

INR 2001: Introduction to International Relations

Fall 2023 Online

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Office Hours on Zoom: Wednesdays 10am-12noon

Office Hours Signup: <https://calendly.com/prgupte/inr2001-office-hours>

Course Description

What do actors want from politics? When and why do actors cooperate? Whom do institutions benefit? Can the United Nations keep the peace? What are the benefits and drawbacks of free trade, and why do tariffs and other barriers endure in spite of the benefits of free trade proclaimed by economists? How do states and non-state actors respond to human rights issues? How does international law protect refugees and migrants? These are some of the questions that have intrigued political scientists from time to time and continue to draw our attention. This class will explore such questions both theoretically and (somewhat) practically.

This course will introduce students to major concepts, theories, actors and political issues in international relations. The course is divided into two parts. The first part looks at the theoretical approaches – such as realism, liberalism and constructivism – scholars use to understand IR. The second part focuses on some specific issues that are currently prominent at the national and international levels such as poverty, migration, human rights, and terrorism. and critically analyze contemporary issues.

Course Objectives

By the end of the semester students will be able to:

- Explain the historical, economic, institutional, social and cultural foundations of the international system.
- Identify major actors and understand their role in international politics.
- Think critically about the different challenges facing the international community such as migration, terrorism and human rights violations.
- Learn how to participate in discussions of national and international importance.

This course fulfills the Social Sciences General Education Requirement. A grade of a “C” or above is required to fulfill this requirement. As per the UF Undergraduate Affairs website, “Social and behavioral science courses provide instruction in the history, key themes, principles, terminology, and underlying theory or methodologies used in the social and behavioral sciences. Students will learn to identify, describe and explain social institutions, structures or processes.

These courses emphasize the effective application of accepted problem-solving techniques. Students will apply formal and informal qualitative or quantitative analysis to examine the processes and means by which individuals make personal and group decisions, as well as the evaluation of opinions, outcomes or human behavior. Students are expected to assess and analyze ethical perspectives in individual and societal decisions.”

Course Readings

- All required readings will be made available on the Canvas site for the course (organized as per weeks). Students can access them in the “Files” tab on Canvas.
- This course will be heavily relying on the two following textbooks. Students are NOT required to buy these as scanned copies of the relevant chapters will be made available on Canvas.
 - Baylis, John, Steve Smith, and Patricia Owens, eds. 2023. *The Globalization of World Politics: An Introduction to International Relations*. 9th ed. Oxford University Press. **(GWP)**
 - Frieden, Jeffry A., Lake, David A., Schultz, Kenneth A.. 2018. *World Politics: Interests, Interactions, Institutions*. United Kingdom: W.W. Norton. **(FLS)**
- In addition to the readings posted on Canvas, students are encouraged to read on a daily basis the international news section of major newspapers such as *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *The Guardian*, *The Times of India*, as well as any others of their own choosing. Reading news will not only help students with their assignments and exams but will also help students put theoretical IR to practical use.

Course Requirements

- This course never meets in classroom and does not have live session online. All readings, assignments, and exams will be shared and administered via Canvas.
- Readings for every week will be posted at least a week in advance and you can access them on the Files page.
- Every Monday a short video lecture based on the topic and readings of the week will be posted on Canvas. It is the students’ responsibility to watch the video lecture, complete the readings and submit any assignments by the end of that week or by the due dates assigned on the Syllabus, whichever applies.

Assignment	Number	Percent of Grade
Introductory essay	1	5%
Weekly canvas discussions	15	10%
Letter to the editor	2	30%
News reports	3	15%

Exams	2	40%
Total		100%

- **Introductory essay = 5%**
 - See assignment description on Canvas
 - **Due: Aug 26 at 1159 pm**
- **Weekly Canvas discussions = 10%**
 - Students will be given **writing prompts every week** related to the topic of the week.
 - Prompts will be available every Monday and **due Saturday at 1159 pm** of the same week.
 - Each student must respond to the prompt in 200-250 words.
 - The goal of this assignment is to see whether students are getting a good grasp of the weekly readings.
- **Letter to the editor = 15 * 2 letters = 30%**
 - See assignment description on Canvas
- **News reports = 5 * 3 reports = 15%**
 - See assignment description on Canvas
- **Exams = 20 * 2 exams = 40%**
 - There will be two written exams – midterm and final. Both exams have equal weightage i.e., each is 20% of your final grade.
 - Each exam will consist of two sections – short and long essay questions.
 - Both exams will be take-home i.e., you will be given approximately one week to work on them and then submit them on Canvas.
 - More explanation will be given on this as we get closer to the first exam.

