



## Black Panther in International Affairs Digital Syllabus

### How to Use this Syllabus

The APSIA Black Panther in International Affairs Digital Syllabus makes it easy for faculty to connect introductory concepts in international affairs to content from the 2018 *Black Panther* movie.<sup>1</sup> It was developed by Professor Levar Lamar Smith and APSIA Executive Director Carmen Iezzi Mezzera.

Each concept includes recommendations on

- Clips from the movie that illustrate the concept
- Suggested readings for undergraduate and graduate students to complement the clips
- Suggested discussion questions to use in class, based on the readings and the clips
- Suggested next steps to help students engage with that concept in their professional development
- [Supplementary videos featuring experts connecting the concept and the clip- *Forthcoming*]

Faculty are encouraged to use any and all parts of the syllabus to illustrate these key concepts for students.

*NOTE:* There are many spoilers below for those who have not seen the film.

### Concepts

- [Frameworks for Organizing the International System](#) (Theories such as Realism, Liberalism, Constructivism, Colonialism, Feminist IR, Isolationism)
- [Domestic Politics and International Relations](#)
- [Frameworks of International Development](#)
- [Public Diplomacy and Perception \[of Africa\]](#)

### What is APSIA?

The Association of Professional Schools of International Affairs (APSIA) brings together the leading graduate schools around the world, which specialize in international affairs. Our members train the next generation of public, private, non-governmental, and multilateral sector leaders. APSIA itself works to strengthen its network and promote the fields of international affairs. We create ways to connect prospective students and employers to our schools, so that they can capitalize on the skills an APSIA education provides. For more information, visit [www.apsia.org](http://www.apsia.org).

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<sup>1</sup> *Black Panther* and all its properties do not belong to APSIA or any other parties thereby associated. All rights belong to their owners.

# APSLA

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The Black Panther in International Affairs Digital Syllabus was developed with support from



Women of Color Advancing Peace and Security (WCAPS) works to advance the leadership and professional development of women of color in the fields of international peace, security, and conflict transformation. As of April 2024, WCAPS has chapters in Brasil, Canada, Colombia, France, Georgia (US), Ghana, New York, Nigeria, the United Kingdom, and the US West Coast. Learn more about their work at [www.wcaps.org](http://www.wcaps.org).



### Black Panther in International Affairs Digital Syllabus

**Concept: Frameworks for Organizing the International System (Theories such as Realism, Liberalism, Constructivism, Colonialism, Feminist IR, Isolationism)**

<i>Suggested Clips</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 33:20 – 35:45</li> <li>● 1:05:20 -1:06:44</li> <li>● 1:29:35- 1:31:20</li> <li>● 1:36:38 - 1:38:09</li> <li>● 1:50:30 - 1:50:50</li> </ul>
<i>Suggested Readings</i>	<p><b><u>Undergraduate Readings:</u></b>  Zvobgo, Kelebogile “Why Race Matters in International Relations” <i>Foreign Policy</i>. 2020.</p> <p>Ringmar, Erik “The Making of the Modern World” in <i>International Relations</i>, e-IR</p> <p>Kissinger, Henry “The Question of World Order,” “The Pluralistic International Order” and “The European Balance of Power System and its End” in <i>World Order</i>. Penguin Books, 2014</p> <p>Scott, Len “International History of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century” and Michael Cox “From the end of the cold war to a new global dis-order?” in John Baylis, Steve Smith, and Patricia Owens (eds.), <i>The Globalization of World Politics: An Introduction to International Relations</i> (8<sup>th</sup> edition) Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2020</p> <p><b><u>Graduate Readings:</u></b>  Henderson, Errol A. “The Revolution will not be Theorised: DuBois, Locke, and the Howard School’s Challenge to White Supremacist IR Theory.” <i>Millennium—Journal of International Studies</i> 45(3): 492-510. 2017.</p> <p>Smith, Steve “Introduction: Discipline and Disciplinarity in International Relations Theory,” Richard Ned Lebow “Classical Realism” and Bruce Russett “Liberalism” in <i>International Relations Theories: Discipline and Diversity</i>, edited by Tim Dunne, Milja Kurki, and Steve Smith. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2020</p> <p>Guihot, Nicholas “The Realist Gambit: Postwar American Political Science and the Birth of IR Theory.” <i>International Political Sociology</i> 2(4): 282-304. 2008.</p> <p>Mearsheimer, John “The False Promise of International Institutions.” <i>International Security</i> 19(3): 5-49. 1994.</p> <p>Clark, Richard. “Pool or Duel? Cooperation and Competition Among International Organizations.” <i>International Organizations</i> 75(1): 1133-53. 2021.</p>



