INTA 6102 International Relations Theory  
Fall 2020

Class Day: Thursday 6:30-9:15pm, G-17

Prof. Katja Weber  Email: katja.weber@inta.gatech.edu

Office Hours: By appointment (email to set up a virtual meeting)

Members of this course agree to wear face masks and abide by the social distancing guidelines (this is not optional but a requirement) to make face-to-face meetings possible. No mask, no class!

Also, should anyone feel ill at any point during the semester, or learn that s/he has been in close contact with someone who has contracted COVID, please do not come to class and self-quarantine. I will make accommodations to make sure you will be able to continue the course.

Course Description:

The objective of this course is to introduce you to the major theories of international relations. We will examine why international actors behave the way they do and ask which theoretical frameworks are best equipped to account for conflict and cooperation in the international environment.

Course Requirements and Grading:

This course is taught as a hybrid seminar. There will be some synchronous, some asynchronous and some face-to-face teaching components. Depending on the final class size, I, most likely, will split the class in 3 sections (Group A, Group B, Group C) in week 2 and will announce on which dates each group will meet at GT during our regularly scheduled class time. Students who are not part of a face-to-face meeting at any given time, will join the class virtually (via BlueJeans) and will be able to participate via the “chat” function. Students in time zones who cannot join synchronously will be able to view a recording of our class sessions and participate in Canvas “Discussions” via regular posts.

Should the COVID pandemic make face-to-face meetings impossible during any time in the semester, we will have to switch to a fully remote delivery method. Also note that no one will have to attend class in person, who does not feel comfortable doing so. You all know your personal situation best and have to be the judge of that. And, in case of technical difficulties, we may have to switch to an asynchronous format

Since this is a seminar, it requires active class participation. Each student will have to do all of the assigned readings (indicated by an asterisk on the syllabus) for each class. [Additional readings are included for students with a special interest in a particular area.]
You are expected to **participate** fully in class discussions and, given the hybrid nature of the course, this will include **regular posts** by you on Canvas “Discussions.” It is also a good idea to write a short summary and several written questions about each reading for your own benefit.

Each student will give **1 formal presentation** of a set of readings in class or synchronously via BlueJeans (and the presentation will be recorded). This presentation will lay out the authors' arguments, explain their strengths and weaknesses, and will serve as a takeoff point for further analysis by the rest of the class (further instructions will be provided in class).

Each student will also write **two brief analytical essays** (no more than 5 pages double-spaced typed each), assessing two course readings of his/her choice. The readings must be from different weeks and the essays have to be handed in (or posted to “Assignments”) at the beginning of the class during which the respective readings are to be discussed. Please note that your task is not to write a book review. Rather, the objective of your essay is to **come up with your own original thesis** reacting to the argument in the work under review (further instructions will be provided in class).

**Course participation** will be as follows:

- Course participation 25%
- Class presentation 25%
- First Essay 25%
- Second Essay 25%

**Grading Scale**

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

- A 90-100%
- B 80-89%
- C 70-79%
- D 60-69%
- F 0-59%

**Extensions, Late Assignments:**

You are able to get **one extension of one week** on one of your papers, if needed, without penalty. The class presentation needs to be made and uploaded as scheduled. If any other assignment is uploaded late, I will subtract ½ a letter grade for each additional day, unless you can document a serious illness or family emergency, as determined by the Dean of Students.

**Required Texts:**


In addition to the books listed above there will be readings that can be accessed on Canvas (C) under Files.

**Course Website:**

See dashboard on Canvas for INTA 6102

**Course Expectations & Guidelines:**

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.

**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. For information on Georgia Tech's Academic Honor Code, please visit http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/policies/honor-code/ or http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/rules/18/.

Any student suspected of cheating or plagiarizing on an 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 at (404)894-2563 or http://disabilityservices.gatech.edu/, 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.

**Class Schedule and Readings**
Please consult this website prior to the beginning of class for “Remote Learning Strategies”: [https://ctl.gatech.edu/sites/default/files/remote-learning/index.html#/](https://ctl.gatech.edu/sites/default/files/remote-learning/index.html#/)

Also, please go to “Quizzes” in Canvas and complete the “Start-of-Semester Survey” as soon as possible to help me learn about your current circumstances regarding access to technology.

