

INTA 2120

Introduction to International Security

Georgia Institute of Technology
Fall 2023

Course Information

Monday & Wednesday 9:30 - 10:45 a.m.
Room: Habersham G17

Contact Information

Professor Dalton Lin

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Office Hours: Wednesday 2:00 – 4:00 pm. Please use [Book time with Dalton Lin: Office Hours](#) to make appointments.

Course Description

This course introduces students to a selected list of critical concepts in international security studies to empower students with tools to understand and explain contemporary international security issues. It begins with discussing the idea of “anarchy” and the assumptions and propositions of structural realism to lay the foundation. It then introduces key international security concepts, including the security dilemma, balance of power, alliance politics, deterrence, brinkmanship, the first strike advantage, war and war termination, private information, and the commitment problem. In addition, the course uses the cases of the U.S. Indo-Pacific strategy, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Taiwan Strait tensions, the Ukraine War, gray-zone operations in the South China Sea, cyber and hypersonic weapons, and civil wars for class discussion to illustrate the utility of the learned international security concepts.

Due to time limitations, this course focuses on state-centric, realist discussions of international security. Notably, it does not touch upon liberal, constructivist, or feminist perspectives on international security issues. However, the omission does not imply their insignificance. In addition, this course does not cover several prominent international security topics, including nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction, terrorism, and the weaponization of

emerging technology. Students interested in these topics are encouraged to check out INTA courses offered by Dr. Rachel Whitlark, Dr. Margaret Kosal, Dr. Jenna Jordan, and Dr. Lawrence Rubin.

Course Requirements

Students are expected to attend lectures, complete the assigned readings and assignments, and be proactive in class discussions. The course is also offered remotely via Zoom on Canvas. Therefore, if you feel ill, stay home and don't think you must attend in-person lectures.

Required Reading

The following books are required for the course:

Thomas C. Schelling, *Arms and Influence* (Yale University Press, 1966)

Thomas Christensen, *Worse Than a Monolith: Alliance Politics and Problems of Coercive Diplomacy in Asia* (Princeton University Press, 2011)

Other readings are available on Canvas or through the Georgia Tech Library online resources.

I also encourage students to follow contemporary international security issues by reading international news. Sources of good international coverage include but are not limited to the *New York Times*, *BBC* (<https://www.bbc.com/news>), *Washington Post*, the *Wall Street Journal*, the *Financial Times*, and the *Economist*. Registering through the GT Library's Databases allows you free access to the *New York Times*, the *Wall Street Journal*, and the *Financial Times*. The *BBC* is not behind a paywall. In addition, listening to NPR news (<https://www.npr.org>) is a good alternative.

Requirements and Evaluation

This course runs as a mixture of lectures and seminars that require active and engaged participation. Students enrolled in this course have the following responsibilities:

(1) Submit **one response paper**: The response paper should be single-spaced, 2 pages in length at maximum, with 12-point fonts and 1-inch margins. Each topic will have three papers at most. Students who submit response papers on a topic will lead the topic's discussion.

Here is the list of topics:

- September 11: China's Rise and U.S. Alliances in East Asia
- September 18: U.S. Alliance Commitments in East Asia
- September 25: The Korean War
- September 27: The Vietnam War
- October 2: Strategic Ambiguity or Strategic Clarity on Taiwan
- November 8: China's Gray-zone Operations in the South China Sea
- November 15: Cyber and Hypersonic Weapons
- November 27: The Ukraine War
- December 4: Civil Wars

Response papers are due at 10:00 p.m. the day before the class on that topic. For example, we will discuss "China's Rise and U.S. Alliances in East Asia" on September 11, so your response papers are due September 10 at 10:00 p.m. Please go to our course page on Canvas to submit your response papers, click "Discussions," and post your response papers under the matching topic title.

When writing your response paper, ask yourself: What are the security issues? How are the security issues related to concepts learned in class? What do the concepts learned in class suggest in dealing with the issues? Have the issues' developments validated the concepts learned in class? Why or why not? Then, you lead the discussion in class by raising these questions and inviting your classmates to share their thoughts.

