INR 3603: Theories of International Relations

Fall 2016

Oumar Ba

Class Times: M,W,F, Period 5

Class Location: CSE E222

Office: 320 Anderson Hall

Office Hours: Wednesdays 9-11am

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Course Description

This course aims at introducing students to the main theoretical approaches in the discipline of international relations and to foster critical assessment of the works of major scholars in the field. We will focus on seven major books that vary greatly in terms of not only their methodological approaches but also their implications for understanding international relations. While doing so, we will also discuss the complexity of world politics that theories of international relations seek to address.

Required Texts

E H. Carr, *Twenty Years Crisis*, Palgrave, New York, 2001

Kenneth Waltz, *Man, the State and War*, Columbia University Press, New York, 2001

John Mearsheimer, *The Tragedy of Great Power Politics*, W.W. Norton, New York, 2002

Bruce Russett, *Grasping the Democratic Peace*, Princeton University Press, Princeton, 1993

Martha Finnemore, *National Interests in International Society*, Cornell University Press, Ithaca, 1996

Cynthia Enloe, *Bananas, Beaches and Bases*, University of California Press, Berkeley, 2000

Roxanne Doty, *Imperial Encounters*, University of Minnesota Press, Minneapolis, 1996

These books are also available in Library West reserve section (2-Hours-in Library-Use-Only)

Course Requirements

Grades will be based on:

1. Three take-home essays: There will be three take-home essays. The first one will account for 20% of your final grade, the second will be 25% and the last will be 30%. Essays will be 7-8 pages long and the questions will be announced a week ahead. The take-home exams will be cumulative and you will be responsible for the readings until the day each essay is due. Further information on the take-home exams (e.g. formatting) will be given in-class and announced on Canvas.
2. Pop-Quizzes: There will be multiple pop-quizzes during the semester. These quizzes will be unannounced. They will be based on the readings for that class session. Pop-quizzes are worth of 10% of your final grade.
3. Attendance: Attendance accounts for 5% of the final grade. Students are allowed to miss up to 2 classes (un-excused absences). For each additional un-excused absence students will lose 20 points out of 100 points. **Please note that if you miss 30% of classes (12), you will not be allowed to take the exams and will receive a failing grade for the course.** Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>
4. Participation: Contributing to our discussion of the readings accounts for 10% of final the grade. Students must do the weekly readings, come to class prepared and actively participate in discussions. Participation points will be given according to the following criteria:

Regular Participation: 8 -10points / Sporadic Participation: 5-7.5 points / Poor or No Participation: 0-4.5 points. If you are shy or struggle with public speaking, come see me at the beginning of the semester.

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| **Course Requirement** | **%** | **Due Date** |
| Take-Home 1 | 20 | September 30 |
| Take-Home 2 | 25 | October 24 |
| Take-Home 3 | 30 | December 7 |
| Quizzes | 10 | Pop-Quizzes  |
| Participation | 10 |
| Attendance | 5 |
| TOTAL | 100 |

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| **Grading Scale** |
| 94-100 | 90-93 | 87-89 | 84-86 | 80-83 | 77-79 | 74-76 | 70-73 | 67-69 | 64-66 | 60-63 | 0-59 |
| A | A- | B+ | B | B- | C+ | C | C- | D+ | D | D- | E |

For current regulations on grades and grade point averages at the University of Florida please see

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, [www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/](http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/) ) 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.

Attendance, Make Up, and Grading Policy

Attendance and make-up policies/requirements for this class are consistent with university policies, available at <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>

Deadline extensions will be given only in cases that conform with university policies. Otherwise, 5 points will be deducted for each day that an assignment is submitted late. Also, keep in mind that if you miss a class on a day when one of the pop-quizzes is given and do not have an excuse conforming with University’s policy, you will not be given a make-up quiz.

If you believe that the grade you received for a specific assignment does not reflect the quality of the work you submitted, you may ask me to grade the paper a second time. You must wait for 24 hours after you received the grade, before you initiate that request. You must submit your request in writing, and no later than 5 days afterwards. You will not be penalized for engaging in this process, as I will not reduce a grade that has been appealed (though I may or may not raise it).

Academic Honesty

All students’ works submitted in this class will be checked through a plagiarism software. There is zero tolerance for plagiarism or any forms of academic misconduct. All UF students are required to abide by the University’s Academic Honesty Guidelines. For more information, please see <https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code>

Other Policies / Guidelines

Read the syllabus.

Check your UF e-mail and Canvas regularly.

If you do not read and engage with the class materials seriously, you will not do well in this class.

If you have any issues or concerns related to this class, don’t hesitate to contact me or come see me.

Come to class on time, and prepared. Class time is for discussions and lecture. When in class, do not check you Facebook, Instagram, snapchat, etc. Do not text, chat, tweet, read the news or do your class readings while in class. If your behavior in class is disruptive, I may ask you to leave the class and mark you as absent for the day.

