

INR 2001: Introduction to International Relations

Summer B 2024 Online

Instructor: Yunizar Adiputera

Email: yadiputera@ufl.edu

Office hours on Zoom: Tuesdays, 1pm to 3pm

Office hours sign-up: <https://calendly.com/yadiputera/inr-2001-office-hours>

Zoom Meeting ID: 998 584 2202 (Passcode will be shared on Canvas)

Description

The overall goal of this course is to help students in making sense of what is going on in the real world of international politics. The course pays a close attention not only to salient political events that take place around the world, but also to more fundamental questions, such as: why do states go to war? When and why sometimes they cooperate? What role do international organization and international law play? Do states care about human rights? What about climate change? Answering these broad questions allows students of International Relations to go beyond *knowing* what events take place, but also to offer theoretically-informed explanations of those events.

In the study of International Relations, however, there is no single answer to these fundamental questions. In fact, different theoretical traditions offer varying answers and they remain contested to this day. To understand and navigate these different traditions, this course introduces students to the major concepts, theories, actors, and political issues in international politics. This course is organized into two parts. The first part focuses on major theoretical approaches to understand global politics, including realism, liberalism, constructivism, Marxism, postcolonialism, poststructuralism, and feminism. The second part of the course will explore some of the salient themes in global politics, such as international security, international law, migration and refugees, human rights, environmental issues, and other contemporary issues. The students are expected to analyze these themes through the theoretical lens explored in the first part of the course.

Objectives

At the end of the semester, students are expected to be able to:

1. Describe, compare, and evaluate major theoretical approaches in International Relations.
2. Identify key actors and their roles in global politics.
3. Critically analyze contemporary issues in global politics using multiple theoretical approaches.

Textbook

This course uses selected chapters from *The Globalization of World Politics: An Introduction to International Relations* (GWP) edited by John Baylis, Steve Smith, and Patricia Owens. This course will use the most recent edition (2023).

- Baylis, John, Steve Smith, and Patricia Owens, eds. 2023. *The Globalization of World Politics: An Introduction to International Relations*. 9th ed. Oxford University Press.

In addition to the textbook, students are also expected to read the international news section of major news publications on regular basis. Some recommended outlets include *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *The Guardian*, *Al Jazeera*, *the People's Daily*, and *Russia Today*.

Additional reading or materials will be posted on Canvas.

Requirements

This course is 100% online. All lectures, assignments, and exams are conducted via Canvas. Although this course is asynchronous and self-paced, students must complete assignments and exams based on assigned readings and lectures. To help students keep up with the course schedule, the Canvas webpage is organized by modules where students can access the lectures and assignments. Also, to address any limitations of online learning, students are encouraged to visit the instructor during virtual office hours, on Tuesdays 1pm–3pm, or schedule an appointment if there is a time conflict.

Grades will be based on two global news reports, a film review, and two exams.

- **News reports 1 & 2** (due on Fridays, July 12th and July 26th). The objective of the assignment is to analyze the reporting of a globally significant event by different news outlets and compare them. Students are free to choose what news event to analyze, though they should make sure that the event is covered by at least two credible news outlets. Four recommended news outlets to pick from are *The New York Times*, *Al Jazeera*, *Russia Today*, and *the People's Daily*. Additional publication outlets may be

proposed. The report is in the form of four-page slides (PPT or google slides, output in pdf). Detailed format and instructions will be posted in Canvas.

- **Movie review** (due on August 2nd). Students are expected to make a review of one of the four movies assigned on Wednesdays. They are It's a Girl! (2012), Quo Vadis, Aida? (2020), Born in Syria (2016), and Poverty, Inc. (2014). These movies can be watched online free of charge via tubity online streaming service. The goal of the assignment is to make the connection between the topics raised in the movies and global politics. Detailed instructions will be posted on canvas.
- **Exam 1** (due Friday, July 19th). Students will answer two essay questions of approximately 350-words long each. The questions will be released at 6am and the deadline for the submission is set at 11.59pm.
- **Exam 2** (due Friday, August 9th). The Exam 2 will take the same format with Exam 1, but it will require slightly longer answers of 500-words for each question. The questions will be released at 12pm on August 8th and the deadline of the submission is set at 11.59pm on August 9th.

