

U.S. Foreign Policy – INTA 3110

Fall 2026

Instructor Information

Dr. Lawrence Rubin

Email: lawrence.rubin@inta.gatech.edu

Class Time: Mondays, 6:00–8:45 p.m.

Location: 2121 K Street NW, Washington, DC 20037

Office Hours: Mondays 4:00–6:00 p.m., and by appointment

Course Description

This course examines contemporary U.S. foreign policy and provides analytical tools and theoretical approaches to understand how the United States makes foreign policy and interacts with foreign governments and non-state actors. The emphasis is on understanding and engaging with current debates.

Learning Objectives

- Demonstrate knowledge of the history of U.S. foreign policy, the role of the constitution, the historical debates and competing perspectives inside U.S. foreign policy, and the policy making process.
- Integrate theory and practice through examining current policy arenas and historical cases
- Encourage critical thinking about contemporary policy debates, including the ability to analyze key issues in U.S. foreign policy and offer practical solutions
- Improve professional skills including clear and effective oral presentation, written argumentation, and policy memo formulation
- Apply research skills to address problems in the field of international affairs
- Students will demonstrate career ready competencies in critical thinking, intercultural competence, and persuasion.
- Students will effectively analyze the complexity of human behavior, and how historical, economics, political, social, or geographic relationships develop, persist, or change.

Course Readings

Readings include scholarly articles, book chapters, news analysis, and podcasts. Most materials will be available on Canvas or through the Georgia Tech Library.

Course Requirements

Participation, weekly assignments, policy memo, simulation, and group project.

Grading Scale

A: 100–90, B: 89–80, C: 79–70, D: 69–60, F: 59–0

Late Work and Absences

Assignments submitted after the deadline incur a 10% penalty per day. Approved accommodations may apply.

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 the Student Code of Conduct and the Academic Honor Code, especially Appendix A: Graduate Addendum to the Academic Honor Code. Georgia Tech's Academic Honor Code applies. AI-generated writing is prohibited.

Support Resources

GT Communication Center, Office of Disability Services, Center for Academic Success, and Counseling Center. If you are a student with learning needs that require special accommodation, contact the Office of Disability Services 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.

Course Schedule

See syllabus for full list of dates and topics.