SPRING BREAK

March 19, 2026

- Book (see recommendations in the Assignment)

Week 11 – Race and Revolution

March 24, 2026

Trouillot, Michel-Rolph. *Silencing the Past: Power and the Production of History*. Beacon Press, 1995

March 26, 2026

Shilliam, Robbie. "Race and Revolution at Bwa Kayiman." *Millennium: Journal of International Studies*, 45:3. 2017. 269-292.

Bhambra, G. K. "On the Haitian Revolution and the Society of Equals." *Theory, Culture & Society*, 32:7-8. 2015. 267-274.

Week 12 – Race and Decolonization

March 31, 2026

Fanon, Frantz. "Colonial Wars and Mental Disorders" in *The Wretched of the Earth* pp. 249-316

Césaire, Aimé. *Discourse on Colonialism* (New York: Monthly Review Press, 2000)

April 2, 2026

Pasha, Mustapha K. "The 'Bandung Impulse' and International Relations" In Sanjay Seth (ed.) *Postcolonial Theory and International Relations: A Critical Introduction*. Routledge, 2012.

Vitalis, Robert. "The midnight ride of Kwame Nkrumah and other fables of Bandung (Bandung)." *Humanity: An International Journal of Human Rights, Humanitarianism, and Development* 4.2 (2013): 261-288.

Week 13 – Race and (Im)Mobilities

April 7, 2026

Assi, Seraj. "The original Arabs: The invention of the "Bedouin race" in Ottoman Palestine." *International journal of Middle East studies* 50.2 (2018): 213-232.

Rosenberg, Andrew S. "Racial discrimination in International visa policies." *International Studies Quarterly* 67.2. 2023.

April 9, 2026

Wang, Zizhen. "Racialised mobilities in China." *The Sociological Review*, 73:1. 2023. 63-80.

Week 14 – Race and Global Order

April 14, 2026

Acharya, Amitav. "Race and Racism in the Founding of the Modern World Order." *International Affairs* 98.1 (2022): 23-43.

Búzás, Zoltán I. "Racism and Antiracism in the Liberal International Order." *International Organization* 75.2 (2021): 440-463

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](#)." (The direct link is <https://syllabus.ufl.edu/syllabus-policy/uf-syllabus-policy-links/>.)