

**Sam Nunn School of International Affairs
Georgia Institute of Technology**

INTA 1050 – The World Today

Fall 2024

Time: TuTh 12:30-13:45

Instructor: Dr. Fei-Ling Wang

Email: fw@gatech.edu

Office hours: TuTh 10:30-12:15 & 17:00-18:00 or by appointment

This is a Core IMPACTS course that is part of the Social Sciences area.

Core IMPACTS refers to the core curriculum, which provides students with essential knowledge in foundational academic areas. This course will help students master course content, and support students' broad academic and career goals.

This course should direct students toward a broad Orienting Question:

How do I understand human experiences and connections?

Completion of this course should enable students to meet the following Learning Outcome:

Students will effectively analyze the complexity of human behavior, and how historical, economic, political, social, or geographic relationships develop, persist, or change.

Course content, activities, and exercises in this course should help students develop the following Career-Ready Competencies:

- Intercultural Competence
- Perspective-Taking
- Persuasion

The Course

This course introduces the student to the fascinating world affairs of our time. The student will have the opportunity to learn the basics of international politics, economy and sociocultural life, and develop the skills and experience to understand the context of the mega trends in the world today. A focus is on the major news stories and their historical and political background. It is a lecture-based course but in-class discussions are a critical part.

Moreover, this course seeks to help to understand the political, historical, economic and cultural context of major current world events;

Discuss with confidence current world events with other informed people.

Understand the complexities of world politics and the interwoven nature of major events and issues.

Be able to differentiate between reliable and unreliable sources of news information, as well as the national diversities and variations in our world.

Textbook

McCormick, John. *Introduction to Global Studies*. (2nd Edition). Bloomsbury UK, 2022. (IGS) – available online or at the Georgia Tech Bookstore.

Handout readings will be posted on Canvas

Course Rules

1. Use of technology:

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 during class.

2. Class attendance and participation

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 Sam Nunn School of International Affairs and the Ivan Allen College of Liberal Arts support 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 make 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). 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	300	30
Second Test	300	30
Third Test	300	30
Attendance and Participation	100	10
Total	1,000	100
Extra credit	100	10

The tests will be close book/notes written exams. They will be drawn from all aspects of the class: readings, lectures, and classroom discussions. The instructor will give greater details about them before the first test. The second and third tests are not cumulative.

Extra credit is an optional group research exercise with up to 100 marks. Interested students should organize a group of 3-6 people. Each group then propose a research topic to the instructor by week 6 (9/26). Once approved, the group should conduct a collective research and make an oral presentation of 8-10 minutes, in person or on video, at the end of the semester. Some sample topics are: world demographic trend, the role of weapons of mass destruction, WHO or WTO, climate change or inequality in the world and why it is (or is not) a concern to the US.

Course Schedule

Week 1 - 8/20, 8/22	Introduction: History Reading: IGS Chapter 1
Week 2 – 8/27, 8/29	People and Resources Reading: IGS Chapter 2
Week 3 – 9/3, 9/5	Science and Technology Reading: IGS Chapter 3
Week 4 – 9/10, 9/12	State and Government Reading: IGS Chapter 4
Week 5 – 9/17 9/19	No class – self-study for the test First Test

Week 6 – 9/24, 9/26	Identity and Culture: Who Are We? Reading: IGS Chapter 5
Week 7 – 10/1, 10/3	Law and International Organizations Reading: IGS Chapter 6
Week 8 – 10/8, 10/10	Human rights Reading: IGS Chapter 7
Week 9 – 10/15 10/17	No class – Enjoy the Fall Break War, Peace and Security Reading: IGS Chapter 8
Week 10 – 10/22 10/24	It’s the Economy Reading: IGS Chapter 9 Second Test
Week 11 – 10/29, 10/31	Trade and Investment Reading: IGS Chapter 10
Week 12 – 11/5, 11/7	Migration and Refugees Reading: IGS Chapter 11
Week 13 – 11/12, 11/14	Health and Disease Reading: IGS Chapter 12
Week 14 – 11/19 11/21	The Environment Reading: IGS Chapter 13 Third Test
Week 15 – 11/26 11/28	The Mega Trends and the Future Reading: Handout No class – Happy Thanksgiving
Week 16 – 12/3	Review and Presentations