

International Studies Perspectives

INS 3004

Spring Semester 2024

University of Florida

International Studies Program

Course Information:

Instructor: Timothy Karis, PhD
Email address: tkaris@ufl.edu
Course location: LIT 0113
Course time: Thursday 1:55-3:50 PM + Tuesday discussion sections
Office location: Pugh Hall 232
Office hours: Mondays 12:00-1:15 PM, Tuesdays 12:00-2:00 PM, Thursdays 12:00-1:15 PM

Teaching Assistants:

TBA

Course Description:

This course provides majors in International Studies with a comprehensive introduction to the field. Readings and discussions will cover all regions of the world and engage with contemporary global problems through an interdisciplinary lens that draws from political science, anthropology, economics, sociology, environmental studies, and geography. Topics include globalization, political and economic change, poverty and development, migration and refugees, nationalism, human-environment interactions, human rights, and religion. The course will pinpoint connections between these themes and give students the analytical tools to understand and address the challenges facing human communities at the global and local levels. Our readings and lectures will cover all regions offered to International Studies majors as a specialization.

Course Objectives:

By the end of the semester, students will achieve an understanding of:

- The interdisciplinary/comparative perspectives central to international studies
- Global political-economic change and how it impacts human communities
- The tensions between state sovereignty and the operations of international governance
- A variety of geographical and cultural regions as preparation for further study
- How to apply concepts/analytical tools from the social sciences to address global problems

Course Texts:

1. McCormick, John (2018). *Introduction to Global Studies*. London: Red Globe Press.
2. Steger, Manfred & Roy, Ravi (2010). *Neoliberalism: A Very Short Introduction*. London: Oxford University Press.
3. All additional readings will be made available on the class Canvas website.

Student Responsibilities:

Students are expected to complete all readings and assignments and to attend all class sessions, barring an emergency. You should aim to complete the weekly readings before Monday’s lecture. Attendance will be taken every lecture through a sign-in sheet, and more than three unexcused absences will negatively impact your grade. Please arrive on time and well prepared. Always maintain respect for your classmates even when discussing sometimes controversial subjects. Please refrain from using your phone for any activities unrelated to our class, including reading and sending text messages. This syllabus is a living document responsive to student interests, current events, and the pace of class, and therefore subject to change. You should regularly check the class Canvas site for readings, announcements, and information about assignments and class activities.

Discussion Sections:

Since the class is too large for genuine interactivity, each Friday you will participate in smaller discussion with your teaching assistants. Discussion sections allow students to review concepts and cases, ask questions, and seek out further insights into topics of interest. Your participation in discussion sections—assessed through your effort, engagement, and contributions—counts for a full 20% of your grade, so these sessions represent a chance to significantly boost your overall grade for the class. **Attendance for discussion section is mandatory; missing more than three sessions will result in a zero entered for your participation score.** Of course, emergencies and illnesses arise, and we will be understanding when appropriate.

Evaluation:

Your grade will be based on three “integrative essays” (4-5 pages; detailed instructions to be provided in class and on Canvas) designed to draw connections across readings and topics, one film response paper (2-3 pages), and your participation in discussion sections. Your final course grade will be determined as follows:

Integrative essays #1, #2, #3 (avg.)	65%
Film response paper	15%
Attendance/discussion section participation	20%
Total	100%

Grading Scale:

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

Academic Honesty:

Please do not engage in plagiarism or any other actions that would violate the University of Florida Academic Honesty Policy. You can find a copy of the Academic Honesty Policy using the link that follows. It is the student's responsibility to read, understand, and abide by the policy:
<https://archive.catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/1617//advising/info/student-honor-code.aspx>

Writing Requirements:

When composing your essays, you are free to cite your sources according to either the APA or MLA formatting requirements – just be sure to remain consistent. The best essays will reference key course readings and ideas while demonstrating original thinking in answering the question(s). You will not need to use outside sources to receive a top grade, but you may do so if you wish. Your essays will be evaluated using the following grading rubric:

1. (40 points) - The extent to which the response demonstrates an understanding of key concepts and thoughtfully and thoroughly answers the questions
2. (40 points) - The depth of the analysis, including reference to specific citations and examples and attention to the connections between cases
3. (20 points) - The overall quality of the work, including evidence of effort, logic and reasoning, and conformity to the formatting guidelines

Beyond your TA's and professor, remember that the UF Writing Studio also offers excellent guidance for students looking to improve their writing skills. The studio's online tutors, instructional tutorials, and other resources can be found at: [writing.ufl.edu/writing studio](http://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio).