(2) **lead one class discussion** (details in the above point)

(3) complete a **policy memo** on one international security issue

Detailed guidance on writing a policy memo will be provided in class. **The policy memo is your final assignment, due December 8, 2023.**

(4) submit a **discussion handout** for your proposed policy memo topic (no more than one page)

Your discussion handout is due at 9:30 a.m. on the day before your presentation. You should answer the following questions in the handout: What is the security issue? Why does it matter? What interests are at stake, and for whom? The assigned article on September 18, "How Much Risk Should the United States Run in the South China Sea?" by M. Taylor Fravel and Charles L. Glaser, provides an excellent thought structure to guide your research.

(5) proactively **participate in class discussion**

Your participation grade is determined by your policy memo topic presentation, feedback on others' topics, class participation, and Q&A in guest lectures.

(6) One **midterm**: The exam will test students' understanding of the lectures.

Grades will be determined as follows:

- Response paper (10%)
- Discussion leadership (10%)
- Discussion handout (10%)
- Midterm (20%)
- Class participation (25%)
- Policy memo (25%)

Course Procedures

Announcements: Important information about the course will be announced through Canvas. I encourage students to set up receiving notifications from Canvas to avoid missing critical communication (Go to Canvas, then Account, then Notifications, and check Announcement).

Office Hours: I will hold office hours each week. Please use [Book time with Dalton Lin: Office Hours](#) to make appointments. Feel free to email me to set up appointments if the assigned office hours do not accommodate your schedule.

Grade Disputes: Any student may request a grade reevaluation by the professor. The student must accept the revised grade, which may be lower, higher, or the same as the original grade.

Cheating and Plagiarism: Cheating and plagiarism are serious offenses and directly violate the Georgia Tech Academic Honor Code. Plagiarizing is defined by Webster's as "to steal and pass off (the ideas or words of another) as one's own: use (another's production) without crediting the source." If caught cheating or plagiarizing, you will be dealt with according to the GT Academic Honor Code. For any questions involving these or any other Academic Honor Code issues, please consult the professor or www.honor.gatech.edu.

This course is offered by the Ivan Allen College of Liberal Arts. The Ivan Allen College 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 have any concerns about inclusive diversity in this course, please don't hesitate to raise them to the instructor.

Learning Outcomes:

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

Students will be able to use their knowledge of international affairs in a practical way to address issues of immediate international concern.

Students will be able to understand current political events through an analytical lens of major theories of international relations.

*****Note: Syllabus subject to change*****

Schedule

August 21: Introduction

August 23: The Origins of International Security Issues

Discussion:

- Helen Milner, "The Assumption of Anarchy in International Relations Theory: A Critique," *Review of International Studies*, Vol. 17, No. 1 (1991), pp. 67-85.

August 28: Structural Realism

- John Mearsheimer, "Structural Realism," in *International Relations Theories: Discipline and Diversity*, Tim Dunne, Milja Kurki, and Steve Smith, editors (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2006): 71-88. Canvas.

Discussion:

- Jessica L. Weeks, "Strongmen and Straw Men: Authoritarian Regimes and the Initiation of International Conflict," *American Political Science Review* Vol. 106, No. 2: 326-347.

August 30: The Security Dilemma (Lecture)

- Robert Jervis, "Cooperation Under the Security Dilemma," *World Politics* Vol. 30, No. 2 (1978), pp. 167-186.

Discussion:

- Shiping Tang, "The Security Dilemma: A Conceptual Analysis," *Security Studies*, Vol. 18, No. 3 (2009), pp. 587-623.
- David A. Lake, "Escape from the State of Nature: Authority and Hierarchy in World Politics." *International Security*, Vol. 32, No. 1 (2007), pp. 47-79.

September 4: No Class—Labor Day

September 6: Balance of Power and Alliance (Lecture)

- Kenneth Waltz, *Theory of International Politics* (New York: McGraw-Hill Publishing, 1979), Chapter 6: Anarchic Orders and Balance of Power. Canvas.

Discussion:

- Thomas Christensen and Jack Snyder, "Chain Gangs and Passed Bucks: Predicting Alliance Patterns in Multipolarity," *International Organization*, Vol. 44, No. 2 (1990), pp. 137-168.

