

Georgia Institute of Technology

INTA 6131: Pacific Security Syllabus

Summer 2026

Delivery: 100% Web-Based, Asynchronous

Dates course will run: May 18 – August 6, 2026

Instructor Information

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Professor

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Office Hours: Weekly office hour via Zoom, every Tuesday from May 26 to July 28 (except June 23), 15:00-16:00 EDT. Attendance is optional but encouraged.

General Course Information

Description

This course examines the structure, dynamics, issues, key players, main variables, and leading challenges of security in the Pacific region. After a brief survey of the history of international relations in the region and the various theoretical approaches to the study of world and regional politics, the course will focus on the intensifying competition between the PRC (People's Republic of China) and the United States and its allies. The aim is to ascertain the nature, magnitude, character, strengths, and weaknesses of the rising PRC power and its implications. Topics to be discussed include Chinese worldview, the action and the record of Chinese foreign policy, the incompatibility and the overlapping interests between the PRC and the United States, and the ways and means for the US to cope with the Chinese challenge. Students will also attempt to speculate about the future of security, peace, and order in the Pacific and beyond.

Pre- &/or Co-Requisites

None

Course Goals and Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

1. demonstrate mastery of theoretical and analytical tools in studying Pacific security.
2. demonstrate familiarity with the Pacific region in general and China in particular.
3. demonstrate proficiency in understanding the rising power of the PRC and its implications.
4. demonstrate knowledge of the PRC-USA rivalry and the ability to analyze the relevant policy options.

Course Materials

Course Text Required:

- Warren I. Cohen, *East Asia at the Center*, Columbia University Press, 2000.

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- Stephan Haggard and David C. Kang eds., *East Asia in the World: Twelve Events That Shaped the Modern International Order*, Cambridge University Press, 2020.
- Joanne Wallis and Andrew Carr eds., *Asia-Pacific Security: An Introduction*, Georgetown University Press, 2016.
- Fei-Ling Wang, *The China Race: Global Competition for Alternative World Orders*: State University of New York Press, 2024.

Recommended:

- David C. Kang, *American Grand Strategy and East Asian Security in the Twenty-First Century*, Cambridge University Press, 2017.
- Frederick Kliem, *Great Power Competition and Order Building in the Indo-Pacific Towards a New Indo-Pacific Equilibrium*, Routledge, 2022.
- Sorpong Peou, *Peace and Security in Indo-Pacific Asia IR Perspectives in Context*, Routledge, 2022.
- Fei-Ling Wang, *The China Order: Centralia, World Empire, and the Nature of Chinese Power*, State University of New York Press, 2017.
- Fei-Ling Wang, *The China Record: An Assessment of the People's Republic*, Albany, NY: State University of New York Press, 2023.

Other articles as posted/shared.

Additional Materials/Resources

Everyone is encouraged to follow the current events in Pacific region via mainstream media such as BBC, *The Economist*, *Financial Times*, *New York Times*, NPR, *Wall Street Journal*, and *Washington Post*,

Course Website and Other Classroom Management Tools

We will use Canvas as the learning management platform for this course. Please email the instructor if you have any questions, comments, issues, or requests.

Course Requirements, Assignments & Grading

This course will equip you with the analytical framework, knowledge and skills to critically analyze policy issues and research findings related to Pacific Security. You'll engage in a variety of writing exercises, including:

- **Reading Reports:** You'll write two reports critically examining assigned readings on Pacific Security topics.
- **Policy Memo:** You'll analyze one policy issue relevant to Pacific Security by crafting concise and insightful policy memo.
- **Presentations:** Choose one reading report you'd like to showcase in a presentation format and share your insights with your peers. You are required to also present your policy memo in the same manner.
- **Feedback Discussions:** Participate in the two interactive discussions where you'll provide and receive constructive feedback on your classmates' work, fostering collaborative learning and refining your critical thinking abilities. You will be graded by the participation, rather than the content, of your feedback and discussion.

