

INTA 2100  
MW 11-12:15

Fall 2023  
Habersham 136

Great Power Relations  
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Office: Habersham 137

Office Hours: Virtual by appointment available at mutual convenience  
On campus by appointment only on MW

**Syllabus as of 8/18/2023**

The primary purpose of this course is to explore the behaviors of great powers and the ways in which they compete with one another. The course will briefly explore the various theoretical paradigms that have been developed in the field but will ultimately utilize a range of Realist theories to conduct a more in depth examination. The course will move through what it means to be a “great power”, explore the hypotheses surrounding conflict and competition between them as well as analyze various cases of great power politics. Ultimately, concluding the course with a discussion of where these relationships may be headed in the future.

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#### COURSE OBJECTIVES AND LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Understand the importance of the Levels of Analysis in International Affairs
  - Students will be able to demonstrate knowledge of theories of international relations and apply them in analyzing events and outcomes in world affairs.
  - Understand the basic explanations of conflict and competition
  - Be able to analyze and explain foundational periods of great power politics, including WWI, WWII, The Cold War, and the Post-Cold War era
  - Students will be able to demonstrate knowledge of principal contemporary global challenges in the field of international affairs
  - Students will be able to apply research skills to address problems in the field of international affairs.
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#### COURSE MATERIALS

Kagan, Donald. 1996. *On The Origins of War and The Preservation of Peace*. Anchor Books. (Kagan Text on the Syllabus). These Chapters provide a full and detailed historical record. They are long, so look ahead and don't wait until right before they are due to read them.

Mearsheimer, John J. 2014. *The Tragedy of Great Power Politics, Updated Edition*. WW Norton & Company, New York. Another longish book, however, this reads relatively quickly.

Additional readings will be posted on Canvas. Other readings may be added during the course of the semester. Unless otherwise noted, all readings, audio files, or videos are mandatory.

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## A COUPLE OF POINTS ON THE SEMESTER

I want this to be as much your class as it is mine. In other words, this schedule will serve as our outline for what we hope to accomplish during the semester. But we are not confined to this schedule and I am certain there will be ebbs and flows with how we explore these and other issues further. In each topic area there is of course baseline knowledge that we have to know, however, the real beauty of International Politics is in its questions. Why one phenomenon occurs in one place vs. another? When do we expect to see various political behaviors? Or just simply trying to answer “‘WTF’ explains that?” This is the fun part and I want this to be fun. So plan on discussions. Plan on asking questions and as a class trying to figure out potential answers. Finally, plan on discovering how seemingly small differences might have profound consequences. And most of all plan on going where the class takes us and not necessarily the syllabus schedule.

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## UNIVERSITY and COURSE POLICIES

*Statement of Inclusion:* 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.

*Request for Modification:* If you are a learner that requires some adaptations for you to succeed in this course or are a student with disabilities that requires accommodations, please contact the Office of Disability at (404) 894-2563 or <http://disabilityservices.gatech.edu> as soon as possible to make an appointment to discuss your needs and obtain the appropriate accommodations letter. Any student requiring instructional modifications due to a documented disability should make an appointment to meet with me as soon as possible so that the appropriate accommodations can be made. I am happy to do whatever I can to ensure that you succeed.

*CARE Center, Counseling Center, Stamps Health Services, and the Student Center:* These times can be difficult, and if you should need help in dealing with stress and mental health please know there are services available. The **CARE Center** and the **Counseling Center**, and **Stamps Health Services** will offer both in-person and virtual appointments. Student Center services and operations are available on the **Student Center** website. For more information on these and other student services, contact the Vice President and Dean of Students or the **Division of Student Life**.

*Information Related to Covid-19:* Students are expected to be familiar with and abide by the Institute guidelines, information, and updates related to Covid-19. Find campus operational updates, Frequently Asked Questions, and details on campus surveillance testing and vaccine appointments on the [Tech Moving Forward site](#).

*Recordings of Class Sessions and Required Permissions:* Classes may not be recorded by students without the express consent of the instructor unless it is pursuant to an accommodation granted by the Office of Disability services. Class recordings, lectures, presentations, and other materials posted on Canvas are for the sole purpose of educating the students currently enrolled in the course. Students may not record or share the materials or recordings, including screen capturing or automated bots, unless the instructor gives permission. Digitally proctored exams may require students to engage the video camera, but those recordings will not be shared with or disclosed to others without consent unless legally

permitted. For classes where participation is voluntary, students who participate with their camera engaged or utilize a profile image are agreeing to have their video or image recorded.

For classes requiring class participation, if students are identifiable by their names, facial images, voices, and/ or comments, written consent must be obtained before sharing the recording with persons outside of currently enrolled students in the class.

*Academic Integrity:* By attending Georgia Tech you have all committed to upholding the ideals of honor and integrity as well as refusing to betray this trust that has been bestowed upon you as a member of our academic community (<http://www.policylibrary.gatech.edu/student-affairs/academic-honor-code> or <http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/rules/18/>). Any student who is suspected of violations of this honor code including but not limited to cheating or plagiarizing on a quiz, exam, or assignment will be automatically reported to the Office of Student Integrity. This office will investigate the incident as well as recommend the penalties for the violations. In addition, no AI should be used in the completion of this course and will be considered a violation of the honor code.

