

# INTA 6102 Syllabus

International Relations Theory INTA 6102, 3 Credits

Fall 2026

## Instructor Information

**Instructor: Katja Weber**

Email: [katja.weber@inta.gatech.edu](mailto:katja.weber@inta.gatech.edu)

## General Course Information

### Course Description:

The objective of this course is to introduce you to the major theories of international relations. We will examine why international actors behave the way they do and ask which theoretical frameworks are best equipped to account for conflict and cooperation in the international environment.

### Course Learning Outcomes:

Students will be able to apply knowledge of theories of international relations to critically and empirically analyze events and outcomes in world affairs.

### Required Texts:

Acharya, Amitav. *Whose Ideas Matter?* Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2009.

Gulick, Edward V. *Europe's Classical Balance of Power*. New York: W.W. Norton, 1967.

Keohane, Robert O., ed. *Neorealism and Its Critics*. New York: Columbia University Press, 1986.

Krasner, Stephen D., ed. *International Regimes*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1983.

In addition to the books listed above there will be readings that can be accessed on **Canvas (C)** under *Files*.

### Course Requirements and Grading:

Since this is a seminar, it requires **active class participation**. Each student will have to do **all** of the **assigned readings** (indicated by an asterisk on the syllabus) **for each class**.

[Additional readings are included for students with a special interest in a particular area.] You are expected to **participate** fully in class discussions. It is also a good idea to write a short summary and several written questions about each reading for your own benefit.

Each student will give **1 formal presentation** of a set of readings in class. This presentation will lay out the authors' arguments, explain their strengths and weaknesses, and will serve as a takeoff point for further analysis by the rest of the class (further instructions will be provided in class).

Each student will also write **two brief analytical essays** (no more than 5 pages double-spaced typed each), assessing two course readings of his/her choice. The readings must be from different weeks, and the essays have to be uploaded to Canvas at the beginning of the class during which the respective readings are to be discussed. Please note that your task is not to write a book review. Rather, the objective of your essay is to **come up with your own original thesis** reacting to the argument in the work under review (further instructions will be provided in class).

**Your course grade will be as follows:**

|                      |     |
|----------------------|-----|
| Course participation | 25% |
| Class presentation   | 25% |
| First Essay          | 25% |
| Second Essay         | 25% |

**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%   |

**Course Policies**

**Attendance Policy:**

Regular attendance is expected and essential for obtaining a passing grade. Students must have completed all their readings for each class and contribute to discussions. Students also need to stay on top of their writing and group assignments.

**Extensions:**

You are able to get one extension of one week on one of your papers, if needed, without penalty. The class presentation needs to be made as scheduled. If any additional assignment is late, I will subtract ½ a letter grade for each additional day, unless you can document a serious illness or family emergency, as determined by the Dean of Students.

## **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. For information on Georgia Tech's Academic Honor Code, please visit <http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/policies/honor-code/> or <http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/rules/18/>.

Any student suspected of cheating or plagiarizing on an 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 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 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**

I want you to stay away from AI tools and, instead, use your brain to generate ideas, much like we did prior to the arrival of AI. You need to cite all your sources properly. Stay away from using a tool like Grammarly, as that triggers a high AI score.