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Assignment Distribution and Grading Scale

Assignment	Weight (Percentage, points, etc.)
(2) Reading Reports	40% (20% each)
(1) Policy Memo	30% (30%)
(1) Presentation	20% (10% each)
(3) Discussions	10% (3.3% each)

Grading Scale

Your final grade will be assigned as a letter grade according to the following scale:

A	90-100%
B	80-89%
C	70-79%
D	60-69%
F	0-59%

Description of Graded Components

Please refer to “INTA 6131 Assignments” for detailed information about the graded exercises in this course.

Submitting Assignments

All assignments (homework, knowledge checks, exams, etc.) must be completed and submitted within the Canvas. Sending assignments (homework, knowledge checks, exams, etc.) to the professors, whether early, on time, or late, is not permitted and will not be accepted. If there are technical issues, please notify the help desk and the professor immediately.

Assignment Due Dates

All assignments will be due at the times listed in the syllabus. These times are subject to change so please check back often. Please convert from Eastern Daylight Time (EDT) to your local time zone using a [Time Zone Converter](#).

Late and Make-up Work Policy

Please submit your graded work on time. Late submission will incur a penalty unless special, individual permission is granted beforehand. Please email the instructor if you need an extension or extra time.

Grading and Feedback

The instructor will try to finish each grade work's grading within one week of submission, if not sooner.

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Attendance policy.

Because this course is fully asynchronous, there are no required class meetings and no attendance is taken. Instead, regular participation is demonstrated through engagement with course materials and completion of assignments by the stated deadlines. Students are expected to access weekly modules, complete required activities, and submit assignments on time.

Technology Requirements and Skills

Computer Hardware and Software

- High-speed Internet connection
- Laptop or desktop computer with a **minimum** of a 2 GHz processor and 2 GB of RAM
- Windows for PC computers OR Mac iOS for Apple computers.
- Complete Microsoft Office Suite or comparable and ability to use Adobe PDF software (install, download, open and convert)
- Latest versions of Mozilla Firefox, Chrome and/or Safari browsers

Technology Skills

The student needs to be able to use computer operating system, launching, and quitting applications, connecting to the Internet, using a web browser to search the World Wide Web, downloading, saving, and uploading files, and sending and replying to email.

It is also important to be able to use software like MS Word, MS PowerPoint, and any other software applications that the course will be using.

Onboarding Quiz and Proctoring Information

All Georgia Tech online degree and certificate students are required to complete the Onboarding Quiz with Honorlock in the first week of the course. Honorlock is utilized for student identity verification and to ensure academic integrity. Honorlock provides student identity verification via facial and ID photos. You may also be asked to scan the room around you. The Onboarding Quiz is needed to help make sure that your identity is verified and that your system is set up to work with Honorlock online proctoring tool. You are required to complete this quiz early in the semester to avoid problems when taking proctored exams.

Technology Help Guidelines

30-Minute Rule: When you encounter struggles with technology, give yourself 30 minutes to 'figure it out.' If you cannot, then post a message to the discussion board; your peers may have suggestions to assist you. You are also directed to contact the Helpdesk 24/7.

When posting or sending an email requesting help with technology issues, whether to the Helpdesk, message board, or me, use the following guidelines:

- Include a descriptive title for the subject field that includes 1) course name and 2) the issue. Do NOT just type "Help" into the subject field or leave it blank.

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- List the steps or describe the circumstance that preceded the technical issue or error. Include the exact wording of the error message.
- When possible, always include a screenshot(s) demonstrating the technical issue or error message.
- Also include what you have already tried to remedy the issue (rebooting, trying a different browser, etc.).