Assignments	Percent of grade	Important dates
News reports (2)	$15\% \times 2 = 30\%$	July 12 th and 26 th by 11.59pm
Movie review	15%	August 2 nd by 11.59pm
Exam 1	25%	July 19 between 6am and 11.59pm
Exam 2	30%	Between August 8 th at 12pm and August 9 th at 11.59pm
Total	100%	

Grading scale

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

Make-up policy

Requirements for make-up exams and assignments in this course are consistent with [university policies](#), which include health reasons (with documentation), religious holidays, official university activities, court-imposed legal obligations, or important conferences. Except for sudden health-related reasons, make-up exams or assignments require prior approval requested at least one week in advance.

Students Requiring Accommodations

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the [Disability Resource Center](#). It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

University Honesty Policy

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 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 [here](#). 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/>

Schedule

Week 1 (July 1st – 5th)

Introduction (Module A)

Module A1 (July 1st) Course objectives and expectations

- Syllabus (provided in Canvas)

Module A2 (July 2nd) The discipline of International Relations: What is IR?

- Baylis, John, Patricia Owens and Steve Smith. "Chapter 1. Introduction," In *GWP*.

Part I. Approaches to International Relations (Module B)

Module B1 (July 3rd) Realism

- Rosenboim, Or. "Chapter 9. Realism." In *GWP*.

No classes on July 4th and 5th.

Week 2 (July 8th – 12th)

Module B2 (July 8th) Liberalism

- Dunne, Tim. "Chapter 7. Liberal Internationalism." In *GWP*

Module B3 (July 9th) Constructivism

- Barnett, Michael. "Chapter 13. Social Constructivism." In *GWP*

Movie Wednesday (July 10th)

- It's a Girl (2012, 1h 4m)

Module B4 (July 11th) Marxism

- Hobden, Stephen, and Richard Wyn Jones. “Chapter 8. Marxist theories of international relations.” In *GWP*

News report 1 due (July 12th)

Week 3 (July 15th – 19th)

Module B5 (July 15th) Decolonization and post-colonialism

- Sabaratnam, Meera. “Chapter 11. Postcolonial and decolonial approaches.” In *GWP*

Module B6 (July 16th) Poststructuralism

- Hansen, Lene. “Chapter 12. Poststructuralism.” In *GWP*

Movie Wednesday (July 17th)

- Quo Vadis, Aida? (2020, 1h 41m)

Module B7 (July 18th) Feminism

- Kinsella, Helen. “Chapter 10. Feminism.” In *GWP*.

Exam 1 (July 19th)

Week 4 (July 22nd – 26th)

Part II. Understanding Global Politics (Module C)

Module C1 (July 22nd) War and global security

- Barkawi, Tarak. “Chapter 14. War and world politics.” In *GWP*.
- Baylis, John. “Chapter 15. International and global security.” In *GWP*.

Module C2 (July 23rd) International law, international organization and regional organization

- Reus-Smit, Christian. "Chapter 19. International law." In *GWP*.
- Park, Susan. "Chapter 20. International organizations in world politics." In *GWP*.
- Best, Edward, and Thomas Christiansen. "Chapter 23. Regionalism in international affairs." In *GWP*.

Movie Wednesday (July 24th)

- The True Cost (2015, 1h 32m)

Module C3 (July 25th) Nationalism

- Breuilly, John. "Chapter 31. Nationalism, national self-determination and international relations." In *GWP*.

News report 1 due (July 26th)

Week 5 (July 29th – August 2nd)

Module C4 (July 29th) Global health

- Harman, Sophie. "Chapter 25. Global health." In *GWP*.

Module C5 (July 30th) Environment

- Vogler, John. "Chapter 24. Environmental issues." In *GWP*.

Movie Wednesday (July 31st)

- Poverty, Inc. (2014, 1h 34m)

Module C6 (August 1st) Poverty and development

- Evans, Tony. "Chapter 27. Poverty, hunger, and development." In *GWP*.

Module C7 (August 2nd) Human rights

- Kapur, Ratna. "Chapter 32. Human rights." In *GWP*.

Movie review due (August 2nd)

Week 6 (August 5th – August 9th)

Module C8 (August 5th) Refugees and forced migration

- Estévez, Ariadna. "Chapter 26. Refugees and forced migration." In *GWP*.

Module C9 (August 6th) Proliferation of WMD

- Greitens, Sheena Chestnut. "Chapter 30. Proliferation of weapons of mass destruction." In *GWP*.

Module C10 (August 7th) Humanitarian intervention

- Bellamy, Alex J., and Nicholas J. Wheeler. "Chapter 33. Humanitarian intervention in world politics." In *GWP*.

Exam 2 (August 8th-9th)