

Introduction to IR
IR Film Analysis Instructions
Date due: TBD

To evaluate your understanding and application of the four main theories of IR that we will cover in this class (realism, liberalism, constructivism, and critical approaches) you will have the option of watching one of the following movies and completing a response essay on it.

Options:

- Children of Men (2007)
- Arrival (2016)
- Barbie (2023)
- Black Panther (2018)

Page length: No longer than 5 pages.

Formatting: Times New Roman, Arial, or Calibri. Size 12. 1 inch margins.

Requirements:

- Pick **two** theories from the course (realism, liberalism, constructivism, or any of the critical approaches taught) which can be used as a lens to analyze the film you have chosen.
- You may only use course material (readings, lectures) to conduct your analysis of the film. Reference the use of these materials with in-text citations. Examples: (In-class lecture, 9/17/23) or (Kinsella, p. 23).

Suggested structure:

- a. Begin your essay with a clear introduction that presents the chosen film's title, director, and a concise overview of its main plot and themes.
- b. Formulate a strong thesis statement that outlines your argument and the two IR theories you will apply to analyze the film.
- c. In the main body of your essay, create separate sections for each IR theory. For each section:
 - i. Provide a brief explanation of the chosen theory's core concepts and assumptions.
 - ii. Identify and discuss specific scenes, characters, or events from the film that align with or challenge the theory's principles.
 - iii. Analyze how the film's narrative and representations reflect broader international relations themes and power dynamics, drawing connections between the theory and the film's content.
- d. Conclude your essay by summarizing your main findings and reflecting on the significance of your analysis for understanding real-world international relations issues and global politics.

Rubric

Area of Evaluation	5 (Exceptional)	4 (Proficient)	3 (Satisfactory)	2 (Developing)	1 (Insufficient)
Depth and clarity of analysis	The analysis demonstrates a deep understanding of the film's themes and the complexities of international relations. The essay provides insightful and well-supported interpretations, showcasing a comprehensive grasp of the subject matter	The analysis is thorough and well-articulated, displaying a solid understanding of the film's themes and their relevance to international relations. The essay presents clear and coherent explanations, though there might be some minor gaps in the analysis.	The analysis adequately addresses the film's themes and their connection to international relations. The essay provides relevant insights, but there may be some areas that lack depth or clarity.	The analysis is basic and lacks depth, offering limited understanding of the film's themes and their implications for international relations. The essay may be somewhat unclear or vague in its explanations.	The analysis is superficial, with little depth or clarity. The essay fails to demonstrate a clear understanding of the film's themes and their relationship to international relations.
Coherent application of IR theories to the film	The essay seamlessly applies the chosen IR theories to the film, providing insightful and well-integrated connections between theory and film content. The analysis showcases a sophisticated understanding of how the theories	The application of IR theories is well-developed and coherent, effectively connecting the theories to relevant aspects of the film. The essay demonstrates a clear understanding of the theories' relevance to the	The essay adequately applies the chosen IR theories to the film, though there may be some minor gaps or inconsistencies in the connections made. The analysis establishes a reasonable link between theory and	The application of IR theories is limited and lacks coherence, with minimal connections between the theories and the film's content. The essay may struggle to demonstrate how the theories relate to the film	The application of IR theories is unclear or absent, and the essay fails to establish meaningful connections between theory and film content.

	illuminate the film's themes.	film.	film content.	effectively.	
Use of appropriate sources to support arguments	The essay demonstrates a superb use of relevant class sources to support arguments. Sources are expertly integrated, enhancing the depth and credibility of the analysis. Only class sources are used.	The essay effectively incorporates appropriate sources to support arguments. Sources are well-integrated, providing valuable support for the analysis. Only class sources are used.	The essay utilizes some sources to support arguments, but there may be room for improvement in integrating and expanding on their use. AND/OR Other sources outside of class were used.	The use of sources is limited or not effectively integrated into the essay's arguments. AND/OR Other sources outside of class were used.	The essay lacks the use of appropriate sources to support arguments, relying solely on personal opinion or unsupported claims. AND/OR Other sources outside of class were used.
Structure, organization, and writing style	The essay is exceptionally well-structured, organized, and written. It presents a clear and logical flow of ideas with impeccable writing style and grammar.	The essay is well-structured, organized, and written, demonstrating a strong command of writing style and grammar.	The essay is adequately structured, organized, and written, but there may be some minor issues with coherence or writing style.	The essay's structure, organization, and writing style need improvement, with notable issues affecting the overall clarity and coherence.	The essay is poorly structured, disorganized, and poorly written, making it challenging to follow the arguments and ideas presented.