

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

INTA 1050 – The World Today

Fall 2026

Instructor: Dr. Fei-Ling Wang

Time: TuTh 15:30-16:45 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.

There is no prerequisite for taking this course.

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>

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.

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 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). 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

Requirement	Marks	(%)
First Test	300	30
Second Test	300	30
Group presentation	300	30
Attendance and Participation	100	10
Total	1,000	100

Letter Grade Conversion

- > 90% = A
- > 80% = B
- > 70% = C
- > 60% = D
- < 60% = F

The tests will be close book multiple-choice exams. They will be drawn from all aspects of the class: readings, lectures, and classroom discussions. The second test is not cumulative.

Group presentation will be a research project exploring one aspect of the world today. The students will be organized into groups. Each group should select a research topic to be approved by the instructor by Week 5. Sample topics include world demographic trend, the role of weapons of mass destruction, WHO, WTO, climate change, inequality in the world and why it is (or is not) a concern to the US. Each group should conduct a collective research and write a report and, finally, make an oral presentation of no longer than 15-20 minutes to the class, including Q & A. Each group should also write a project report (3 pages, single space or 5 pages, double space), which is due on the day of the group presentation. The format of the presentation may be modified later depending on logistic conditions.

Course Schedule and Assignments

To be distributed to the students.