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	<p>Hoffman, Stephanie, Anamarja Andreska and Juanita Uribe. "Porous Organizational Boundaries and Associated States: Introducing Memberness in International Organizations." <i>European Journal of International Relations</i> 29(4): 929-959. 2023.</p> <p>Hoffman, Stephanie Barbara Bravo, Susanna Campbell. "Investing in International Security: Rising Powers and Organizational Choices." <i>Cambridge Review of International Affairs</i> 29(3): 831-851. 2016.</p>
<p><i>Suggested Discussion Questions</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Compare W'Kabi, Nakia, Killmonger, N'Jobu, and T'Challa's thoughts on how states should behave in the international system. Which theoretical lens best explains each character's view of the world? Which theoretical lens best explains Wakanda's place in international affairs? Provide examples of each lens.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Compare T'Challa's views on Wakandan foreign policy throughout the film. What frameworks does he apply at the beginning of the movie compared to the end?</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Compare T'Challa and Killmonger's attitudes toward empire.</li> <li>● How do assumptions about how the world is and how it could be - by T'Challa, Ross, Killmonger, Klaue, and others - shape the events in the movie?</li> <li>● Explain the importance of the United Nations in the arch of the movie.</li> <li>● Describe the relationship between the Jubari people and the other tribes of Wakanda. How does that relationship influence each community's policies/choices? Larger events?</li> <li>● What is the role of espionage/spies in the movie?</li> <li>● What is Agent Ross' role in the film?</li> <li>● What is W'Kabi's role in the film?</li> </ul>
<p><i>Suggested Next Steps</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Join your school's Model United Nations or other simulation team.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Don't have one? Check out this <a href="#">UN Guide to Creating a Model UN</a> or <a href="#">How to Start a Model Arab League</a>.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● See things for yourself! The UN Association of the USA offers a <a href="#">fellowship for unpaid internships</a> in the United Nations system. The US State Department has paid <a href="#">in-person internships</a> and unpaid <a href="#">virtual</a> ones.</li> <li>● Encourage your school to decolonize the international relations curriculum using the tools from the <a href="#">University Leadership Council</a> run by Georgetown University.</li> <li>● Join an affinity group related to your interests and background (for example: <a href="#">Women of Color Advancing Peace and Security</a>, <a href="#">Young Professionals in Foreign Policy</a>, <a href="#">Black Professionals in International Affairs</a>, <a href="#">Women's Foreign Policy Group</a>, <a href="#">Hispanic and Latin Employees of Foreign Affairs Agencies</a>, etc.)</li> <li>● Find ways to grow your understanding of international affairs in the <a href="#">APSLIA Diversity and Inclusion Resource Guide</a></li> </ul>
<p><i>Expert Commentaries</i></p>	<p><i>Forthcoming</i></p>