Grading Scale

Score	Grade
94-100	A
90-93	A-
87-89	B+
84-86	B
80-83	B-
77-79	C+
74-76	C
70-73	C-
67-69	D+
64-66	D
60-63	D-

Information on UF's grading policies is posted at <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/>

Course Schedule*

*This course schedule may be subject to change as needed. At times during the semester, we may be ahead/behind schedule, and so readings may be adjusted, dropped, or added to as necessary. I will notify you of all changes via email, and an updated syllabus will be provided if any changes occur.

Week 1

Aug 23-26: Course Introduction

Introductory essay due Saturday, Aug 26 at 1159 pm

Week 2

Aug 27-Sept 2: What is World Politics?

- 1) FLS. What is World Politics and why do we study it?
- 2) Snyder, J. 2004. "One World, Rival Theories." *Foreign Policy*.

Approaches to International Relations

Week 3

Sept 3-9: Realism

- 1) GWP. Realism.
- 2) Lamont Colucci. 2015. "Great Power Conflict: Will It Return?" *World Affairs* (January/February): 44-53.
- 3) Stephen Wertheim. 2020. "Price of Primacy: Why America Shouldn't Dominate the World." *Foreign Affairs* (March/April).

Recommended:

- 4) Interview: [Kenneth Waltz](#), *Theory Talk*, 3 Jun. 2011.
- 5) Interview: [John Mearsheimer](#), *Theory Talk*, 24 Jun. 2012

Week 4

Sept 10-16: Liberalism

- 1) GWP. Liberal Internationalism.
- 2) Ikenberry, G.J. The end of liberal international order? *International Affairs*, Volume 94, Issue 1, January 2018, Pages 7–23.

Recommended:

- 3) Interview: [Michael Doyle](#), *Theory Talk*, 15 Apr. 2008.
- 4) Keohane, R. O. (2012). Twenty Years of Institutional Liberalism. *International Relations*, 26(2), 125–138. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0047117812438451>

Week 5Sept 17-23: Constructivism

- 1) GWP. Social Constructivism.
- 2) Nicholas Onuf. 1989. “Constructivism: A User’s Manual.” In *International Relations in a Constructed World*: 58-78.

Recommended:

- 3) Interview: [Alexander Wendt](#), *Theory Talk*, 25 April 2008.
- 4) Interview: [Nicholas Onuf](#), *Theory Talk*, 2 July 2015.

News Report #1 DUE on September 23 at 1159 pm

Week 6Sept 24-30: Critical Theory

- 1) Ferreira, M. F. Critical Theory. *E-International Relations*. February 2018.
- 2) GWP. Postcolonial and decolonial approaches.
- 3) Zvobgo, K., & Loken, M. 2020. “Why Race Matters in International Relations.” *Foreign Policy*.

Recommended:

- 4) Shilliam, Robbie. How Black Deficit Entered the British Academy.

Week 7Oct 1-7: Feminism

- 1) GWP. Feminism.

- 2) Ann Tickner. 1997. "You Just Don't Understand: Troubled Engagements Between Feminists and IR Theorists." *International Studies Quarterly* 41 (4): 611-632.

Recommended:

- 3) Laura Sjoberg. 2009. "Introduction to Security Studies: Feminist Contributions." *Security Studies* 18 (2): 183-213.
- 4) Interview: [Cynthia Enlow](#), *Theory Talk*, 22 May 2012.
- 5) Interview: [Ann Tickner](#), *Theory Talk*, 22 April 2013.

