

POS 6933
RACE AND INTERNATIONAL POLITICS
3 | credits

I. General Information

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

Class location: TBA

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.

The course examines 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 and othering; 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 books, journal articles, and book chapters.

Materials will be available through Canvas and the UF Library.

Materials Fee: N/A

II. Course Goals

Course Objectives

By the end of this seminar, students will:

- Develop an advanced understanding of key theoretical approaches to race and racism in international politics, including debates over racialization, empire, hierarchy, and global order.
- Critically engage foundational and contemporary scholarship that situates race as a constitutive (not merely “add-on”) dimension of international relations, security, political economy, and global governance.
- Examine how international hierarchies have been produced and contested through slavery, colonialism, war, revolution, decolonization, migration, and border regimes.
- Analyze how theories of race shape research design in IR: problem selection, concept formation, mechanisms, evidence, and interpretation across historical and contemporary cases.
- Develop skills for rigorous scholarly research and writing, including constructing literature reviews, formulating research questions, specifying arguments, and advancing theoretically informed analysis appropriate for graduate-level work and comprehensive examinations.
- Evaluate methodological and epistemological challenges in studying race (e.g., archives and silences, measurement and operationalization, interpretive vs. causal explanation, comparative inference), and assess the implications of these choices for knowledge production in IR.
- Strengthen oral communication through sustained seminar participation, discussion leadership, and peer critique, with attention to clarity, scholarly rigor, and respectful engagement with disagreement.

Student Learning Outcomes

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

- Identify and explain core concepts and debates in the study of race in international politics, including racialization, whiteness, civilizational hierarchy, racial capitalism, and racialized governance.
- Compare and contrast major approaches to race in IR in terms of their theoretical commitments, explanatory logics, and empirical strategies.
- Critically assess how race operates as an international phenomenon across issue areas such as war and security, global political economy, international organizations, decolonization, and migration.
- Formulate and defend an original argument about race in world politics, including specifying causal or constitutive mechanisms and scope conditions.

- Apply theoretical perspectives from the course to interpret specific historical or contemporary cases, drawing on appropriate evidence and addressing counterarguments.
- Produce clear, well-structured scholarly writing that synthesizes complex literatures, situates claims in debate, and supports analysis with credible sources.
- Present arguments orally with precision and coherence, effectively leading discussion and responding to critique.
- Provide constructive, evidence-based peer feedback that strengthens research questions, argument structure, conceptual clarity, and evidentiary 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](#).

Students are expected to attend all seminar meetings and come well-prepared for class discussions, having completed the assigned readings and formulated questions that should be addressed in class.

Graded Components (%):

1. Diary (30%)
2. Response Papers (10%)
3. Discussion Leader/Presentations (10%)
4. Book Reviews (10%)
5. Final Paper/Oral Defense (30%)*
6. Participation (10%)

TOTAL: 100%

- Students can opt for an oral exam only, instead of a research paper.

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.

IV. Calendar

Week 1 – Introductions

January 15, 2026

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

Before the class, please read these two texts and watch the lecture by Stuart Hall (available through Kanopy, with UF login.

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 22, 2026

- Book review options:

Blatt, Jessica. *Race and the Making of American Political Science*. University of Pennsylvania Press, 2021.

Vitalis, Robert. *White World Order, Black Power Politics: The Birth of American International Relations*. Cornell University Press, 2018.

- Readings:

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

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.

Hobson, John M. "Un-Veiling the Racist Foundations of Modern Realist and Liberal IR Theory." *Globalizing International Theory*. Routledge, 2022. 54-71

Week 3 – The Invention of Race

January 29, 2026

- Book review options:

Mills, Charles W. *The Racial Contract*. Cornell University Press, 1997

Bhandar, Brenna. *Colonial Lives of Property: Law, Land, and Racial Regimes of Ownership*. Duke University Press, 2018.

- Readings:

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.

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.

Week 4 – Race is Not Just a Color

February 5, 2026

- Book review options:

Vucetic, Srdjan. *The Anglosphere: A Genealogy of Racialized Identity in International Relations*. Stanford University Press. 2011

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

- Readings:

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

Jacobson, Matthew Frye. *Whiteness of a Different Color: European Immigrants and the Alchemy of Race*. Harvard University Press. 1998. (select chapters)

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 12, 2026

- Book review options:

Stoler, Ann Laura. *Carnal Knowledge and Imperial Power: Race and the Intimate in Colonial Rule*. University of California Press, 2010.

Koonz, Claudia. *Mothers in the Fatherland: Women, the Family and Nazi Politics*. Routledge. 2013

- Readings:

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

Feola, Michael. "'You will not replace us': The melancholic nationalism of whiteness." *Political Theory* 49:4. 2021. 528-553.

