

Georgia Institute of Technology
The Sam Nunn School of International Affairs
Fall 2023

INTA 1110. Introduction to International Relations

Instructor: Dr. Fei-Ling Wang
Time: TuTh 17:00--18:15
Office Hours: TuTh 11:00-12:30 or by appointment
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Course Description

This introduction course is designed to be a gateway to the fascinating world of international relations. We will discuss the basic concepts, facts, and actors to understand the interactions among nations. We will attempt to examine important international issues such as order, peace, war, trade, development, and international law. We will critically survey the leading analytical perspectives and theoretical tools in the study of international relations through a reading of parts of the major works on the subject in the field.

There is no special requirement for this course except a willingness to read, think, and learn. An effort to follow the current events of world politics is strongly encouraged.

Course Rules

Unless the student has an official letter from the GT administration certifying a need for special accommodation, audio or video recording is not 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 is allowed during class.

Class attendance is mandatory unless excused for legit reasons with proper documentation (e.g., doctor's note). Lecture slides will not be available online, nor made available unless there was an excused absence.

In addition to observation of class rules and carrying a professional conduct in classroom, attentive and active contribution to class discussions will be awarded. All views are welcome - we all learn from each other's insights.

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.

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 inform 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. Please consult University policies for more information (policylibrary.gatech.edu/student-affairs/academic-honor-code; 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.

Course Requirements.

Requirement	Marks	(%)
First Test	200	20
Second Test	200	20
Third Test	200	20
Participation/Attendance	200	20
Group project	200	20
Total	1,000	100

The three tests will be in-class and close book/notes written exams primarily in multiple-choice format. The tests will be drawn from all aspects of the class: readings, lectures, and classroom discussions.

Participation/attendance will be based on the quality and the quantity of your participation in class discussions. 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, more than one unexcused absence will be penalized.

Group project is a collective writing and presentation exercise. In the first week of class, the students will be divided into several groups. Each group will write a paper and present it to the class addressing a topic in the study of international relations. Sample topics include: What is the current international order? Why do nations fight wars? How to better manage infectious disease? What is globalization? How to understand international terrorism? The written paper should be 2-3 pages (single space) or 4-5 pages (double space), excluding bibliography. The in-class oral presentation should be 15-18 minutes including Q&A. 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. The format of the presentation may be modified later depending on logistic conditions.

Learning Outcomes

Student will demonstrate the ability to describe the social, political, and economic forces that influence social behavior and the global system.

Students will be able to demonstrate knowledge of theories of international relations and apply them in analyzing events and outcomes in world affairs.

Student will have cultural, contextual and ethical awareness of the diversity of cultural and ethical systems in the world.

Course Materials

(Available for purchase online or at GT Bookstore)

Jon Pevehouse and Joshua Goldstein, *International Relations - Brief Edition*, 8th Edition. Pearson Education, 2021. ISBN-13: 9780137528325.

E-version/rental: <https://www.pearson.com/store/p/international-relations-brief-edition/P200000002860/9780137528325>

Additional readings posted on Canvas.

Course Outline

Week 1	(8/22, 8/24)	Class Orientation: The World and World Politics Pevehouse and Goldstein xxvi-9
Week 2	(8/29, 8/31)	The Field of International Relations Pevehouse and Goldstein 9-21; “Theories” on Canvas
Week 3	(9/5, 9/7)	From Westphalia to United Nations “History” on Canvas; Pevehouse and Goldstein 21-34
Week 4	(9/12, 9/14)	Realism Pevehouse and Goldstein 35-62
Week 5	9/19 9/21	First Test Liberal and Social Theories Pevehouse and Goldstein 63-104
Week 6	(9/26, 9/28)	Conflict, War, and Terrorism Pevehouse and Goldstein 107-156
Week 7	(10/3, 10/5)	Trade and Protectionism Pevehouse and Goldstein 160-181
Week 8	10/10 10/12	No class - enjoy the fall break Global Financial System Pevehouse and Goldstein 182-203

Week 9	10/17 10/19	Second Test International Organization - the UN Pevehouse and Goldstein 204-221
Week 10	10/24 10/26	International Organization – the EU Pevehouse and Goldstein 221-234 Guest lecture: Transatlantic relation and great power competition
Week 11	(10/31, 11/2)	Law, Norms, and Rights Pevehouse and Goldstein 234-253
Week 12	(11/7, 11/9)	North-South and Development Pevehouse and Goldstein 254-297
Week 13	(11/14, 11/16)	Environment and Technology Pevehouse and Goldstein 300-337
Week 14	11/21 11/23	Trends and Dynamics Handout No class – Happy Thanksgiving!
Week 15	11/28 11/30	Third Test Group Presentation I
Week 16	12/5	Group Presentation II