Course Policies, Expectations & Guidelines

Communication Policy

- Email me course questions and personal concerns, including grading questions, Do NOT submit posts of a personal nature to the discussion board unless they are private posts on Ed Discussions.
- Email will be checked at least twice per day Monday through Friday; Saturday and Sunday, email is checked once per day. During the week, I will respond to all emails within 24 hours; on weekends and holidays, allow up to 48 hours. If there are special circumstances that will delay my response, I will make an announcement to the class.
- Student Forum/Q&A discussion boards will be checked twice per day Monday through Friday; Saturday and Sunday, these discussion boards will be checked once per day.
- Virtual office hour will be held using Zoom. I will hold Virtual Office Hour every Tuesday with time TBA via Canvas announcement, as well as special office hours for dedicated topics, such as a large, upcoming assignment. Special topic hours will be announced in advance. I am also happy to schedule one-on-one office hours in person when possible, via email.
- For questions related to technology, the Digital Learning Support team at <https://b.gatech.edu/digitallearningsupport> for assistance. You can also reach the Canvas Hotline by phone at 1(877) 259-8498 or by email at support@instructure.com.

Online Student Conduct and (N)etiquette

Although it is not expected to be a problem in a graduate-level class, students are asked to behave in the discussions and other class interactions professionally and civilly. If you are in doubt, do not post it! Instructors reserve the right to remove any postings deemed inappropriate, unprofessional, or otherwise distracting from the course.

University Use of Electronic Email

A university-assigned student e-mail account is the official university means of communication with all students at Georgia Institute of Technology. Students are responsible for all information sent to them via their university-assigned e-mail account. If a student chooses to forward information to their university e-mail account, he or she is responsible for all information, including attachments, sent to any other e-mail account. To stay current with university information, students are expected to check their official university e-mail account and other electronic communications on a frequent and consistent basis. Recognizing that some communications may be time-critical, the university recommends that electronic communications be checked minimally twice a week.

Plagiarism & Academic Integrity

Georgia Tech aims to cultivate a community based on trust, academic integrity, and honor. Students are expected to act according to the highest ethical standards. All students enrolled at Georgia Tech, and all its campuses, are to perform their academic work according to standards

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set by faculty members, departments, schools, and colleges of the university; and cheating and plagiarism constitute fraudulent misrepresentation for which no credit can be given and for which appropriate sanctions are warranted and will be applied. For information on Georgia Tech's Academic Honor Code, please visit <http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/policies/honor-code/>.

Any student suspected of cheating or plagiarizing on a quiz, exam, or assignment will be reported to the Office of Student Integrity, which will investigate the incident and identify the appropriate penalty for violations.

AI Policy

Generative AI agents offer additional opportunities for learning, research and communication. It is therefore allowed in this class as long as the GT Honor Code and the guidelines below are met.

Responsibility: you are responsible for the work submitted/presented, and ensure that any factual statements produced by a generative AI tool are true and that any references or citations produced by the AI tool are correct.

Transparency: Any generative AI tools you use in your work should be clearly acknowledged, including not only content directly produced by a generative AI tool but also when a generative AI tool is used in the process of composition and translation.

Documentation: You should cite any content generated by an AI tool as you would when quoting, paraphrasing, or summarizing ideas, text, images, or other content made by other people.

Collaboration & Group Work

Collaboration and group discussion are not required but allowed in this class. But each student must complete the course assignment individually.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

If you are a student with learning needs that require special accommodation, contact the Office of Disability Services at (404)894-2563 or <http://disabilityservices.gatech.edu/>, as soon as possible, to make an appointment to discuss your special needs and to obtain an accommodations letter. Please also e-mail me as soon as possible to set up a time to discuss your learning needs.

Copyright

Among the materials that may be protected by copyright law are the lectures, notes, and other material presented in class or as part of the course. Always assume the materials presented by an instructor are protected by copyright unless the instructor has stated otherwise.

Student-Faculty Expectations Agreement

At Georgia Tech we believe that it is important to strive for an atmosphere of mutual respect, acknowledgment, and responsibility between faculty members and the student body. See <https://catalog.gatech.edu/rules/21/> for an articulation of some basic expectations that you can have of me and that I have of you. In the end, simple respect for knowledge, hard work, and cordial interactions will help build the environment we seek. Therefore, I encourage you to remain committed to the ideals of Georgia Tech while in this class.

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Course Schedule & GT Holidays/Breaks

To be distributed to the students.