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This course will help students to understand the background and historical development of the current international system. Together, we will come to understand the various theoretical paradigms and explore how each is used to analyze international relations and inform policy. In addition, the class will learn about the various structures of global governance including international institutions, international law, and human rights. In order to do all this, the course will take advantage of readings, lectures, discussions, as well as various pieces of pop culture that reaffirm the importance of these concepts. By the end of the semester, students will be proficient in the basic language of the field, be able to view international relations utilizing multiple theoretical lenses, apply these theories when analyzing current world events and will be capable of explaining their analysis to others.

COURSE OBJECTIVES AND LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Understand the background and historical development of the current international system
- Gain a broad understanding of various theoretical paradigms and how they inform policy.
- Students will be able to demonstrate knowledge of theories of international relations and apply them in analyzing events and outcomes in world affairs.
- Understand the basic structure and operations of global governance as well as its key actors and institutions.
- Become competent in the basic language of our field as well as methodologies used to advance its research

INTA 1110 Introduction to International Relations

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
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COURSE MATERIALS

There is no required textbook for this course. All readings are either posted to Canvas, on reserve in the library, or will be handed out in class. All readings are subject to change; however, students will be notified in advance. Unless otherwise noted, all readings, audio files, or videos are mandatory. In addition, if you feel you would like or need a textbook, one can be recommended to you as well the corresponding pages to what we will be covering.

TEACHING STYLE, BIAS, COURSE RULES AND GUIDELINES

My style is somewhat loose as you will quickly see and will be a combination of lecture and discussion. After a bit of time, I hope for a nice back and forth between myself and the class as we break down the field of International Relations.

I will attempt to take all bias out and I encourage an open exchange of ideas and debate. I am not looking for you to simply agree with everything I am saying. I can assure you I take nothing personally, so feel free to question things, probe for more information, etc. I just may have to cut our discussions short because of time constraints. Of course, I do have my own opinions. When appropriate, I will share them if asked. However, I will always first present things through the analytical lens.

With that said, I will not have all of the answers. In other words, International Relations is a rather large field. I, as well as your other professors, tend to specialize into subfields. Thus, we tend to have greater depth of knowledge in some areas over other. But if I don't have an answer, I will not only tell you that, but also attempt to get the correct answer.

Finally, even though we will keep it loose in here, there still are some rules and guidelines for the class.

- 1) Please raise your hand if you would like to speak and wait to be recognized before speaking.
- 2) No laptops, tablets, iPads, or other technologies with internet capabilities will be permitted in class unless the student has an accommodations letter from the university, they are identified as a note-taker by the university or myself, or I have allowed them in class for that day for everyone. There is little evidence that exists to show that digital technology has on education in typical classrooms (UNESCO, 2023. *Technology in Education*). Thus, this means all notes should be taken by hand through traditional/offline/nontechnology based means. I am willing to reconsider this as we

move through the semester. In addition, I am aware that there are digital note taking devices without internet/social media access. These may be approved for use after a discussion with me. Please email me for an appointment.

- 3) Cell phones are to be placed on vibrate or turned off and must remain out of sight (this means not on your desk, in your lap, etc.). Mobile phone use is also associated with declines in educational improvement and performance as well as increase the likelihood for classroom disruptions (UNESCO, 2023. *Technology in Education*). If you are expecting an emergency call, please let me know before class. In addition, there is no texting during class. Violations of the cell phone policy will impact your participation grade, and thus your course grade directly.
- 4) No recording devices (audio or video) are permitted in class unless the student has an accommodations letter from the university. This is definitely for your protection more than mine.
- 5) Reading pages and assignments are due the day they appear on the syllabus.
- 6) All assignments submitted through Canvas will use Turnitin software for AI/Plagiarism detection. The use of AI in this class is not acceptable for any assignment and will be penalized if detected up to receiving a zero and submission to OSI for further consideration if it so warrants.
- 7) There are a total of two exams in the course. There are no make-up exams unless there is an institutional approved absence (see below). Conflicts with scheduling must be discussed with me ahead of time and not the TA.

UNIVERSITY and COURSE POLICIES

Statement of Inclusion: The Ivan Allen College of Liberal Arts supports 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 that may also manifest here as they do in the broader society.

Request for Modification: If you are a learner that requires some adaptations for you to succeed in this course or are a student with disabilities that requires accommodations, please contact the Office of Disability at (404) 894-2563 or <http://disabilityservices.gatech.edu> as soon as possible to make an appointment to discuss your needs and obtain the appropriate accommodations letter. Any student requiring instructional modifications due to a documented disability should make an appointment to meet with me as soon as possible so that the appropriate accommodations can be made. I am happy to do whatever I can to ensure that you succeed.

CARE Center, Counseling Center, Stamps Health Services, and the Student Center: These times can be difficult, and if you should need help in dealing with stress and mental health please know there are services available. The **CARE Center** and the **Counseling Center**, and **Stamps Health Services** will offer both in-person and virtual appointments. Student Center services and operations are available on the **Student Center** website. For more

information on these and other student services, contact the Vice President and Dean of Students or the **Division of Student Life**.