I. Introduction (August 20)

**Synchronous via BlueJeans during regular class time!**
(You will receive an invitation with instructions how to join; the session will be recorded and uploaded to Canvas)

I will go over the syllabus, discuss how to interact with me (email me at katja.weber@inta.gatech.edu), explain the course assignments and go over course deadlines. I will also assign presentation topics.

Also, please write a brief autobiogaphy so I can learn a bit about you. This is a great opportunity to share anything you would like for me to know about you. Also this is a place where you can let me know should you require special accommodations. Upload your autobiography to “Assignments” on Canvas.

II. Theories and Methods (August 27)

**Asynchronous lecture via Kaltura available on Canvas in “My Media”; view prior to this class meeting; then synchronous meeting via BlueJeans from 18:30-19:30 for Q&A and discussion**


* J. David Singer: "The Level-of-Analysis Problem in International Relations," in Ikenberry, ed., pp. 67-80. (C)


-Marion J. Levy: "'Does It Matter If He’s Naked?’ Bawled the Child,” in *Contending Approaches to International Relations*, eds. Klaus Knorr and James N. Rosenau, pp. 87-106. Especially pp. 92-106.
III. Neorealism (September 3)
Group A (Face-to-Face); others synchronous via BlueJeans during regular class time!


IV. Polarity and the Balance of Power (September 10)
Group B (Face-to-Face); others synchronous via BlueJeans during regular class time!

* Ernst Haas: "The Balance of Power: Prescription, Concept or Propaganda?" World Politics 5 (1953), pp. 442-477. (C) Emma Stutts


V. Alliances: Balancing and Bandwagoning (September 17)
Group C (Face-to-Face); others synchronous via BlueJeans during regular class time!


VI. Hegemony and Beyond (September 24)
Group A (Face-to-Face); others synchronous via BlueJeans during regular class time!


**VII. International Cooperation (October 1) 1st paper due!!!**

* Group B (Face-to-Face); others synchronous via BlueJeans during regular class time!


**VIII. Regimes (October 8)**

* Group C (Face-to-Face); others synchronous via BlueJeans during regular class time!


* Peter M. Haas: "Do Regimes Matter? Epistemic Communities and Mediterranean Pollution Control," *International Organization* 43/3 (Summer 1989), pp. 377-403. (C)

IX. Constructivism (October 15)
Group A (Face-to-Face); others synchronous via BlueJeans during regular class time!

* David Dessler: "What's at Stake in the Agent-Structure Debate?" International Organization 43/3 (Summer 1989), pp. 441-473. Michael Ceci

https://pdfs.semanticscholar.org/ac01/6040ac8ee05b79528ef6e561101a518127b5.pdf


X. Personality and Perception (October 22)
Group B (Face-to-Face); others synchronous via BlueJeans during regular class time!

* Saul Friedlander and Raymond Cohen: "The Personality Correlates of Belligerence in International Conflict,” Comparative Politics 7 (January 1975), pp. 155-186. (C) Brianna Clay

* Michael Roskin: "From Pearl Harbor to Vietnam: Shifting Generational Paradigms of Foreign Policy,” in Ikenberry, pp.351-371. (C) Brianna Clay


**XI. Bureaucratic Politics (October 29)**

**Group C (Face-to-Face); others synchronous via BlueJeans during regular class time!**


**XII. Ideas in International Politics and the Responsibility to Protect (November 5)**

**Synchronous via BlueJeans during regular class time!**


* Alex Bellamy and Mark Beeson: “The Responsibility to Protect in Southeast Asia: Can ASEAN Reconcile Humanitarianism and Sovereignty”? *Asian Security*, 6, no. 3 (2010), pp. 262-279. (C) Amelia Rousseau

* R2P’s 15th Anniversary:

[https://www.globalr2p.org/r2ps-15th-anniversary/](https://www.globalr2p.org/r2ps-15th-anniversary/) Priscilla Godinez

* Responsibility to Protect and the World in 2020:


XIII. Non-Western IR Theory? (November 12) 2nd paper due!!! Synchronous via BlueJeans during regular class time!


Find an article by a non-Western scholar that gives a non-Western perspective of international relations; bring a copy of the article and write a brief synopsis that can be shared with your classmates.

XIV. Wrap-up (November 19)
Synchronous via BlueJeans 18:30-19:30 to discuss film

View “Last Best Chance” prior to class meeting:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U8YKcqgDPM4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U8YKcqgDPM4)