September 11: Case Study—China's Rise and U.S. Alliances in East Asia

- Kurt M. Campbell and Jake Sullivan, "Competition without Catastrophe: How American Can Both Challenge and Coexist with China," *Foreign Affairs* Vol. 98, No. 5 (September/October 2019), pp. 96-110.
- David Shambaugh, "U.S.-China Rivalry in Southeast Asia: Power Shift or Competitive Coexistence?" *International Security* Vol. 42, No. 4 (2018): 85-127.

September 13: Security Dilemma and Alliance Politics (Lecture)

- Glenn H Snyder, "The Security Dilemma in Alliance Politics," *World Politics* Vol. 36, No. 4 (1984): 461-495.
- Thomas Christensen, *Worse Than a Monolith: Alliance Politics and Problems of Coercive Diplomacy in Asia* (Princeton University Press, 2011), Chapter 1, pp. 1-27.

September 18: Case Study—U.S. Alliance Commitments in East Asia

Discussion:

- Antony J. Blinken, "The Administration's Approach to the People's Republic of China," Speech given at the George Washington University, Washington, D.C., May 26, 2022, <https://www.state.gov/the-administrations-approach-to-the-peoples-republic-of-china/>
- James Crabtree, "Indo-Pacific Dilemmas: The Like-minded and the Non-aligned," *Survival* Vol. 64, No. 6, pp. 23-30.
- M. Taylor Fravel and Charles L. Glaser, "How Much Risk Should the United States Run in the South China Sea?" *International Security* Vol. 47, No. 2 (Fall 2022), pp. 88-134.

September 20: Deterrence (Lecture)

- Thomas C. Schelling, *Arms and Influence* (Yale University Press, 1966), Chapter 2 The Art of Commitment, pp. 35-91.

September 25: Case Study—The Korean War

Discussion:

- Christensen, *Worse than a Monolith*, Chapter 2, 3 and Chapter 4 pp. 109-122.
- Thomas J. Christensen, *Useful Adversaries: Grand Strategy, Domestic Mobilization, and Sino- American Conflict, 1947-1958* (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1996), Chapter 5 pp. 149-176. Canvas.

September 27: Case Study—The Vietnam War

Discussion:

- Christensen, *Worse than a Monolith*, Chapter 5 pp. 157-159, 167-180, and Chapter 6.

October 2: The Debate—Strategic Ambiguity or Strategic Clarity on Taiwan?

Discussion:

- Richard Haass and David Sacks, “American Support for Taiwan Must Be Unambiguous,” *Foreign Affairs*, September 2, 2020. Canvas.
- Bonnie S. Glaswer; Michael J. Mazarr; Michael J. Glennon; Richard Hass and David Sacks, “Dire Straits,” *Foreign Affairs*, September 24, 2020. Canvas.
- Elbridge Colby, “America Can Defend Taiwan,” *Wall Street Journal*, January 26, 2021. Canvas.

For the background of the issue:

- Adam P. Liff and Dalton Lin, “[The ‘One China’ Framework at 50 \(1972–2022\): The Myth of “Consensus” and Its Evolving Policy Significance](#),” *The China Quarterly* Vol. 252, pp. 977-1000.
- Dalton Lin, “[“One China’ and the Cross-Taiwan Strait Commitment Problem](#),” *The China Quarterly* Vol. 252, pp. 1094-1116.

October 4: **MIDTERM**

October 9: No Class—Fall Break

October 11: Visit by the IAEA Recruitment Mission

October 16: What a Good Policy Memo Looks Like

- Discussion and experience sharing with Zane Nolte

October 18: Introduction to Library Resources

- Guest lecture by Jay Forrest, Data and Statistical Analysis Manager Librarian, Georgia Tech Library
- Meet at the library, classroom TBD.

October 23, 25, 30, and November 1: Discussing Policy Memo Proposals

November 6: Brinkmanship (Lecture)

- Schelling, *Arms and Influence*, Chapter 3 The Manipulation of Risk, pp. 92-125.