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

Murillo, Lina-Maria. "Fears of white population decline: the politics of race, gender, reproductive justice, and white supremacy in the US." *Journal of Gender Studies*. 34:5. 2025

Week 6 – Race in Comparative Perspective

February 19, 2026

- Book review options:

Valerio, Lenny A. Ureña. *Colonial Fantasies, Imperial Realities: Race Science and the Making of Polishness on the Fringes of the German Empire, 1840–1920*. Ohio University Press. 2019.

Hooker, Juliet. *Theorizing Race in the Americas: Douglass, Sarmiento, Du Bois, and Vasconcelos*. Oxford University Press. 2017.

- Readings:

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.

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

Optional (as alternative): articles in Osei-Opare, Nana, and Sunnie Rucker-Chang (eds). Critical Forum: Blackness in Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Societies. *Slavic Review* 84.3. 2025. 467–473.

Week 7 – Race, Colonialism, and Slavery

February 26, 2026

- Book review options:

Hartman, Saidiya. *Lose Your Mother: A Journey Along the Atlantic Slave Route*. Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2007.

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

- Readings:

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.

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 5, 2026

- Book review options:

Rodney, Walter. *How Europe Underdeveloped Africa*. Verso. [1972] 2018.

Tilley, Lisa, and Robbie Shilliam (eds). *Raced Markets*. Routledge. 2021.

- Readings:

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.

Ince, Onur Ulas. "Deprovincializing Racial Capitalism: John Crawfurd and Settler Colonialism in India." *American Political Science Review* 116.1 (2022): 144-160.

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

Ince, Onur Ulas. "From ‘Chinese Colonist’ to ‘Yellow Peril’: Capitalist Racialization in the British Empire." *American Political Science Review* 118.4 (2024): 1748-1762.

Week 9 – Race and War

March 12, 2026

- Book review options:

Barkawi, Tarak. *Soldiers of Empire: Indian and British Armies in World War II*. Cambridge University Press, 2017.

Barder, Alexander D. *Global Race War: International Politics and Racial Hierarchy*. Oxford University Press, 202

- Readings:

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

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

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

Week 10 – SPRING BREAK

March 19, 2026

- Book (fiction, recommended)

Week 11 – Race and Revolution

March 26, 2026

- Book review options:

Buck-Morss, Susan. *Hegel, Haiti, and Universal History*. University of Pittsburgh Press. 2009

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

- Readings:

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.

Henderson, Errol A. "The Revolution Will Not Be Theorised: Du Bois, Locke, and the Howard School's Challenge to White Supremacist IR Theory." *Millennium* 45.3. 2017. 492-510

Week 12 – Race and Decolonization

April 2, 2026

- Book review options:

Shilliam, Robbie. *The Black Pacific: Anti-Colonial Struggles and Oceanic Connections*. Bloomsbury. 2015.

Sabaratnam, Meera. *Decolonising intervention: International statebuilding in Mozambique*. Bloomsbury. 2017.

- Readings:

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

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

Subotić, Jelena and Srdjan Vucetic. "Performing solidarity: whiteness and status-seeking in the non-aligned world." *Journal of International Relations and Development* 22. 2017. 722 - 743.

Sajed, Alina. "Between Algeria and the world: anticolonial connectivity, aporias of national liberation and postcolonial blues." *Postcolonial Studies*, 26:1. 2023. 13–31.

Week 13 – Race and (Im)Mobilities

April 9, 2026

- Book review options:

Rosenberg, Andrew S. *Undesirable Immigrants: Why Racism Persists in International Migration*. Princeton University Press. 2022.

Bulley, Dan, Jenny Edkins, and Nadine El-Enany, eds. *After Grenfell: Violence, resistance and response*. Pluto Books. 2019.

- Readings:

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.

Sabrina Axster, Ida Danewid, Asher Goldstein, Matt Mahmoudi, Cemal Burak Tansel, Lauren Wilcox. "Colonial Lives of the Carceral Archipelago: Rethinking the Neoliberal Security State." *International Political Sociology*. 15:3. 2021. 415–439

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

Week 14 – Race and Global Order

April 16, 2026

- Book review options:

Lowe, Lisa, *The Intimacies of Four Continents*. Duke University Press. 2015

Anzaldúa, Gloria. *Borderlands / La Frontera: The New Mestiza*. San Francisco: aunt lute books,

1987.

- Readings:

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

Brown, Owen R. "The Underside of Order: Race in the Constitution of International Order." *International Organization* 78.1 (2024): 38-66

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/>.)