Letter to the Editor #1 DUE on October 6 at 1159 pm

Midterm Exam questions distributed on October 7 at 7 am

Issues/themes in International Relations

Week 8

Oct 8-14: International Political Economy

- 1) FLS. International monetary relations.
- 2) Günter Walzenbach. 2017. Global Political Economy.
- 3) Edward D. Mansfield. 2014. Rising Powers in the Global Economy: Issues and Questions.
- 4) Françoise Nicolas. 2016. China and the Global Economic Order.

Midterm Exam DUE on October 14 at 1159 pm

Week 9

Oct 15-21: International Trade

- 1) FLS. International trade.
- 2) GWP. Global trade and global finance.
- 3) Silverstein, K. 2010. "Shopping for Sweat: The Human Cost of a Two-Dollar T-shirt." *Harper's Magazine*.

Week 10

Oct 22-28: International Organization and Global Governance

- 1) Shazelina Z. Abidin. 2017. International Organizations. *E-International Relations*.
- 2) Pevehouse, J. C. (2002). With a Little Help from My Friends? Regional Organizations and the Consolidation of Democracy. *American Journal of Political Science*, 46(3), 611.
- 3) GWP. International law.
- 4) GWP. The United Nations.
- 5) GWP. Regionalism in international affairs.

Week 11

Oct 29-Nov 4: Non-state actors 1: Terrorism

- 1) GWP. Terrorism and globalization.
- 2) FLS. Excerpt from Civil war and terrorism.
- 3) Patrick Johnson and Annop Sarbahi. 2016. "The Impact of US Drone Strikes on Terrorism in Pakistan." *International Studies Quarterly*. 60(2): 203-219.
- 4) Azam, Jean-Paul and Veronique Thelen. 2010. "Foreign Aid vs. Military Intervention in the War on Terror." *Journal of Conflict Resolution*. 54(2): 237-261.

Week 12

Nov 5-11: Non-state actors 2: non-governmental organizations (NGOs)

- 1) GWP. NGOs in world politics.
- 2) Elliot, J. & Sullivan, L. 2015. "How the Red Cross Raised Half a Billion Dollars for Haiti and Built Six Homes" *ProPublica*.
- 3) Selk, A. & Rosenberg, E. 2018. Oxfam prostitution scandal widens to at least three countries. *Washington Post*.

News Report #2 DUE on November 11 at 1159 pm

Week 13

Nov 12-18: Politics of Human Rights

- 1) GWP. Human Rights.

- 2) GWP. Humanitarian intervention in world politics.
- 3) Sadako Ogata. 2015. "Striving for Human Security." In *UN Chronicles* No. 1&2: 25-27.
- 4) Power, S. 2001. "Bystanders to Genocide: Why the United States Let the Rwandan Tragedy Happen." *The Atlantic*.
- 5) Murdie, Amanda, and David R. Davis. 2010. "Problematic Potential: The Human Rights Consequences of Peacekeeping Interventions in Civil Wars." *Human Rights Quarterly*. 32 (1):50-73.
- 6) Fariss, Christopher J. 2017. "The Changing Standard of Accountability and the Positive Relationship between Human Rights Treaty Ratification and Compliance." *British Journal of Political Science*.

Week 14

Nov 19-21: Poverty and Inequality

- 1) GWP. Poverty, hunger and development.
- 2) FLS. Development: Causes of wealth and poverty of nations
- 3) Abi-Habib, M., & Bradsher, K. 2020. "Poor Countries Borrowed Billions from China. They Can't Pay It Back." *New York Times*.
- 4) Collier, Paul. The Bottom Billion. Summary.

Week 15

Nov 26-Dec 2: Migration and Borders

- 1) GWP. Refugees and forced migration.
- 2) Stephanie J. Nawyn. 2016. Human Trafficking and Migration Management in the Global South.
- 3) Katz, M. 2020. "The World's Refugee System Is Broken." *The Atlantic*
- 4) Kelly M. Greenhill. 2016. Migration as a Weapon in Theory and in Practice.
- 5) Pittaway, Eileen. "The Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh: A failure of the international protection regime." *Protracted Displacement in Asia*. Routledge, 2016. 83-104.

Week 16Dec 3-6: NO LECTURE

- Use this time to work on your assignments.