November 8: Case Study—China’s Gray-zone Operations in the South China Sea

Discussion:

- Andrew Erickson and Ryan Martinson, “War without Gun Smoke: China’s Paranaival Challenge in the Maritime Gray Zone,” in Andrew Erickson and Ryan Martinson (eds.), *China’s Maritime Gray Zone Operations* (Annapolis, MD: Naval Institute Press, 2019). Canvas.
- Bonnie Glaser and Matthew Funaiolo, “South China Sea: Assessing Chinese Paranaival Behavior within the Nine-Dash Line,” in Andrew Erickson and Ryan Martinson (eds.), *China’s Maritime Gray Zone Operations* (Annapolis, MD: Naval Institute Press, 2019). Canvas.
- James R. Holmes and Toshi Yoshihara, “Deterring China in the “Gray Zone”: Lessons of the South China Sea for U.S. Alliances,” *Orbis* Vol. 61, No. 3 (2017), pp. 322-339.
- Andrew Taffer, “State Strategy in Territorial Conflict: A Conceptual Analysis of China’s Strategy in the South China Sea,” *Contemporary Southeast Asia* Vol. 37, No. 1 (2015), pp. 85-108.

November 13: First Strike Advantage (Lecture)

- Schelling, *Arms and Influence*, Chapter 6 The Dynamics of Mutual Alarm, pp. 221-251.

November 15: Case Study—Cyber and Hypersonic Weapons

Discussion:

- Adam N. Stulberg and Lawrence Rubin, “Introduction,” in Adam N. Stulberg and Lawrence Rubin (eds.), *The End of Strategic Stability? Nuclear Weapons and the Challenge of Regional Rivalries* (Georgetown University Press, 2018), pp. 1-20. Canvas.
- Lucas Kello, “The Meaning of the Cyber Revolution: Perils to Theory and Statecraft,” *International Security* Vol. 38, No. 2 (Fall 2013), pp. 7-40.
- Tong Zhao, “Conventional Challenges to Strategic Stability: Chinese Perceptions of Hypersonic Technology and the Security Dilemma,” in Adam N. Stulberg and Lawrence Rubin (eds.), *The End of Strategic Stability? Nuclear Weapons and the Challenge of Regional Rivalries* (Georgetown University Press, 2018), pp. 174-202. Canvas.

November 20: On War and War Termination (Lecture)

- Carl von Clausewitz, *On War*, trans. Michael Howard and Peter Paret (Princeton University Press, 1976), Chapter 1: What is War? pp. 75-89. Canvas.
- H. E. Goemans, *War and Punishment: The Causes of War Termination and the First World War*, Chapter 2: A Theory of War Termination, pp. 19-52. Canvas.

November 22: No Class—Student Recess (Happy Thanksgiving!)

November 27: Case Study—The Ukraine War

Discussion:

- Christopher Blattman, “The Hard Truth About Long Wars: Why the Conflict in Ukraine Won’t End Anytime Soon,” *Foreign Affairs*, November 29, 2022. Canvas
- Tatiana Stanovaya, “Putin’s Apocalyptic End Game in Ukraine,” *Foreign Affairs*, October 6, 2022. Canvas.
- Samuel Charap, “An Unwinnable War: Washington Needs an Endgame in Ukraine,” *Foreign Affairs* Vol. 102, No. 4 (July/August 2023).
- Carter Malkasian, “The Korea Model: Why an Armistice Offers the Best Hope for Peace in Ukraine,” *Foreign Affairs* Vol. 102, No. 4 (July/August 2023).

November 29: Rational Explanation for War--Private Information and the Commitment Problem (Lecture)

- James Fearon, "Rational Explanation for War," *International Organization* Vol. 49, No. 3 (1995), pp. 379-414.

December 4: The Case of Civil Wars

Discussion:

- Barbara F. Walter, "Designing Transitions from Civil War," in Barbara F. Walter and Jack Snyder (eds.), *Civil Wars, Insecurity, and Intervention* (Columbia University Press, 1999), pp. 38-69. Canvas.
- Susan L. Woodward, "Bosnia and Herzegovina: How Not to End Civil War," in Barbara F. Walter and Jack Snyder (eds.), *Civil Wars, Insecurity, and Intervention* (Columbia University Press, 1999), pp. 73-115. Canvas.

Policy Memos are due on Friday, December 8, at 11:59 pm.