

International Affairs and Technology Policy Making

Last Updated: Mon, 01/12/2026

Course prefix: INTA

Course number: 4050

Section: A

CRN

35119

Instructor first name: Juljan

Instructor last name: Krause

Semester: Spring

Academic year: 2026

Course description:

A growing number of geopolitical struggles today are fought through infrastructure: chips and compute, undersea cables and satellites, standards and supply chains, and the cloud platforms that increasingly mediate economic and military power. This course examines how international technology policy is made in practice when interdependence is inescapable but security stakes are rising. We focus on the policy instruments that translate technical capability into political leverage: export controls and industrial policy, platform regulation and content governance, cybersecurity strategies and alliance coordination, and the management of high-consequence transitions (e.g., post-quantum cryptography). While the course focuses primarily on the fast-evolving relationships among the United States, Europe, and China, the dynamics we study routinely extend beyond this core and shape technology policy worldwide.

Students learn to read strategies and policy documents as instruments of power, to identify assumptions and implementation risks, and to produce decision-grade outputs under real-world constraints. Assessment emphasizes professional policy writing, one in-class crisis simulation, and a final portfolio (submitted as an alternative final assessment) rather than in-class exams.

The course is organized around three recurring propositions:

- Infrastructure creates leverage. The most durable advantages often come from chokepoints, dependencies, and switching costs, not just ``innovation.''
- Governance happens in the plumbing. Standards, procurement policies, compliance regimes, liability rules, and interoperability constraints can lock in power and shape conflict.

- Dual-use is normal. ``Civilian'' systems routinely become security-relevant because they are widely deployed, privately operated, and difficult to replace quickly.

By the end of the course, students should be able to (i) explain how material and digital infrastructures (re)shape the international system, (ii) evaluate competing policy strategies across jurisdictions, and (iii) communicate clear recommendations to decision-makers under uncertainty and time pressure.

Academic honesty/integrity statement:

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 plagiarizing 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 statement(s) (if applicable):

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 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 Outcomes:

- 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