

International Studies Perspectives

INS 2004 - 3 Credits

Spring Semester 2026
University of Florida
International Studies Program
Bob Graham Center for Public Service

Course Information:

Instructor: Timothy Karis, PhD
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Phone number: 352-846-1575
Course location: MAEB 211
Course time: Monday/Wednesday/Friday, period 6 (12:50-1:40 PM)
Office location: Pugh Hall 232
Office hours: Tuesday 12:00-1:00 PM (drop-in), Wednesday 2:00-3:30 (by appointment),
Friday 2:00-3:00 PM (drop-in)
<https://calendly.com/dr-karis-office-hours/>

Course Description:

Catalog description:

Demographics, cultures, governments, and histories of major world regions as these relate to major, current, transnational, and global issues such as migration, socio-economic development, conflicts and disasters, and environmental issues.

Detailed 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, demographics, 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.

Student Learning Outcomes:

By the end of the semester, students will be equipped to:

- Understand the intellectual foundations and interdisciplinary perspectives of the field of International Studies
- Demonstrate familiarity with a variety of geographical and cultural regions for further study
- Critically apply concepts from the social sciences to address global problems
- Recognize how patterns of global political-economic change impact local communities
- Understand the tensions between state sovereignty and international governance

Course Texts:

1. McCormick, John (2022). *Introduction to Global Studies*. London: Red Globe Press. Third ed.
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 turn off your phone prior to entering the classroom and refrain from non-class-related activities on other devices.

The course schedule 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.

This course complies with all UF academic policies regarding accommodations, attendance, course evaluations, honesty and plagiarism, and recording course lectures. For information on those policies and additional resources for students, please see this [link](#).

Evaluation:

Your grade will be based on three in-class quizzes and one film response paper. Additionally, each student will submit one "Global Dispatch" assignment this semester, due on Canvas by 11:59pm on any the submission dates listed below. For this assignment, you will select an international news story from your region of specialization (no older than one month) and connect it to concepts, cases, and ideas we have discussed in class. Submit a working link to the news story, and a short explanation (maximum of 300 words) of what this news piece reminded you of regarding a specific concept/theme/discussion from the course.

Open due dates: 1/30, 2/6, 2/13, 2/20, 2/27, 3/27, 4/4, 4/11, 4/18

Detailed descriptions of each assignment, including requirements and grading expectations, will be posted to Canvas at least two weeks before the due date.

Grade calculation:

Quiz #1 (2/9):	20%
Quiz #2 (3/13):	20%
Quiz #3 (4/23):	20%
Film response paper (due 3/4):	15%
"Global Dispatch" assignment:	15%
Attendance/participation:	10%
Total	100%

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

Course Schedule:

Week 1: (1/12-1/16) International Studies and Globalization

Readings

1. McCormick, "Introduction"
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: (1/19-1/23) The Rise of the Global System

Readings

1. McCormick, Chapter 1, "The Rise of the Global System"
2. Sen, A. (2002), "How to Judge Globalism?" in *American Prospect* (5 pp.)
3. Said, E. (1978), *Orientalism*, excerpt (10 pp.)

Week 3: (1/26-1/30) Nation-States, Citizenship, and Governance

Readings

1. McCormick, Chapter 5, "States and Governance"
2. Scott, J. (1998), *Seeing Like a State*, excerpt (15 pp)
3. Gellner, E. (1983), *Nations and Nationalism*, excerpt (12 pp)

Week 4: (2/2-2/6) 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 5: (2/9-2/13) International Economics

Readings

1. McCormick, Chapter 9, "The Global Economy"
2. Steger, M. & Roy, R. (2010), *Neoliberalism: A Very Short Introduction*, pp. 1-50

*****IN-CLASS EXAM #1 ON 2/9*****

Week 6: (2/16-2/20) Global Trade and Neoliberalism

Readings

1. McCormick, Chapter 10, "Trade"
2. Steger, M. & Roy, R. (2010), *Neoliberalism: A Very Short Introduction*, pp. 76-137

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

Week 7: (2/23-2/27) 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: (3/2-3/6): International Migration

Readings

1. McCormick, Chapter 11, "Migration"
2. Tsuda, T. (2004). "When Home is Not the Homeland" in *Diasporic Homecomings*, pp. 125-143

*****FILM RESPONSE PAPER DUE ON 3/4 BY 11:59 ON CANVAS*****

Week 9: (3/9-3/13) Culture, Identity, and Multiculturalism

Readings

1. McCormick, Chapter 5, "Identity and Culture"
2. Kymlicka, W. (1997). *Multicultural Citizenship*, excerpt (10 pp.)

*****IN-CLASS QUIZ #2 ON 3/13*****

Week 10: (3/16-3/20) Spring Break – No Class

Week 11: (3/23-3/27) 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

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

Readings

1. McCormick, Chapter 7, "Human Rights"
2. Mazower, Mark. (2004). "The Strange Triumph of Human Rights, 1933-1950." in *The Historical Journal*, pp. 379–98.

Week 13: (4/7-4/11) International Relations

Readings

1. McCormick, Chapter 6, "Global Governance"
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 and Human Communities

Readings

1. McCormick, Chapter 13, "The Global 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 QUIZ #3 ON 4/23******

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

2/9 – In-class quiz #1

3/4 – Film response paper due

3/13 – In-class quiz #2

3/23 – In-class quiz #3

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.