## Black Panther in International Affairs Digital Syllabus

### Concept: Domestic Politics and International Relations

<i>Suggested Clips</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● 21:10-27:30 (first challenge scene)</li><li>● 1:07:57 -1:08:38</li><li>● 1:13:15 - 1:16:45</li><li>● 1:17:00- 1:22:00 (second challenge scene)</li><li>● 1:22:00 - 1:23:55</li><li>● 1:40:00- 1:41:15</li></ul>
<i>Suggested Readings</i>	<p><b><u>Undergraduate Readings:</u></b> Breuilly, John “Nationalism, National Self-Determination and International Relations” in John Baylis, Steve Smith, and Patricia Owens (eds.), <i>The Globalization of World Politics: An Introduction to International Relations</i> (8<sup>th</sup> edition) Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2020</p> <p>Fearon, James. “Domestic Politics, Foreign Policy, and Theories of International Relations” <i>Annual Review of Political Science</i> 1: 289-313. 1998.</p> <p><b><u>Graduate Readings:</u></b> Smith, Steve “Introduction: Discipline and Diversity in International Relations Theory” and Toni Erkinen “Normative International Relations Theory” in <i>International Relations Theories: Discipline and Diversity</i>, edited by Tim Dunne, Milja Kurki, and Steve Smith. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2020</p> <p>Singer, J. David. “The Level-of-Analysis Problem in International Relations.” <i>World Politics</i> 14(1): 77-92. 1961.</p> <p>Van Evera, Stephen “Offense, Defense, and the Causes of War.” <i>International Security</i> 22(4): 5-43. 1998.</p> <p>Fearon, James D. “Domestic Political Audiences and the Escalation of International Disputes.” <i>American Political Science Review</i> 88(3): 577-592. 1994.</p> <p>Putnam, Robert “Diplomacy and Domestic Politics: The Logic of Two-Level Games.” <i>International Organization</i> 42(3): 427-460. 1998.</p> <p>Weeks, Jessica, “Autocratic Audience Costs: Regime Type and Signaling Resolve.” <i>International Organization</i> 62(1): 35-64. 2008.</p> <p>Varadarajan, Latha “Constructivism, Identity, and Neoliberal (In)security,” <i>Review of International Studies</i> 30(3), 319-341. 2004.</p>



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	<p>Cohn, Carol "Sex and Death in the Rational World of Defense Intellectuals." <i>Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society</i> 12(4), 617-718. 1987.</p>
<p><i>Suggested Discussion Questions</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● What is the role of ceremony and tradition in the transfer of power? In legitimizing power? What real world examples of ceremony and tradition mirror these approaches to create legitimacy?</li> <li>● What are the symbols and artifacts of power in Wakana? What is their role in Wakandan foreign policy and its legitimacy on the global stage?</li> <li>● How does actual and perceived history/tradition play a role in modern Wakandan decision-making?</li> <li>● How would you answer the child's question at the beginning about why Wakanda hides?</li> <li>● Why do you think people like W'Kabi switch from following T'Challa to following Killmonger so quickly?</li> <li>● Compare Okoye's dedication to the throne of Wakanda and Nakia's dedication to T'Challa and his family. How does each approach shape their (policy) choices? What real world examples mirror their approaches?</li> <li>● Is Killmonger the legitimate king of Wakanda? Should everyone do what he says? Are Nakia, Shuri, Ramonda, and the others wrong?</li> <li>● Compare W'Kabi and Okoye's reactions to T'Challa and Kilmonger's approaches to leadership.</li> <li>● Is Killmonger a sympathetic character? Why or why not?</li> </ul>
<p><i>Suggested Next Steps for Students</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Join <a href="#">Foreign Policy 4 America's Next Gen Initiative</a>, which works to identify, connect, and mentor the next generation of leaders who can advance principled American engagement in the world.</li> <li>● Join the <a href="#">US Global Leadership Coalition</a>, which works across the United States to build support for US leadership in the world and global engagement at home.</li> <li>● Intern or work for your Members of Congress or a Congressional Committee focused on international issues in DC or in your area. Sign up for weekly emails of opportunities or submit your resume into their resume bank for the <a href="#">US House of Representatives</a> or the <a href="#">US Senate</a>. For financial support, see opportunities with the <a href="#">Congressional Hispanic Leadership Institute</a>, <a href="#">HACU National Internship Program</a>, <a href="#">CAPAL</a>, or the <a href="#">Congressional Black Caucus Foundation</a> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Want to intern in another country's legislature? Check out the <a href="#">Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange</a> that sends US and German students to work in the other country's legislature.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><i>Expert Commentaries</i></p>	<p><i>Forthcoming</i></p>



