

INTA/ECON 4740/4500
Seminar in (International) Political Economy

Fall 2026

Instructor Information

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General Course Information

Description

This course synthesizes students' knowledge of economics and international affairs via the creation of an original empirical research paper. Each student will develop a rich understanding of how to formulate and execute original empirical research, as well as assess the work of others. The aspiration is that students will produce an original research paper suitable for an academic or policy conference on a contemporary issue in economics and international affairs.

Course Learning Outcomes

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

1. demonstrate knowledge of theories of international affairs and apply them in analyzing events and outcomes in world affairs;
2. select and apply appropriately at least one widely used quantitative or qualitative social science research method;
3. demonstrate the ability to consume diverse empirical research studies in order to evaluate their research and policy implications; and
4. use written and oral communication to demonstrate knowledge and to make cogent arguments.

Course materials

- Powner, L. C. (2014). *Empirical research and writing: A political science student's practical guide*. CQ Press.

Additional course materials will be available through the course website, Canvas, and the university library.

Grading Policy:

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

Grade	Points	Descriptors
A	> 900	Exceptionally good performance demonstrating a superior understanding of the subject matter, a foundation of extensive knowledge, and a skillful use of concepts and/or materials.
B	800-899	Good performance demonstrating capacity to use the appropriate concepts, a good understanding of the subject matter, and an ability to handle the problems and materials encountered in the subject.
C	700-799	Adequate performance demonstrating an adequate understanding of the subject matter, an ability to handle relatively simple problems.
D	600-699	Minimally acceptable performance demonstrating at least partial familiarity with the subject matter and some capacity to deal with relatively simple problems, but also demonstrating serious deficiencies.
F	< 600	Did not demonstrate familiarity with the subject matter, nor the capacity to deal with simple problems in a manner recognizable to the consensus of mainstream academic practitioners within the field.

Final Grade Scale:

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

- A 900 - 1000 points
- B 800 - 899 points
- C 700 - 799 points
- D 600 - 699 points
- F 0 - 599 points

The weights of the assignments are built into their point totals. This means that to calculate your grade you can simply add up the points you earned on the assignment and divide by the total potential points up to that point in the semester.

Assignments

Unless otherwise specified, all assignments should be submitted via Canvas. Deadlines are in EST.

Assignment	Points
Class Participation	100
Research Paper Components	
1. Research Question & Topic	50
2. Preliminary Literature Review	75

3. Research Design	75
4. Data Report	75
5. Draft Paper	100
Discussant Remarks	100
Presentation	100
6. Poster	75
7. Research Paper	250

Class Participation (100pts)

Throughout the term, students will be evaluated on their participation via drafts of paper components – submitted prior to class to be used in class activities – as well as their participation in the in-class activities themselves.

Research Paper Components (375pts)

To prepare for the final paper, students will submit components of the project throughout the semester cumulating in the draft paper where they will put all the pieces together. Instructions on the submission requirements and expectations will be made available via Canvas.

Discussant Remarks (100pts)

Students will provide one graded round of feedback to their peers via discussant remarks given in class and submitted separately to the author. Instructions on the submission requirements and expectations will be made available via Canvas.

In-Class presentation (100pts)

Students will give one graded in-class presentation of their project to the class. Instructions on the submission requirements and expectations will be made available via Canvas.

Final Paper and Poster Session (325pts)

The core cumulative assignment for the semester is a research paper. In addition to their completed paper, students will participate in a poster session at the end of the semester where they'll present their work to their peers and other faculty. Instructions on the submission requirements and expectations will be made available via Canvas

Course Policies

Attendance and/or Participation

Students are expected to attend and participate in all class meetings and attendance will be tracked via in-class activities. It should be noted that mere attendance is not equal to participation; in order to earn full credit, students should be actively engaging with the material, their classmates' work, in-class drafting activities, etc.

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. Review [Georgia Tech's Honor Code](#) and the student [Code of Conduct](#).

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

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

If you are a student with learning needs that require special accommodation, [contact the Office of Disability Services](#) (404-894-2563) 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 in order to set up a time to discuss your learning needs.

Student-Faculty Expectations Agreement

At Georgia Tech, we believe that it is important to strive for an atmosphere of mutual respect, acknowledgement, and responsibility between faculty members and the student body. [The Student-Faculty Expectations](#) articulate 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.

Use of Generative AI

Students may use generative AI programs, e.g. ChatGPT, to help generate ideas and brainstorm with proper citation. Students should be aware that the material generated by these programs may be inaccurate, incomplete, biased or otherwise problematic.

Per GaTech's Honor Code, students may not submit any work generated by an AI program as their own. If students include material generated by an AI program, it should be cited like any other reference material (with due consideration for the quality of the reference, which may be poor). **When/if students use AI platforms in their assignments, they should write a note to clarify (a) where in the process they used AI, (b) include the prompt used to generate the material, and (c) which platform(s) were used.** See this article for how to cite AI properly: How to cite ChatGPT <https://apastyle.apa.org/blog/how-to-cite-chatgpt>. **Students should also upload a pdf of the entire conversation as a separate document for the instructor to review in entirety.** Failure to properly cite will be considered a violation of the course policy.

Generative AI derives its output from other sources yet often doesn't fully cite where it pulls the information from. This is plagiarism. Students should be aware that the material generated by these programs may be inaccurate, incomplete, biased or otherwise problematic. As most assignments in this class will require students to relay their own thoughts and analyses, **if the professor suspects the**

heavy use of AI to complete an assignment the student may be asked to demonstrate their knowledge orally in an informal one-on-one meeting with the professor to make sure the ideas are their own. Uncited, high use of AI (as identified by TurnItIn) will be reported to OSI for further adjudication.

As part of this class is developing communication skills, it is highly recommended to avoid using generative AI to ensure that you engage with the process of writing and learning the content.

Extensions & Late Assignments

As most submissions are to be used in class discussions, late submissions on drafts will not be eligible for credit. Students should communicate with the professor should any extenuating circumstances arise; for certain assignments, the professor may have room to negotiate. It is the student's responsibility to keep track of outstanding assignments. Extensions are not guaranteed.