News Report #3 DUE on December 4 at 1159 pm

Letter to the Editor #2 due on December 4 at 1159 pm

Final Exam questions distributed on December 5 at 7 am

Final Exam DUE on December 13 at 1159 pm

Course Policies

Late or Make-up Assignments

NO late or make-up assignments will be accepted without prior approval. If an assignment is submitted late without prior approval, it will receive a 0. Generally, at least one week in advance notice is required for assignments or exam extension requests.

Students with disabilities

Students with disabilities requesting accommodation should first register with the UF Disability Resource Center (352.392.8565) by providing appropriate documentation. 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.

Grade adjustments

I do not under any circumstances round or adjust grades. This policy is not an attempt to be harsh but to hold all students in equal standing.

Contacting the Instructor

Students should use Canvas to contact me. Although you may email me at my UF email account, the university strongly encourages us to communicate via Canvas to avoid the potential of violations of student confidentiality protected by FERPA.

Email/Messaging Hours

You may email or message me via Canvas at any time that is convenient to you. I will respond within one business day between the hours of 8am and 5pm. If you do not receive a reply from me after 48 hours, please resend your message. Although I may sometimes reply outside of these designated hours, responses cannot be guaranteed after 5pm on weekdays, on weekends, or holidays. Please plan accordingly to have your questions answered in advance of assignment and exam deadlines.

Academic Integrity

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 Conduct Code specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Click [here](#) to read the Conduct Code. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

Course Evaluation

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/>.

Recording

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.

A “class lecture” is an educational presentation intended to inform or teach enrolled students about a particular subject, including any instructor-led discussions that form part of the presentation, and delivered by any instructor hired or appointed by the University, or by a guest instructor, as part of a University of Florida course. A class lecture does not include lab sessions, student presentations, clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving solely student participation, assessments (quizzes, tests, exams), field trips, private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the faculty or lecturer during a class session.

Publication without permission of the instructor is prohibited. To “publish” means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section. Additionally, a recording, or transcript of a recording, is considered published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, leaflet, or third party note/tutoring services. A student who publishes a recording without written consent may be subject to a civil cause of action instituted by a person injured by the publication and/or discipline under UF Regulation 4.040 Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code.

Campus Resources

Health and Wellness U Matter, We Care: If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu, 352-392-1575, or visit U Matter, We Care website to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.

Counseling and Wellness Center: Visit the Counseling and Wellness Center website or call 352-392-1575 for information on crisis services as well as non-crisis services.

Student Health Care Center: Call 352-392-1161 for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need, or visit the Student Health Care Center website.

University Police Department: Visit UF Police Department website or call 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).

UF Health Shands Emergency Room / Trauma Center: For immediate medical care call 352-733-0111 or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608; Visit the UF Health Emergency Room and Trauma Center website.

GatorWell Health Promotion Services: For prevention services focused on optimal wellbeing, including Wellness Coaching for Academic Success, visit the GatorWell website or call 352-273-4450.

In response to COVID-19, the following recommendations are in place to maintain your learning environment, to enhance the safety of our in-classroom interactions, and to further the health and safety of ourselves, our neighbors, and our loved ones:

- If you are not vaccinated, get vaccinated. Vaccines are readily available and have been demonstrated to be safe and effective against the COVID-19 virus. Visit one.ufl.edu for screening / testing and vaccination opportunities.
- If you are sick, stay home. Please call your primary care provider if you are ill and need immediate care or the UF Student Health Care Center at 352-392-1161 to be evaluated.
- Course materials will be provided to you with an excused absence, and you will be given a reasonable amount of time to make up work.

Academic Resources

E-learning technical support: Contact the UF Computing Help Desk at 352-392-4357 or via e-mail at helpdesk@ufl.edu.

Career Connections Center: Reitz Union Suite 1300, 352-392-1601. Career assistance and counseling services.

Library Support: Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.

Teaching Center: Broward Hall, 352-392-2010 or to make an appointment 352- 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring.

Writing Studio: 2215 Turlington Hall, 352-846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers.

Student Complaints On-Campus: Visit the Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code webpage for more information.

On-Line Students Complaints: View the Distance Learning Student Complaint Process.