

2400112 Introduction to International Relations

First Semester 2021

Section 1: Friday 13:00-16:00

Soravis Jayanama

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Section 2: Tuesday 13:00-16:00

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Office Hours: by appointment

The course will introduce students to the wide range of issues involved in the studies of international relations and global politics from critical perspectives. We begin the class with stories around the world, stories on ordinary people, the oppressed, the poor to stories on kings, the sovereign. We will cover the concept of nationalism, the working of capitalism and climate change, and the global pandemic. After the midterm, we continue with capitalism and global commodities, state and surveillance, and global inequality. We also focus on how race and gender shape IR and global politics. We look at the “low politics” of popular culture to see what we can learn about global politics from it. In addition to popular culture, we find out what is going on in global politics through the mass media. Then we move on to study how neoliberalism and human rights are connected. We end the class with social movements, resistance, and revolution.

Requirements

Students must come prepared for class by reading the assignments. You must READ ahead of class. Do not wait until the midterm and final exams to begin doing the readings.

The midterm and final will be online exams. Students have three hours to do the online midterm and final exams. For the midterm exam, students will answer short questions related to the readings for this class. The final exam will ask student to write a longer answer/essay that covers topics and themes related to the reading materials for the entire course.

Distributions of grade

Participation 10%

Midterm 40%

Final 50%

Reading materials:

You can find the assigned book chapters on the website libgen.is. For articles from journals, you can find them in Chulalongkorn library e-journal, either login via EZproxy or use Google Scholar, make sure that you access them via Chulalongkorn library system.

Class Schedule

Week 1 (August 10, 13) **Introduction**

Week 2 (Aug. 17, 20) **Breaking the Ice: Stories from Around the World**

*Eduardo Galeano, *Hunter of Stories*, trans. Mark Fried (New York: Nation Books, 2017), 18, 55.

*Eduardo Galeano, *Children of the Days: A Calendar of Human History*, trans. Mark Fried (New York: Nation Books, 2013), 26, 32, 130, 149, 279, 288, 317, 343, 344.

*Andrew Hsiao and Audrea Lim, *The Verso Book of Dissent: From Spartacus to the Shoe-Thrower of Baghdad* (London: Verso, 2010), 19-20, 25, 210.

Week 3 (Aug. 24, 27) **On Kings:**

“The madman is not only a beggar who thinks he is a king, but also a king who thinks he is a king.”

*David Graeber and Nika Dubrovsky, *What Are Kings? Edifying and Truthful Stories* (2020).

Recommended:

“The Curious Resilience of Modern Monarchies,” *The Chicago Council on Global Affairs*, July 6, 2021.

<https://www.thechicagocouncil.org/events/curious-resilience-modern-monarchies>

Week 4 (Aug. 31, Sept. 3) **Nationalism**

*Jakko Heiskanen, “Nation and Nationalism in International Relations” in *Routledge Handbook of Historical International Relations*, eds. Benjamin de Carvalho, Julia Costa Lopez and Halvard Leira (London: Routledge, 2021), 244-52.

*Razmig Keucheyan, *The Left Hemisphere: Mapping Critical Theory Today*, trans. Gregory Elliott (London: Verso, 2013), 109-18.

Week 5 (Sept. 7, Sept. 10) **The Accumulation of Capital and Climate Change**

*Jason Hickel, *Less Is More* (London: William Heinemann, 2020), 80-123.

Recommended:

Hadas Thier, *A People’s Guide to Capitalism: An Introduction to Marxist Economics* (Chicago: Haymarket Books, 2020), 103-46.

Week 6 (Sept. 14, Sept. 17) **Rethinking Covid-19**

*Rob Wallace *et al*, “Covid-19 and the Circuits of Capital”, *Monthly Review* (1 May 2020): <https://monthlyreview.org/2020/05/01/covid-19-and-circuits-of-capital/>.

*Slavoj Zizek, *Pandemic! 2: Chronicles of a Lost Time* (New York: OR Books, 2020), 23-30.

Week 7 (Sept.21, Sept. 24) **No Classes**

Week 8 (Sept.28, Oct. 1) **Midterm Exams**

Week 9 (Oct.5, Oct.8) **Global Commodities**

*Alex Blanchette, *Porkopolis: American Animality, Standardized Life, and the Factory Farm* (Durham: Duke University Press, 2020), 121-36.

*Jenny Chan, Mark Selden and Pun Ngai, *Dying for an iPhone* (Chicago: Haymarket Books, 2020), 48-68.

Recommended:

John Smith, *Imperialism in the Twenty-First Century: Globalization, Super-Exploitation, and Capitalism’s Final Crisis* (New York: Monthly Review Press, 2016), 9-34.

Jake Alimahomed-Wilson, "The Amazonification of Logistices: E-Commerce, Labor, and Exploitation in the Last Mile," in *The Cost of Free Shipping: Amazon in the Global Economy*, Jake Alimahomed-Wilson and Ellen Reese ed., (London: Pluto Press, 2020).

