

GEORGIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Sam Nunn School of International Affairs

INTA 3301. INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ECONOMY

Fall 2019

Instructor: Dr. Fei-Ling Wang

Time: TTh 16:30-17:45

Office Hours: TTh 11:00-13:00 or by appointment.

Office: 214, Habersham House (894-1904)

E-mail: fw@gatech.edu

TA: Kayleigh Haskin <khaskin@gatech.edu>

1. Course Description.

This class examines the relationship between the globalized and market-oriented world economy and national sovereignty-based international politics. We will expose the links, disparities, and conflicts between the two through a historical review and case studies. We will also explore the theoretical perspectives aiming a better understanding of this relationship. A major aim of this class is for the students to demonstrate the ability to describe the social, political, and economic forces that influence nations' behaviors and the global system.

A thorough understanding of history is always very important to students of international affairs, therefore, after a clarification of the concepts, we will first briefly review the historical development of IPE (international political economy). Then we will examine the major theoretical perspectives in the study of IPE: from mercantilism to Marxism. Using the historical knowledge and the theoretical perspectives learnt, we will discuss some of today's most important IPE issues including the much talked-about financial crisis, environmental protection and international terrorism. Finally, we will conclude the course by reconsidering the relationship between the market and the sovereign states.

2. Use of Technology:

Unless the student has an official letter from the GT administration certifying a need for special accommodation, audio or video recording device are not allowed in class. Unless the student has an official letter from the GT administration certifying a need for special accommodation or unless the instructor grants a one-time permission for class needs, no use of laptop is allowed in class.

Cell phones are to be placed on vibrate mode or turned off and remain out of sight, unless you are expecting an emergency call (in that case, please alert the instructor before class). No texting during class.

3. University Policies

The Ivan Allen College of Liberal Arts supports the Georgia Institute of Technology's commitment to creating a campus free of discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, or veteran status. We further affirm the importance of cultivating an intellectual climate that allows us to better understand the similarities and differences of those who constitute the Georgia Tech community, as well as the necessity of working against inequalities that may also manifest here as they do in the broader society.

If you are a learner that requires adaptations for you to succeed in this course or are a student with disabilities that requires accommodations, please contact the Office of Disability (404) 894-2563 or disabilityservices@gatech.edu) to make an appointment to discuss your needs and obtain the appropriate accommodation letter. Any student requiring such adaptation/accommodation should make an appointment to meet with the instructor as soon as possible so to make the appropriate arrangement.

We have all committed to upholding the ideals of honor and academic integrity. This class strictly observes the Georgia Tech Honor Code and does not tolerate any form of plagiarism, defined as "to steal and pass off the ideas or words of another's as one's own or use another's production without crediting the source." Please consult University policies for more information (www.policylibrary.gatech.edu/student-affairs/academic-honor-code; www.catalog.gatech.edu/rules/18/). Any student suspected of violations of honor code including but not limited to cheating or plagiarizing behavior will be automatically reported to the Office of Student Integrity, which will investigate the incident and recommend penalties for the violations.

4. Course Requirements.

Requirement	Marks	(%)
First Test	300	30
Participation/Attendance	100	10
Case Study Debate	300	30
Second Test	300	30
Total	1,000	100

The first test and the second test will be "in-class" and close book/notes written exams primarily in short-essay format. The tests, non cumulative, will be drawn from all aspects of the class: readings, lectures, and classroom discussions.

Participation/attendance is the instructor portion of your grade. It will be based on the quality and the quantity of your participation in class discussions including your participation in the case study debate sessions. The class will be a mixture of informal lecture and relaxed discussion. All views are welcome and those who participate actively will be rewarded accordingly. We all learn from each other's insights. As far as attendance is concerned, two or more unexcused absences will be penalized.

Case study debate is a collective research and debating exercise. In the first week of class, the students will be divided into pairs of groups. Each pair of groups must select one aspect of an IPE issue area to study and to debate, and submit it to the instructor for approval in week 4. Sample cases include: How to understand international terrorism? Is global warming real? Is the rise of China and other economies good? What are the root-causes of the financial crisis in 2008-09? Is the United States declining? Is Bitcoin a new world currency?

