

**Sam Nunn School of International Affairs  
Georgia Institute of Technology**

## **INTA 1050 – The World Today**

Fall 2026

Instructor: Dr. Fei-Ling Wang

Time: TuTh 3:30-4:45 PM

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### **This is a Core IMPACTS course that is part of the Social Sciences area**

Core IMPACTS refers to the core curriculum, which provides students with essential knowledge in foundational academic areas. This course will help students master course content, and support students' broad academic and career goals.

This course should direct students toward a broad Orienting Question:

How do I understand human experiences and connections?

Completion of this course should enable students to meet the following Learning

Outcome:

Students will effectively analyze the complexity of human behavior, and how historical, economic, political, social, or geographic relationships develop, persist, or change.

Course content, activities, and exercises in this course should help students develop the following Career-Ready Competencies:

- Intercultural Competence
- Perspective-Taking
- Persuasion

### **The Course**

This course introduces the student to the fascinating world in our time. We will learn the basics of international politics, global economy, culture, demography and social life. Through that, we aim to develop skills of understanding the organization of and the interaction among the peoples, as well as the context of the mega trends that are shaping the future of the humankind. We will have ample discussion about some of the current events and their background. As a gateway, this class attempts to inform about the world today and set the stage for further explorations of international affairs.

### **Textbook**

McCormick, John. *Introduction to Global Studies*. (3rd Edition). Bloomsbury UK, 2025 – (IGS), available online. <https://www.bloomsburyonlineresources.com/introduction-to-global-studies-3e/student-resources>

Handout readings will be posted on Canvas

## Course Rules

### 1. Use of technology:

Unless the student has an official letter from the GT administration certifying a need for special accommodation, audio or video recording is not allowed in class.

Cell phones are to be placed on vibrate mode or turned off and remain out of sight, unless you are expecting an emergency call (in that case, please alert the instructor before class). No texting during class.

### 2. Class attendance and participation

Class attendance is mandatory unless excused for legit reasons with proper documentation (e.g., doctor's note). Lecture slides will not be available online, nor made available unless there was an excused absence.

In addition to observation of class rules and carrying a professional conduct in classroom, Attentive and active contribution to class discussions will be awarded. All views are welcome - we all learn from each other's insights.

## University Policies

The Sam Nunn School of International Affairs and the Ivan Allen College of Liberal Arts support the Georgia Institute of Technology's commitment to creating a campus free of discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, or veteran status. We further affirm the importance of cultivating an intellectual climate that allows us to better understand the similarities and differences of those who constitute the Georgia Tech community, as well as the necessity of working against inequalities.

If you are a learner that requires adaptations for you to succeed in this course or are a student with disabilities that requires accommodations, please contact the Office of Disability (404) 894-2563 or [disabilityservices@gatech.edu](mailto:disabilityservices@gatech.edu) to make an appointment to discuss your needs and obtain the appropriate accommodation letter. Any student requiring such adaptation/accommodation should make inform the instructor as soon as possible so to make the appropriate arrangement.

We have all committed to upholding the ideals of honor and academic integrity. Please consult University policies for more information ([policylibrary.gatech.edu/student-affairs/academic-honor-code](http://policylibrary.gatech.edu/student-affairs/academic-honor-code)). Any student suspected of violations of honor code including but not limited to cheating or plagiarizing behavior will be automatically reported to the Office of Student Integrity, which will investigate the incident and recommend penalties for the violations.

## Course Requirements

<b>Requirement</b>	<b>Marks</b>	<b>(%)</b>
First Test	300	30
Second Test	300	30
Third Test	300	30
Attendance and Participation	100	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Optional Extra credit</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>10</b>

### **Letter Grade Conversion**

> 90% = A

> 80% = B

> 70% = C

> 60% = D

< 60% = F

**The tests** will be close book/notes written exams. They will be drawn from all aspects of the class: readings, lectures, and classroom discussions. The instructor will give greater details about them before the first test. The second and third tests are not cumulative.

**Extra credit** is an optional group research exercise with up to 100 marks. Interested students should organize a group of 3-6 people. Each group then propose a research topic to the instructor by week 7. Once approved, the group should conduct a collective research and make an oral presentation of 8-10 minutes at the end of the semester. Sample topics include world demographic trend, the role of weapons of mass destruction, WHO or WTO, climate change or inequality in the world and why it is (or is not) a concern to the US.

### **Course Schedule**

To be distributed to the students.