## Black Panther in International Affairs Digital Syllabus

### Concept: Frameworks of International Development

<i>Suggested Clips</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 1:29:30 - 1:31:20</li> <li>● 2:00:39 - 2:02:41</li> <li>● 2:05:11 - 2:06:41</li> </ul>
<i>Suggested Readings</i>	<p><b><u>Undergraduate Readings:</u></b></p> <p>Phillips, Nicola “Global Political Economy” and Tony Evans “Poverty, hunger, and development.” in John Baylis, Steve Smith, and Patricia Owens (eds.), <i>The Globalization of World Politics: An Introduction to International Relations</i> (8<sup>th</sup> edition) Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2020</p> <p>Kissinger, Henry “Technology, Equilibrium, and Human Consciousness” and “World Order in Our Time” in <i>World Order</i>. Penguin Books, 2014</p> <p>Hanchey, Jenna N “Decolonizing Aid in Black Panther,” <i>The Review of Communication</i> 20, no. 3: 260-268. 2020.</p> <p><b><u>Graduate Readings:</u></b></p> <p>Hay, Collin. “International Relations Theory and Globalization” and Amitav Acharya “Global International Relations.” in <i>International Relations Theories: Discipline and Diversity</i>, edited by Tim Dunne, Milja Kurki, and Steve Smith. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2020</p> <p>Milner, Helen V. and Bumba Mukherjee. “Democratization and Economic Globalization.” <i>Annual Review of Political Science</i> 12: 163–181. 2009.</p> <p>Bardhan, Pranab. “History, Institutions and Underdevelopment.” in <i>Bardhan, Scarcity, Conflicts and Cooperation: Essays in the Political and Institutional Economics of Development</i>. MIT Press. pp.1–26. 2005.</p> <p>Acemoglu, Daron, Simon Johnson, and James Robinson “The Colonial Origins of Comparative Development: An Empirical Investigation.” <i>American Economic Review</i>, 91(5):1369- 1401. 2001.</p> <p>Wapner, Paul. “Politics Beyond the State: Environmental Activism and World Civic Politics.” <i>World Politics</i> 47(3): 311–340. 1995.</p> <p>Soundarjee, Mailika and Nathan Andrews. “Decolonizing International Relations and Development Studies: What’s in a Buzzword.” <i>International Journal: Canada’s Journal of Global Policy Analysis</i> 77(4): 551-571. 2023.</p>



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<i>Suggested Discussion Questions</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● What role do natural resources play in Wakandan development? Is it the vibranium itself or what they do with it? Would other countries have experienced the same development if they had vibranium?</li><li>● What is the role of technology transfer in T'Challa, Killmonger, and W'Kabi's approaches to development? Are their ideas plausible?</li><li>● What roles do governance and conflict (or lack thereof) play in Wakandan development?</li><li>● Think about the European diplomat's reaction to the Wakanan UN announcement at the end of the film. What does it tell us about contemporary perceptions of global development? Is his question reasonable or unreasonable? Why?</li><li>● Do you believe Wakandan Foreign Direct Investment will improve the neighborhood in Oakland, CA? Why or why not? What would make it successful?</li><li>● How does the announcement of the Wakandan foreign direct investment, technological support, and financing at the end of the film give a glimpse into nature of South-South development?</li></ul>
<i>Suggested Next Steps for Students</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Teach others about inequities in the international system with <a href="#">Oxfam America</a></li><li>● Make the international development system fairer by joining or starting a <a href="#">Fair Trade University campaign</a> on campus</li><li>● Apply to the <a href="#">Generation Next Humanitarian Fellowship</a>, <a href="#">Global Health Corps</a>, or <a href="#">PeaceCorps</a> to gain international development experience</li><li>● Join the Global Movement to <a href="#">Stop Female Genital Mutilation</a> or <a href="#">Child Marriage</a></li></ul>
<i>Expert Commentaries</i>	<i>Forthcoming</i>