*Attendance and Participation:* First and foremost, you cannot participate if you are not in class. Thus, attendance is mandatory and if you miss a class you are responsible for getting the material from another student. Please before you leave class on the first day find a “note taking buddy” so that if either of you miss you are covered. Lecture slides will not be available online. It should be noted that the slides are primarily outlines and only represent a portion of the material. Thus, there is value to being in class.

\*Excused Absence policy – This course will follow the University’s policy for excused absences. Absences for medical or personal emergencies will be excused upon verification by the Office of Student Life. You can find an outline of the policy here <http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/policies/student-absence-regulations/> This would apply to illness as well as personal emergencies. Please review this page if you are not familiar with it. In addition, all institute approved absences will honored, which would include university sanctioned function, athletics, etc. when accompanied by the appropriate documentation. Absences resulting from oversleeping, alarms not going off, computer crashes, drink or food specials, lost wallets, lost purses, or dogs eating papers, books, flash drives, etc. will not be considered approved absences.

*Classroom Policies:* Professional behavior will be required of all students at all times. The following behavior is not appropriate: use of cell phones, texting, extraneous conversations, and disrespect toward other students or professor. ***Students engaging in these behaviors may be asked to leave class.*** In addition, no audio or video recording is allowed in class unless approved by the professor in accordance with an accommodation letter.

*Correspondence:* Monday through Friday, I will normally return emails within 24 hours. If you have not received a reply within that time frame, please feel free to email me again. The exception to this is if an email comes in after 5pm on a Friday or if I am traveling. The former will be returned Monday by the latest and the latter will be on a number of factors, which will be identified for you before I travel.

*All policies subject to review by the professor and are subject to change with written notice to the students ahead of time.*

## COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

*Exams (E1-20% Final-20%)*- The exams will test your knowledge of the material covered in lecture, the texts, as well as any supplemental readings. The final exam does have a cumulative section. Exam format will consist of a combination of multiple choice and short answer questions. I anticipate due to the restrictions of this room that these exams will be on Canvas and will thus likely institute anti-cheating/plagiarism/anti-AI technology. I will address this as we move closer to the exam dates.

Group Case Prep and presentation (20%)- Student groups will be assigned responsibility for a case prep (either WWI, WWII, or Cuban Missile Crisis) and will be largely responsible for driving lecture, debate, and discussion during that section of the class. Further details to come as we get closer. The grade will be based on factors that measure group and individual performance as well as peer evaluation. \*\*\*After the Drop add period is over you will be assigned to your groups. These will be the groups that you will work with through the entire semester for cases, discussions, in class group projects etc. through the case presentations.

*Ukraine Analysis paper-* (20%)- We have been watching first-hand how Great Power politics can play out firsthand. This brief but structured paper will be your attempt at analyzing this particular issue and determining what it means. More details to come.

*Reading quizzes and assignments (10%)*. Brief quizzes/assignments that will be conducted at points during the semester to ensure that readings are being done. These can be unannounced and taken at the beginning of class or assigned ahead of time and serve as the basis of a class discussion. You will be able to drop your lowest grade.

*Participation (10% total)*- This will be based partially on attendance, discussions, and in class assignments and group activities.

\*\*\*No late assignments will be accepted unless you meet the University Excused absence policy, or the delay has been pre-arranged with me.

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## GRADING PROCEDURES

A = 100-90; B = 89-80; C = 79-70; D = 69-60; F = 59 and below. Mid-term grades or progress reports will be listed as S = Satisfactory, meaning 70 and above, or U = Unsatisfactory, indicating a grade below 70. ***If you are taking the class Pass/Fail, then the same mid-term grade standard will also be applied for a final grade of "S" = Satisfactory as well.***

***In addition, Canvas will be used only for posting grades and NOT GRADE CALCULATION. Thus, students should not use any calculation made by the system as being representative of their actual grade in the class.***

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## WEEKLY READINGS AND SCHEDULE

This is meant as a guide and students will be notified of any changes. I have attempted to provide a full schedule to provide those who wanted more structure based on their survey results just that. However, it is likely that this schedule will change, be imperfect, and/or be thrown off by the course of events either in our environment or the 'real world'.

### **Course Intro and Levels of Analysis**

August 21– Syllabus and Course Introduction

August 23 – Brief discussion first then Review what Great powers are and the Levels of Analysis

Readings:

*Man, State, and War*- Kenneth N. Waltz (1959) *excerpt*

**Theoretical approaches for Understanding Great Power Relations (likely some review for some of you):**A brief overview of Alternative theories to Great Power:

August 28- Liberalism

Readings:

G. John Ikenberry, "Institutions, Strategic Restraint, and the Persistence of American Postwar Order," *International Security* 23, 3 (Winter 1998/99): 43-78.