Weekly Outline

Week 1

Monday, August 22

Introduction: course and syllabus overview; description of course requirements.

Wednesday, August 24

Introduction: What is Theory?

Leslie Thiele, *Thinking Politics*, Chapter 1: Theory and Vision (available in Canvas)

Friday, August 26

E. H. Carr, *Twenty Year’s Crisis*, Chapters 1 and 2

Week 2

Monday, August 29

E. H. Carr, Twenty Years’ Crisis, Chapters 3 and 4

Wednesday, August 31

E. H. Carr, *Twenty Year’s Crisis*, Chapters 5 and 6

Friday, September 2

E. H. Carr, Twenty Years’ Crisis, Chapters 7 and 8

Week 3

Monday, September 5

**No Class – Labor Day**

Wednesday, September 7

E. H. Carr, Twenty Years’ Crisis, Chapters 9, 10, 11

Friday, September 9,

E. H. Carr, *Twenty Year’s Crisis*, Chapters 12, 13, Conclusion

Film: *People’s Century - 1919: Lost Peace*

Week 4

Monday, September 12

Kenneth Waltz, *Man, the State and War*, Chapter 1

Wednesday, September 14

Kenneth Waltz, *Man, the State and War*, Chapter 2

Friday, September 16

Kenneth Waltz, *Man, the State and War*, Chapter 3

Week 5

Monday, September 19

Kenneth Waltz, *Man, the State and War*, Chapter 4

Wednesday, September 21

Kenneth Waltz, *Man, the State and War*, Chapter 5

Friday, September 23

Kenneth Waltz, *Man, the State and War*, Chapter 6

Week 6

Monday, September 26

Kenneth Waltz, Man, the State and War, Chapter 7

Wednesday, September 28

Kenneth Waltz, Man, the State, and War, Chapter 8

Friday, September 30

**First paper due in class.**

*Film: The Fog of War*

Week 7

Monday, October 3

John Mearsheimer, *Tragedy of Great Power Politics,* Chapters 1, 2

Wednesday, October 5

John Mearsheimer, *Tragedy of Great Power Politics*, Chapters 3, 4

Friday, October 7

John Mearsheimer, Tragedy of Great Power Politics, Chapters 5, 6

Week 8

Monday, October 10

John Mearsheimer, *Tragedy of Great Power Politics*, Chapters 7, 8

Wednesday, October 12

John Mearsheimer, *Tragedy of Great Power Politics*, Chapters 9, 10

Friday, October 14

**No Class- Homecoming**

Week 9

Monday, October 17

Bruce Russett, *Grasping the Democratic Peace*, Chapters 1, 2

Wednesday, October 19

Bruce Russett, *Grasping the Democratic Peace*, Chapters 3, 4

Friday, October 21

Bruce Russett, *Grasping the Democratic Peace*, Chapters 5, 6

Week 10

Monday, October 24

**Second paper due in class.**

Martha Finnemore, *National Interests in International Society*, Chapter 1

Wednesday, October 26

Martha Finnemore, *National Interests in International Society*, Chapter 2

Friday, October 28

Martha Finnemore, *National Interests in International Society*, Chapter 3

Week 11

Monday, October 31

Martha Finnemore, *National Interests in International Society*, Chapter 4

Wednesday, November 2

Martha Finnemore, *National Interests in International Society*, Chapter 5

Friday, November 4

**No Class- ISA NE conference**

Week 12

Monday, November 7

Cynthia Enloe, *Bananas, Beaches and Bases*, Chapters 1, 2

Wednesday, November 9

Cynthia Enloe, *Bananas, Beaches and Bases*, Chapter 3

Friday, November 11

**No Class– Veterans Day**

Week 13

Monday, November 14

Cynthia Enloe, *Bananas, Beaches and Bases*, Chapter 4

Film: *Silence Broken: Korean Comfort Women*

Wednesday, November 16

Cynthia Enloe, *Bananas, Beaches and Bases*, Chapter 6, 7

Friday, November 18

Cynthia Enloe, *Bananas, Beaches and Bases*, Chapter 8

Week 14

Monday, November 21

Cynthia Enloe, *Bananas, Beaches and Bases*, Conclusion

Wednesday, November 23

**No class. Thanksgiving Holiday**

Friday, November 25

**No class. Thanksgiving Holiday**

Week 15

Monday, November 28

Roxanne Doty, *Imperial Encounters*, Chapters 1, 2, 3

Wednesday, November 30

Roxanne Doty, *Imperial Encounters*, Chapters 4, 5

Friday, December 2

**No class- ASA conference**

Week 16

Monday, December 5

Roxanne Doty, *Imperial Encounters,* Chapters 6, 7, 8

Wednesday, December 7

Wrap-Up

**Third paper due in class.**