

INTA 3301 Syllabus

International Political Economy, Section 1, 3 credits

Fall 2026

Instructor Information

Instructor: Alasdair Young

Email: alasdair.young@gatech.edu

General Course Information

Description

Over the past 50 years the process of globalization has seen economies become more closely integrated. As a result, the impacts of market forces and national policy decisions have become more intertwined. In this course we will examine ways of understanding the resulting impacts by identifying who wins and loses from policy decisions impacting national and international markets and by exploring power relations within and between states. The course will also examine the recent pivot from economic integration toward geopolitical competition. Students will learn how to use a political economy framework to answer related questions with empirical evidence and will become familiar with the major tensions and debates in the political analysis of the modern global economy.

Course Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, students will be able to demonstrate:

- knowledge of the principal contemporary global challenges in the field of international affairs.
- the ability to apply theories of International Political Economy to analyze contemporary global challenges.
- the ability to advance sophisticated arguments orally and in writing.

Required Course Materials

Oatley, Thomas, *International Political Economy*, 7th edn, Routledge, 2022. Barnes and Nobel Book Store.

Grading Policy:

Assignments	Share of total	Maximum points
3 reflection papers	30 (10 each)	600
Class activities (best 10)	20 (2 each)	400
Midterm	15	300
Economic policy analysis	15	300
1 group presentation	10	200
Class participation	10	200
TOTAL	100	2000

Grade	Points	Descriptors
A	20 19 18	Exceptionally good performance demonstrating a superior understanding of the subject matter, a foundation of extensive knowledge, and a skillful use of concepts and/or materials.
B	17 16 15	Good performance demonstrating capacity to use the appropriate concepts, a good understanding of the subject matter, and an ability to handle the problems and materials encountered in the subject.
C	14 13 12	Adequate performance demonstrating an adequate understanding of the subject matter, an ability to handle relatively simple problems.
D	11 10 9	Minimally acceptable performance demonstrating at least partial familiarity with the subject matter and some capacity to deal with relatively simple problems, but also demonstrating serious deficiencies.
F	<8	Did not demonstrate familiarity with the subject matter, nor the capacity to deal with simple problems in a manner recognizable to the consensus of mainstream academic practitioners within the field.

Final grades:

> 1800	A	1200-1499	C	<900	F
1500-1799	B	900-1199	D		

Description of Graded Components

Reflection papers. Students will write a 2-page paper reflecting on the course content for three of the four substantive sections of the course. They must do the first section (trade). If they do all 4, the lowest grade will be dropped. The goal of the reflection papers is to provide a space for students to connect the course content with their lives. Students can use the reflection paper to express confusion, disagreement, interest, critiques, or support over any of the content.

Class activities. In about half of the class sessions there will be small-group activities that will provide the basis for discussion. Written responses must be submitted for the award of credit. Assessment will be based on the quality of the engagement with the exercise.

Midterm. The in-class midterm will be multiple choice, but bonus points will be awarded for correct answers to open-ended questions.

Group presentation. Each small group presentation will introduce a case study that illustrates a key phenomenon discussed in class. Guidance on the topic, including questions to address and sources of information will be provided. Presentations will be 15 minutes followed by Q&A. Slides for the presentations must be up-loaded to Canvas by noon on the day of the presentation.

Economic policy analysis. Students will select a specific contemporary economic policy and profile the expected winners and losers from its imposition. The 5-page analysis will involve students identifying the distributional consequences of the policy. Students will come to conclusions about *whether, why, and for whom* they think the policy will be a good option.

Participation. Students' participation grade reflects attendance and participation in course discussions (asking and answering questions).

Course Policies

Attendance and/or Participation

Active participation is necessary to interrogate thoroughly the material and thus counts towards the participation grade. Students can have three unexcused absences without penalty. Each subsequent unexcused absence will reduce the participation grade by .5 (on the 20 point scale).

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.

Core IMPACTS

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

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.

Extra Credit Opportunities

Write a reflective summary (500 words max) of an approved public talk. Due by email within a week of the talk. Summaries of up to 2 events may be submitted. Each serious effort will result in 25 points added to the total score.

Collaboration, Group Work, and Use of Generative AI

According to the Georgia Tech [Academic Honor Code](#), **academic misconduct is any act that does or could improperly distort student grades or other student academic records**. Such acts include:

- Possessing, using or exchanging improperly acquired written or verbal information in the preparation of any essay, laboratory report, examination, or other assignment included in an academic course;
- Substitution for, or unauthorized collaboration with, a student in the commission of academic requirements;
- Submission of material that is wholly or substantially identical to that created or published by another person or persons, without adequate credit notations indicating authorship (plagiarism).

AI use

As one of the learning outcomes of this course is to acquire the ability to think critically about and analyze contemporary global challenges, the use of generative AI software such as ChatGPT and other AI agents is PROHIBITED in this course. I will be using Georgia Tech's software (Turnitin) to check for AI use. To allow for false positives, Turnitin-detected AI content up to 20% will be accepted. Work above that threshold will be considered to be potentially plagiarized and will be reported to the Office of Student Integrity.

Extensions, Late Assignments, & Re-Scheduled/Missed Exams

Late assignments or missed exams will NOT be accepted, except for medical or personal emergencies upon verification or for approved Institute activities. Please notify me as soon as possible, if you think you will be unable to complete an assignment on time or make an exam time.