

# International Studies Perspectives

## INS 2004

Spring Semester 2025  
University of Florida  
International Studies Program  
Bob Graham Center for Public Service

### Course Information:

Instructor: Timothy Karis, PhD  
Email address: [tkaris@ufl.edu](mailto:tkaris@ufl.edu)  
Course location: LIT 121  
Course time: Monday/Wednesday/Friday, 11:45-12:35 PM (Period 5)  
Office location: Pugh Hall 232  
Office hours: Mondays 1:30-3:00 PM (drop-in), Tuesdays 12:00-1:00 PM (by appointment),  
Wednesdays 1:30-3:00 PM (by appointment)

Appointment link:

<https://calendly.com/dr-karis-office-hours/>

### Course Description:

This course provides majors in International Studies (INS) 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, geography, and other social sciences. Topics include globalization, nationalism, migration, political and economic change, urbanization and development, religious difference, diplomacy, human-environment interactions, and human rights. 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, national, and local levels. Our readings and lectures will cover all regions offered to International Studies majors as a specialization. In addition, we will spend time thinking about the academic terrain of International Studies—its development, trajectories, and key features—and about how to make the most of your INS major at UF.

### 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 to get the most out of the course materials. 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. While this is not a small seminar, active participation and interactivity will nevertheless be emphasized, and you can boost your grade by contributing meaningfully to class discussions, since attendance and participation count for ten percent of your grade. 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.

### Evaluation:

Your grade will be based on two in-class exams, two "Integrative Essays" (~4 pages; detailed instructions and word count 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 class attendance and participation. Your final course grade will be determined as follows:

Exam #1	20%
Exam #2	20%
Integrative essay #1	20%
Integrative essay #2	20%
Film response paper:	10%
Attendance/participation:	10%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Grading Scale:**

A	93-100
A-	90-92
B+	87-89
B	83-86
B-	80-82
C+	77-79
C	73-76
C-	70-72
D+	67-69
D	63-66
D-	60-62
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 for any assignment; you may do so, but not at the expense of applicable course materials. 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

Please 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. 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: (1/13-1/17)                      The International System and Globalization**

#### Readings

1. McCormick, "Introduction" and Chapter 1, "History"
2. Giddens, A. (1999). "Runaway World" in *The Reith Lectures*, pp. 1-6
3. Barber, B. (1992). "Jihad versus McWorld" in *The Atlantic*, pp. 1-12

### **Week 2: (1/20-1/24)                      Nation-States, Citizenship, and Governance**

#### Readings

1. McCormick, Chapter 5, "States and Governance"
2. Scott, J. (1998), *Seeing Like a State*, excerpt (~25 pp)
3. Gellner, E. (1983), *Nations and Nationalism*, excerpt (~12 pp)

### **Week 3: (1/27-1/31)                      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*, pp. 1-6

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

**Week 4: (2/3-2/7) International Economics**

Readings

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

**Week 5: (2/10-2/14) Global Trade and Neoliberalism**

Readings

1. McCormick, Chapter 9, "Trade"
2. Steger, M. & Roy, R. (2010), *Neoliberalism: A Very Short Introduction*, pp. 21-97
3. Klopp, J., & Paller, J. (2019), "Slum Politics in Africa," in *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Politics*, pp. 1-18

**Week 6: (2/17-2/21) 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)***

**\*\*\*\*\*In-Class Exam #1 on 2/21\*\*\*\*\***

**Week 7: (2/24-2/28) Demographics and Population**

Readings

1. McCormick, Chapter 2, "Population and Resources"
2. Davis, M. (2006), *Planet of Slums* (excerpt, ~12 pp.)
3. Agnotti, T. (2007), "Apocalyptic Anti-Urbanism: Mike Davis and His Planet of Slums" in *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*, pp. 961-967

**Week 8: (3/3-3/7) International Migration**

Readings

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

\*\*\*\*\**Film Response Paper due 3/7 by 11:59 PM*\*\*\*\*\*

**Week 9: (3/10-3/14): Culture, Identity, and Multiculturalism**

Readings

1. McCormick, Chapter 3, "Identity and Culture"
2. Kymlicka, W. (1997). *Differentiated Citizenship*, excerpt (~12 pp.)
3. Abu-Rabia (2006). "The Veil and Muslim Women in France" in *Anthropology of the Middle East*, pp. 89-102

**Week 10: (3/17-3/21) Spring Break – No Class**

**Week 11: (3/24-3/28) Conflict, Gender, and Representation**

Readings

1. McCormick, Chapter 8, "War, Peace, and Security"
2. Abu-Lughod, L. (2002). "Do Muslim Women Really Need Saving? Anthropological Reflections on Cultural Relativism and Its Others" in *American Anthropologist*, pp. 783-790

\*\*\*\*\**Integrative Essay #2 Due on 4/4 by 11:59 PM*\*\*\*\*\*

**Week 12: (3/31-4/4) Human Rights**

Readings

1. McCormick, Chapter 7, "Human Rights"
2. Reading on statelessness TBA

**Week 13: (4/7-4/11) 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 14: (4/14-4/18) 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 15: (4/21-4/23) Course Review and Wrap-Up**

No readings

**\*\*\*\*\*In-class exam #2 on 4/23**

**\*\*\*\*\*Integrative Essay #2 Due on Canvas by 11:59 PM on 4/29**

**Resources for Students:**

Health and Wellness

U Matter, We Care: If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact [umatter@ufl.edu](mailto: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](mailto: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.