Recordings of Class Sessions and Required Permissions: Classes may not be recorded by students without the express consent of the instructor unless it is pursuant to an accommodation granted by the Office of Disability services. Class recordings, lectures, presentations, and other materials posted on Canvas are for the sole purpose of educating the students currently enrolled in the course. Students may not record or share the materials or recordings, including screen capturing or automated bots, unless the instructor gives permission. Digitally proctored exams may require students to engage the video camera, but those recordings will not be shared with or disclosed to others without consent unless legally permitted. For classes where participation is voluntary, students who participate with their camera engaged or utilize a profile image are agreeing to have their video or image recorded. For classes requiring class participation, if students are identifiable by their names, facial images, voices, and/ or comments, written consent must be obtained before sharing the recording with persons outside of currently enrolled students in the class.

Academic Integrity: By attending Georgia Tech you have all committed to upholding the ideals of honor and integrity as well as refusing to betray this trust that has been bestowed upon you as a member of our academic community (<https://policylibrary.gatech.edu/student-life/academic-honor-code>). Any student who is suspected of violations of this honor code including but not limited to cheating or plagiarizing on a quiz, exam, or assignment will be automatically reported to the Office of Student Integrity. This office will investigate the incident as well as recommend the penalties for the violations.

Attendance and Participation: First and foremost, you cannot participate if you are not in class. Thus, attendance is expected and if you miss a class you are responsible for getting the material from another student. Please before you leave class on the first day find a “note taking buddy” so that if either of you miss you are covered. Lecture slides will not be available online. It should be noted that the slides are primarily outlines and only represent a portion of the material. Thus, there is value to being in class.

*Excused Absence policy – This course will follow the University’s policy for excused absences. Absences for medical or personal emergencies will be excused upon verification by the Office of Student Life. You can find an outline of the policy here <https://catalog.gatech.edu/policies/student-absence-regulations/> This would apply to illness as well as personal emergencies. Please review this page if you are not familiar with it. In addition, all institute approved absences will honored, which would include university sanctioned function, athletics, etc. when accompanied by the appropriate documentation. Absences resulting from oversleeping, alarms not going off, computer crashes, drink or food specials, lost wallets, lost purses, or dogs eating papers, books, flash drives, etc. will not be considered approved absences.

Classroom Policies: Professional behavior will be required of all students at all times. The following behavior is not appropriate: use of cell phones, texting, extraneous conversations, and disrespect toward other students or professor. ***Students engaging in these behaviors may be***

asked to leave class. In addition, no audio or video recording is allowed in class unless approved by the professor in accordance with an accommodation letter.

Correspondence: All course-related concerns/email will be addressed first to your TA. Monday through Friday, your email will be returned within 48 hours. If you have not received a reply within that time frame, please email me directly.

All policies subject to review by the professor and are subject to change with written notice to the students ahead of time.

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

Exams (E1-25%, E2-25%) - The exams will test your knowledge of the material covered in lecture, the text, as well as any supplemental readings. I anticipate the exam format will consist of a combination of multiple choice, True/False, and short answer. Please note that the final exam is not cumulative and only covers the second half of the course. As such, it will be the same format as the first exam including the length of time you have to take the exam (75 minutes unless there are accommodations). In addition, Canvas may be utilized for the exams. If this is done, institute approved anti-cheating/plagiarism/anti-AI technology. I will address this as we move closer to the exam dates.

Short policy briefing assignment (group activity) (20%) Each person will be assigned to a small group and you will be provided weekly briefings on an assigned issue. These are relatively short assignments but will allow you to become content experts in key areas of international politics. Greater details and group assignments will come after Drop/Add. There will be roughly 5-6 of these during the semester. A portion of this grade is determined by your peers.

Reading assignments/quizzes (20%) These will either be short assignments based on either the readings, material from class, current events, or discussion and will be posted and submitted through Canvas. There is also the possibility of “unannounced” quizzes on the readings if we continue to have a lack of reading. Quizzes will be multiple choice or True/False type questions and mostly done in class. However, there may be the occasional one posted to Canvas. I will be dropping your lowest grade and please remember the AI and honor code policies of the class when doing these assignments.*

Participation (10% total) – This will be based partially on attendance, discussions, and in class assignments and group activities.**

* Generally, there are a combination of 6-9 homework assignments/quizzes a semester, but that number can vary.

**You can have two missed classes before it will impact your grade. Typically, there are between 7-10 class participation measurements a semester.

GRADING PROCEDURES

A = 100-90; B = 89-80; C = 79-70; D = 69-60; F = 59 and below. Mid-term grades or progress reports will be listed as S = Satisfactory, meaning 70 and above, or U = Unsatisfactory, indicating a grade below 70. ***If you are taking the class Pass/Fail, then the same mid-term grade standard will also be applied for a final grade of "S" = Satisfactory as well.*** ***In addition, Canvas will be used only for posting grades and NOT GRADE CALCULATION. Thus, students should not use any calculation made by the system as being representative of their actual grade in the class.***
