

INTA 4803
Financial Markets

Fall 2026

Instructor Information

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General Course Information

Description

This course examines politics and economics of global financial integration. We will cover topics ranging from the causes and consequences of foreign direct investment, exchange-rate regimes, exchange-rate politics, financial crises, regulatory harmonization, and financial statecraft in the era of financial integration. Students will learn how to approach questions using a political economy framework, to evaluate generalized explanations and propositions with empirical evidence, and to become familiar with the political and economic conditions to understand the international financial environment of countries.

Course Learning Outcomes

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

1. Understand core concepts in international financial political economy
2. Analyze global financial issues using theory and evidence
3. Evaluate policy trade-offs in exchange rates, crises, and regulation
4. Develop and defend policy arguments in writing and debate
5. Assess the political and distributional consequences of financial globalization

Course materials

All readings will be available online via Canvas or the Georgia Tech Library. Throughout the seminar, the instructor may supplement required readings with news articles and other short texts.

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	150
Discussion Boards	100
Reflection Papers	200
Case Studies (2 at 100 points)	200
Debates (2 at 100 points; 1 at 150pts)	350

Class Participation (150pts)

The concepts covered in this course build upon and speak to each other. For example, topics covered in week 10 will reference topics addressed at the beginning of the semester. Successful students will therefore regularly ask questions and engage with the course material. It should be

noted that engaging with the course material is not equivalent to merely attending class. A student's participation grade is a combination of submitted class activities (~20 throughout the semester), attendance, and participation in lecture.

Discussion Boards (100pts)

The discussion boards will be used to share and analyze contemporary developments in international politics and analysis. By the end of the semester, students should be averaging a post a week. Students can write multiple posts within a week period (M 12:00AM – S 11:59PM), but only the first 2 will count for credit. A post can be sharing a new example of a policy, political stance, debate, study, or can be contributing to an existing post. Original posts can be examples of financial politics/event taken from social media, stories on cable television, newspapers, and podcasts. Both original posts and those replying to an existing discussion must contribute a substantive thought to count for credit. More information on the exact format will be provided in each discussion board.

Reflection Papers (200 points)

Each week students will be able to submit a 1-2 page reflection paper over the course content. By the end of the semester, students should submit a total of 4 papers. Students can decide which weeks they choose to submit the reflection papers but can only submit a maximum of one per week. The paper should discuss content covered within the week that it is submitted. If a student submits more than one within a week period, only the first paper submitted will be evaluated for credit. The goal of the reflection papers is to provide a space for students to connect the course content with their lives. Students can use the reflection paper to express confusion, disagreement, interest, critiques, or support over any of the content.

Case Study (2 at 100pts)

Students will complete two case studies each analyzing a specific contemporary economic event or policy. Case studies will be a brief (1-2pages), in-depth report on how the content within a specific week can be applied to understand a contemporary event or policy.

Debates (2 at 100pts each; 1 at 150 pts)

There will be 3 in-class debates throughout the course. Each debate will consist of 2 different statements pulled from the content of the preceding module(s). The final debate will be worth 150 points and will take place during the final exam time for the course. Students will know which *statement* they are debating prior to the debate. Students will find out which *side* (affirmative/negative) they will be arguing at the beginning of the class period in which they are debating. Students not debating will give feedback and vote on which side was most convincing.

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.