August 30 – Liberalism/Constructivism

Readings:

Alexander Wendt, "Anarchy is What States Make of It," *International Organization* (Spring 1992).

### ***September 4- No Classes Labor Day***

September 6-Alternative Approaches continued

September 11– Wrap any Alternative Approaches

Readings:

Mearsheimer Text, pgs. 1-54

September 13– The importance of Realism

Readings:

Mearsheimer Text, pgs. 1-54

September 18 – The importance of Realism

Readings:

Gideon Rose, "Neoclassical Realism and Theories of Foreign Policy," *World Politics*, vol. 51, October 1998, pp. 144-72.

### **Theories of Conflict and Competition**

September 20 – Theories of Great Power Behavior Theories of Conflict and Competition (Revisiting Levels of Analysis)

Readings:

Robert Jervis, "Do Leaders Matter and How Would We Know?" *Security Studies*,

Vol. 22, No. 2 (2012): 153-172.

September 25- Theories of Great Power Behavior Theories of Conflict and Competition (Revisiting Levels of Analysis)

Readings:

Jack S Levy, "Domestic Politics and War," *The Journal of Interdisciplinary History*, Vol. 18, No. 4 (1988): 653-673

September 27 – Theories on Conflict and Competition (Revisiting Levels of Analysis)

Readings:

Mearsheimer Text, pgs. 334-359

Kenneth Waltz, "The Origins of War in Neorealist Theory," *Journal of Interdisciplinary History*. Vol. 18, No. 4 (1988): 615-628

October 2- Wrap Theories of Conflict and Competition

October 4 – Catch up day

October 6 – **Midterm exam**

October 9- ***FALL BREAK no class***

October 11- Great Powers

Readings:

Mearsheimer Text, pgs. 138-67

October 16 - Great Powers

Readings:

Mearsheimer Text, pgs. 55-67, 75-87, 110-137

October 18 – Catch up/case finalization

### **World War I**

October 23 – 25

Readings:

Kagan Text, Chapter 2, pages 81-144, 183-214.

Suggested Readings:

Stephen Van Evera, "Offense Defense Theory and the Outbreak of World War I," in *Causes of War: Power and the Roots of Conflict* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1999): 193-239.

Scott D. Sagan, "1914 Revisited: Allies, Offense and Instability," *International Security* 11, no.2 (1986): 151-175.

Shiping Tang, "The Security Dilemma: A Conceptual Analysis," *Security Studies* 18, no. 3 (2009): 587- 623.

## **World War II**

October 30- November 1

Readings:

Kagan Text- Chapter 4 pgs. 281-417.

Mearsheimer Text, pgs. 172-219, 305-322,

Suggested Reading:

Scott Sagan, "The Origins of the Pacific War," *Journal of Interdisciplinary History*, Vol. 18, No. 4 (1988): 893-922.

Randall Schweller, "Unanswered Threats: A Neoclassical Realist Theory of Underbalancing," *International Security*, Vol. 29, No. 2 (Fall 2004): 159-201.

## **Cold War Diplomacy**

November 6<sup>th</sup> Partial class- Cold War Diplomacy

Readings:

Mearsheimer Text, pgs. 322-329.

November 8<sup>th</sup>- Cold War Diplomacy

Readings

Christopher Layne, "US Grand Strategy and the Soviet Union, 1945-1953," in *The Peace of Illusions: American Grand Strategy from 1940 to the Present* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2006): 51-70.

John Lewis Gaddis, "The Long Peace: Elements of Stability in the Postwar International System," *International Security*, Vol. 10, No. 4 (1986): 99-142

## **Cuban Missile Crisis**

November 13 - November 15 Cuban Missile Crisis

Readings:

Kagan Text, pgs. 437-548.

Suggested Reading:

Graham T. Allison, "Conceptual Models and The Cuban Missile Crisis", *The American Political Science Review*, 63, no.3 (1969): 689-718.

Cuban Missile Archive, Web Link available via Canvas

November 20- The Shift to the Unipolar moment and setting up relations today

Readings:

William C. Wohlforth, "Unipolarity, Status competition, and Great Power War," *World Politics*, Vol. 61, No. 1 (January 2009): 28-57.

Robert Jervis, "Unipolarity: A Structural Perspective," *World Politics*, Vol. 61, No. 1 (January 2009): 188-213.

***Thanksgiving Recess November 22-24***

***Where are we now Ukraine, China, the Future for the US?***

November 27 – December 4

General readings-

Reading:

Mearsheimer Text, pgs. 360-411.

Additional readings to be posted.

***Final exam Friday, Dec 8 11:20-2:10pm***

***Additional Important Dates to keep in mind. Please confirm dates on your own at <https://registrar.gatech.edu/calendar>***

**August 25-** Last day to register, make schedule changes, and/or drop without a "W" grade for Fall Semester 2023 by 4pm.

**October 2-** Midterm progress reports posted

**October 28-** Deadline to change grade mode from Letter/Grade to Pass/Fail (and vice versa) and last day to withdraw from individual courses with "W" grades