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.

Course Evaluations:

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. 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/>.

Course Schedule:

Week 1: Introduction to International Studies

Readings:

1. McCormick, "Introduction"

Week 2: The International System and Globalization

Readings

1. McCormick, Chapter 1, "History"
2. Giddens, A. (1999). "Runaway World" in *The Reith Lectures*, pp. 1-6

Week 3: Nation-States, Citizenship, and Governance

Reading

1. McCormick, Chapter 5, "States and Governance"

2. Scott, J. (1998), "Cities, People, Language," in *Seeing Like a State*, pp. 53-84
3. Gellner, E. (1983), Nations and Nationalism, excerpt (~12 pp)

Week 4: Globalization and Nationalism

Readings

1. Castles, S. & Davidson, A. (2000), "The Crisis of Citizenship" in *Citizenship and Migration: Globalization and the Politics of Belonging*, pp. 1-24
2. Achilles et al. (2018), "Nationalism, Nativism, and the Revolt Against Globalization" from *Council for European Studies*

In-class film: *Inside Hungary's Far Right Movement (2018)*

Week 5: International Economics

Readings

1. McCormick, Chapter 8, "Economy"
2. Steger, M. & Roy, R. (2010), *Neoliberalism: A Very Short Introduction*, pp. 1-20

Week 6: Global Trade and Neoliberalism

Readings

1. McCormick, Chapter 9, "Trade"
2. Steger, M. & Roy, R. (2010), *Neoliberalism: A Very Short Introduction*, pp. 21-97

Week 7: Global Trade and Neoliberalism, cont.

Readings

1. Steger, M. & Roy, R. (2010), *Neoliberalism: A Very Short Introduction*, pp. 98-119

In-class film: *Good Fortune (2007)*

Week 8: Demographics and Population

Readings

1. McCormick, Chapter 2, "Population and Resources"

2. Davis, M. (2006), *Planet of Slums* (excerpt, ~12 pp.)

Week 9: Global Urbanization

Readings

1. Agnotti, T. (2007), "Apocalyptic Anti-Urbanism: Mike Davis and His Planet of Slums" in *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*, pp. 961-967
2. Chanala, M. & Rishi, S. (2016) Making Sense of the Order in the Disorder in Delhi's Kathputli Colony, in *Messy Urbanism: Understanding the "Other" Cities of Asia*, pp. 154-174

Week 10: Spring Break – No Class

Week 11: International Migration

Readings

1. McCormick, Chapter 10, "Migration"
2. Tsuda, T. (2004). "When Home is Not the Homeland" in *Diasporic Homecomings*, pp. 125-143

******INTEGRATIVE ESSAY 2 DUE FRIDAY, 3/18 by 11:59 PM ******

Week 12: Identity and Culture

Readings

1. McCormick, Chapter 3, "Identity and Culture"
2. Abu-Rabia (2006). "The Veil and Muslim Women in France" in *Anthropology of the Middle East*, pp. 89-102

Week 13: Human Rights

Readings

1. McCormick, Chapter 7, "Human Rights"
2. Human Rights Watch (2019), "Saudi Arabia: Justice for Khashoggi Killing" pp. 1-5

Week 14: International Relations

Readings

1. McCormick, Chapter 6, "Law and International Organizations"
2. Zhao, S. (2018). "China and the South China Sea Arbitration: Geopolitics Versus International Law" in *Journal of Contemporary China*, pp. 1-15

Week 15: The Environment

Readings

1. McCormick, Chapter 11, "Environment"
2. Widener, P. (2007). "Oil Conflict in Ecuador: A Photographic Essay" in *Organization and Environment*, pp. 84-105

Week 16: Current Events and Course Wrap-Up

Reading TBA (Current Events)

Resources for Students:

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.

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.