## Black Panther in International Affairs Digital Syllabus

### Concept: Public Diplomacy and Perception [of Africa]

<i>Suggested Clips</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 0-1:53</li> <li>● 15:20 - 16:45</li> <li>● 52:54-53:45</li> <li>● 55:00 - 57:00</li> <li>● 2:0039 - 2:02:41</li> <li>● 2:05:11 - 2:06:41</li> </ul>
<i>Suggested Readings</i>	<p><b><u>Undergraduate Readings:</u></b></p> <p>Wainaina, Binyavanga “How to Write About Africa” Granta 92:1. 2006.</p> <p>Adichie, Chimamanda Ngozi: The Danger of a Single Story (TED Talk Video)  <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D9Ihs241zeg">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D9Ihs241zeg</a></p> <p>The New York Times Series: “Old World, Young Africa.” 2023.  <a href="https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2023/10/28/world/africa/africa-youth-population.html">https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2023/10/28/world/africa/africa-youth-population.html</a></p> <p>“The Creation of an African International Order” and “Foreign Policies of Post-Colonialism.” in Christopher Clapham Africa and the International System: The Politics of State Survival Oxford University Press. 1996.</p> <p>Ba, Oumar “‘The Europeans and Americans Don’t Know Africa’: of Translation, Interpretation, and Extraction” Millennium: Journal of International Studies, 50(2): 548-560. 2022.</p> <p><b><u>Graduate Readings:</u></b></p> <p>“The Revolution will Be Intelligent.” and “Inhabiting One’s Dwelling” in Felwine Saar Afrotopia University of Minnesota Press. 2019.</p> <p>“Introduction,” “Festac 1977,” “Attack, Defence 1978” and “A Spectre is Haunting Europe.” in Benedicte Savoy and Felwine Saar Africa’s Struggle for Its Art Princeton University Press. 2022.</p> <p>“Thinking for a New Century,” Blondin Cisse “Reinventing African Modernity.” and “For What is Africa The Name.” Lenora Milano in Felwine Sarr and Achille Mbembe To Write the Africa World Polity Press. 2023</p>



### Black Panther in International Affairs Digital Syllabus

<i>Suggested Discussion Questions</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● How might the displays in the “Museum of Great Britain” shape perceptions of Africa? Perceptions of Great Britain?</li><li>● Do you agree with Nakia’s warning that T’Challa needs to change his behavior toward Klaue because “the world is watching”? Why or why not?</li><li>● What role does music play in the film?</li><li>● What role does clothing play in the film?<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Why do you think the Wakandans choose to appear the way they do to the outside world while in hiding? When they are within their own cities? When they make their power public (both in Oakland, CA and at the UN)?</li></ul></li></ul>
<i>Suggested Next Steps for Students</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Welcome people resettling in the United States through a <a href="#">Welcoming America Chapter</a> or the <a href="#">International Rescue Committee</a></li><li>● Go Abroad! See how time abroad could accessible and affordable through <a href="#">Diversity Abroad</a> and the <a href="#">Institute for International Education</a><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Organize a <a href="#">Study Abroad Day</a> celebration on campus each February</li></ul></li><li>● Bring international issues to your community by getting involved in your local <a href="#">World Affairs Council</a>, <a href="#">United Nations Association</a>, <a href="#">Sister Cities International</a>, or <a href="#">Global Ties Chapter</a></li><li>● Represent your country and culture! Teach English in <a href="#">Japan</a> or <a href="#">France</a> or with <a href="#">Princeton in Africa</a> and <a href="#">Princeton in Asia</a></li><li>● Become a mentor or mentee with <a href="#">GirlSecurity</a> or <a href="#">Women's Foreign Policy Group</a></li></ul>
<i>Expert Commentaries</i>	<i>Forthcoming</i>