Week 10 (Oct.12, Oct. 15) **Policing Global Inequality**

*William Robinson, *The Global Police State* (London: Pluto Press, 2020), 40-70.

Recommended:

Esperanza Fonseca, "Worker Surveillance is on the Rise, and Has its Roots in Centuries of Racism," *Truthout*, June 8, 2020, <https://truthout.org/articles/worker-surveillance-is-on-the-rise-and-has-its-roots-in-centuries-of-racism/>.

Louise Amoore and Marieke de Goede, "What Counts as Violence?" in *Global Politics*: York: Routledge, 2014), 496-516.

Week 11 (Oct. 19, Oct. 22) **No Classes**

Week 12 (Oct. 26, Oct.29) **Race and IR**

*Joanna Yao and Andrew Dellatola, "Race and Historical International Relations" in *Routledge Handbook of Historical International Relations*, eds. Benjamin de Carvalho, Julia Costa Lopez and Halvard Leira (London: Routledge, 2021), 192-200.

*Andreas Malm and The Zetkin Collective, *White Skin, Black Fuel: On the Danger of Fossil Fascism* (London: Verso, 2021), 272-77, 289-95.

Recommended:

Robbie Shilliam, "Race in World Politics," in *The Globalization of World Politics: An Introduction to International Relations*, ed. John Baylis, Steve Smith, and Patricia Owens (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2020), 287-302.

Week 13 (Nov.2, Nov.5) **Gender and IR**

*Ann Towns, "Gender in Historical International Relations" in *Routledge Handbook of Historical International Relations*, eds. Benjamin de Carvalho, Julia Costa Lopez and Halvard Leira (London: Routledge, 2021), 153-61.

*Cynthia Enloe, *The Curious Feminist: Searching for Women in a New Age of Empire* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2004), 43-68.

Recommended:

Ann Towns and Birgitta Niklasson, "Where are the Female Ambassadors? Gender and Status Hierarchies in Ambassador Postings" in *Gendering Diplomacy and International Negotiation*, eds., Karin Aggestam and Ann Towns (Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, 2018), 25-44

Week 14 (Nov.9, Nov.12) **Pop Culture and Mass Media**

*Jutta Weldes and Christina Rowley, "So, How Does Popular Culture Relate to World Politics?" in *Popular Culture and World Politics: Theories, Methods, Pedagogies*, eds.

Federica Caso and Caitlin Hamilton (Bristol: E-International Relations Publishing, 2015), 11-34.

*Ariel Dorfman and Armand Mattelart, *How to Read Donald Duck: Imperialist Ideology in the Disney Comic*, trans. David Kunzle (New York: OR Books, 2018 [1971]), 59-80.

Recommended:

Jim Korkis, "The Non-Disney Mickey Mouse War Cartoons," *Cartoonresearch.com*, October 27, 2018,

<https://cartoonresearch.com/index.php/the-non-disney-mickey-mouse-war-cartoons/>.

David McNally, "Land of the Living Dead: Capitalism and the Catastrophes of the Everyday Life" in Sasha Lilley *et al.*, *Catastrophism: The Apocalyptic Politics of Collapse and Rebirth* (Oakland: PM Press, 2012), 108-27

Week 15 (Nov.16, Nov.19) **Neoliberalism and Human Right**

*Samuel Moyn, *Human Rights in an Unequal World* (Cambridge, MA, and London, England: The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 2018), 1-11.

*Jessica Whyte, *The Morals of the Market: Human Rights and the Rise of Neoliberalism* (London: Verso, 2019), 1-34.

Recommended:

Joseph R. Slaughter, "Hijacking Human Rights: Neoliberalism, the New Historiography, and the End of the Third World," *Human Rights Quarterly* 40, no. 4 (November 2018): 735-775.

Rosa Freedman, *Failing to Protect: The UN and the Politicisation of Human Rights* (London: Hurst & Company, 2014), 11-24, 57-118.

Anthony J. Langlois, "Human Rights, LBGT Rights, and International Theory" in *Sexualities in World Politics: How LGBTQ Claims Shape International Relations*, eds. Manuela Lavinás Picq and Markus Thiel (London: Routledge, 2015), 23-37.

Week 16 (Nov.23, Nov.26) **Social Movements, Resistance, Revolution**

*George Lawson, *Anatomies of Revolution* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2019), 226-34.

*Andreas Malm, "When Does the Fightback Begin?," *Verso Blog* (23 April 2021):

<https://www.versobooks.com/blogs/5061-when-does-the-fightback-begin>

Recommended:

Lisa Lowe, "Afterword: Revolutionary Feminisms in a Time of Monsters," in *Revolutionary Feminisms: Conversations on Collective Action and Radical Thought*, eds. Brenna Bhandar and Rafeef Ziadah (London: Verso, 2020).

Greg Jobin-Leeds and AgitArte, *When We Fight, We Win!: Twenty-First-Century Social Movements and the Activists that are Transforming the World* (New York: The New Press, 2021), chapter 6, Environmental Warriors: Going to the Root of the Problem.

Week 17 (Nov.29-Dec.3) **Final Exams**

