INTA 8803 Syllabus

Transatlantic Relations

Summer 2026

Study Abroad Program on the EU and Global Affairs

Instructor Information

Instructor: Dr. Vicki Birchfield

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General Course Information

Description

This course examines the transatlantic relationship, or more precisely, EU-US relations by first assessing the changing nature of the European Union and its influence in world affairs and secondly, by exploring how the evolution of the EU as a global actor has shaped the way the United States conducts its diplomacy and foreign relations with its most long standing allies both bilaterally and within the context of the EU's supranationalism and institutional capacity. Our focus will be on trade, economic and regulatory dimensions of the EU-US relationship as well as security issues within the context of NATO. We will consider the extent to which both sides of the Atlantic continue to share common values and vital shared interests and whether we are likely to see the EU and the US forge common approaches to critical global problems such as dealing with an aggressive Russia; China's growing influence, governing high risk technologies, combatting climate change, etc., or whether the relationship is destined for growing cleavages and irreconcilable differences. In either scenario, we will consider what the consequences might be for global order.

Course Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to…

- Build knowledge and understanding of the origins and current issues facing the transatlantic relationship
- Display an understanding of the structure and functioning of NATO

- Demonstrate the ability to describe the political and economic forces that shape the EU-US relationship and the global system
- Develop critical thinking and analytical skills for assessing the state of transatlantic affairs across the economic and security sectors

Required Course Materials

The course readings will be uploaded to **Canvas under "Files"** and available under the **Required Readings.**

To enhance the quality of this experiential learning opportunity in the study abroad setting, it will be helpful to follow current events and the news related to developments in the EU, NATO and European politics. The best sources for staying informed about current issues in Europe for English speakers are the BBC and EuroNews websites, France 24 (English) *The Financial Times* and *The Economist*. Many articles from the latter two publications will be made available for required supplemental reading throughout the semester. For French speakers, *Le Monde* and *Le Figaro* are leading national newspapers and France Info, France Culture and France Television (TF 1, FR 2, 3 and TV 5) are other useful sources of information. Der Spiegel is a German weekly news magazine that has an international version in English for news and analysis of German, European and International Affairs, Deutsche Welle (dw.com) is 24/7 on-line and available in English.

For background on NATO and its member states: https://www.nato.int/en

For a wealth of information on the institutions, Member States and current policies of the European Union, consult the EU's official website, Europa. The URL is: https://european-union.europa.eu/index_en

Information from the European Union's Delegation to the United States: https://www.eeas.europa.eu/delegations/united-states-america_en?s=253

Grading Policy:

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

A	90-100%
B	80-89.9%
C	70-79.9%
D	60-69.9%
F	0-59.9%

Assignment	Percentage
Participation, Site-Visit Engagement and De-briefings/discussions	25%
Blog /IG Assignments	25%
Simulation	25%
Assignment for Dr. Markley (TBD)	25%

Description of Graded Components

Participation: Well-informed, engaged participation throughout the study abroad program, especially during site visits, policy briefings and museum exhibitions will be key to maximizing the experiential learning experience and earning a good grade.

Blog/IG Assignment: Guidelines posted on Canvas

Simulation: Guidelines are posted on Canvas and will be discussed during the first week of the program. This active learning activity is the culminating academic exercise for this course.

Course Policies

Attendance and/or Participation: See statement above.

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.

Student Well-Being:

At Georgia Tech, we are concerned about your overall physical, social, and mental well-being. A comprehensive list of wellness related resources has been compiled and maintained by the Office of the Vice President for Student Engagement and Well-being (student-resource-guide (gatech.edu)