Each group of the pair must take an opposing side on the issue and is then expected to conduct a collective study on the chosen case under the coordination of the group leader. Conscious and conscientious use of the IPE analytical frameworks and knowledge we learned in class is expected.

Finally, each pair will make two oral presentations by the two groups separately on the two sides of the case study for about 20 minutes each to the class, followed by a joint-session of debate and Q & A of 10 minutes. The presentations will be graded on the extensiveness and depth of the research, the accuracy of the basic facts, the effectiveness and creativity of the debate and role-play (not necessarily who makes the "right" arguments), and the organization and delivery of the presentation itself.

A written summary of each group's presentation (2-3 pages, single spaced, bibliography and footnotes additional) is due on the day of the presentation. Every member of the same group will receive the same grade for this exercise. The group leaders are expected to report any free-riding activities that may take place in the groups.

In the process, as a major learning outcome, we will assess the students' problem solving abilities. Students will demonstrate theoretical knowledge of the discipline to address international policy issues, demonstrate methodological literacy to analyze to international political phenomena, use oral communication to demonstrate knowledge and to make cogent arguments in international affairs, demonstrate proficiency in written communication to increase knowledge and develop cogent arguments in international affairs, and demonstrate the ability to collaborate effectively in teams.

5. Course Materials.

(Available at the GT Bookstore. DVDs are on reserve at GT Library and/or online. The handout readings will be posted on Canvas).

David N. Balaam & Bradford Dillman, *Introduction to International Political Economy* (7th Edition), Routledge, 2019. (Balaam & Dillman)

Karin Junger: *A Dollar A Day - The Price of Cotton*, DVD, Emerald Focus Films, 2008 (52 minutes) <http://vimeo.com/34075018>

Alexandra Jansse: *A Dollar A Day - The New Silver*, DVD, Emerald Focus Films, 2008 (50 minutes) <http://vimeo.com/34077671>

Charles Ferguson: *Inside Job*, DVD, Sony Pictures, 2011. (120 minutes)

Davis Guggenheim: *An Inconvenient Truth*, Paramount, 2006. (90 minutes)

6. Course Outline:

Week 1 **Class orientation and overview**
8/20, 8/22 Balaam & Dillman 1-22.

Week 2 **Money, economy, market, the state, and IR**
8/27 Handout I
8/29 Balaam & Dillman 221-248.

Week 3	Liberalism and Mercantilism
9/3	Balaam & Dillman 25-46.
9/5	Balaam & Dillman 49-68.
Week 4	Marxism, structuralism, and alternative views
9/10	Balaam & Dillman 71-93.
9/12	Balaam & Dillman 97-121. <u>(Debate topics due)</u>
Week 5	International trade and TNCs/MNCs
9/17, 9/19	Balaam & Dillman 126-188.
Week 6	Study Session
9/24	First Test
9/26	
Week 7	Poverty and development
10/1	Balaam & Dillman 282-308.
10/3	Handout II; Watch the <i>A Dollar A Day</i> series
Week 8	Globalization, regionalization, the rising and the falling
10/8	Balaam & Dillman 312-339
10/10	Balaam & Dillman 343-370.
Week 9	No class – Fall recess
10/15	Information networks
10/17	Balaam & Dillman 252-277.
Week 10	International financial market
10/22	Balaam & Dillman 192-218.
10/24	Handout III; Watch <i>Inside Job</i>
Week 11	Illicit economy and migration
10/29	Balaam & Dillman 408-432.
10/31	Balaam & Dillman 464-488.
Week 12	Energy and environment
11/5	Balaam & Dillman 436-459.
11/7	Handout IV; Watch <i>An Inconvenient Truth</i>
Week 13	Rise of China, trade war & the prospects of IPE
11/12, 11/14	Handouts V, VI & VII.
Week 14	Study Session
11/19	Second Test
11/21	
Week 15	Case study debates I
11/26	No class – Happy Thanksgiving!
11/28	
Week 16	Case study debates II
12/3	

