

**Georgia Institute of Technology**  
The Sam Nunn School of International Affairs  
Spring 2025

## **INTA 1110. Introduction to International Relations**

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Instructor: Dr. Fei-Ling Wang  
TA: Mr. Brandon Latimer  
Time: TuTh 14:00-15:15  
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### **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.

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

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

- Intercultural Competence
- Perspective-Taking
- Persuasion

### **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](mailto: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](http://policylibrary.gatech.edu/student-affairs/academic-honor-code); [catalog.gatech.edu/rules/18/](http://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.

## AI Policy

Generative AI agents offer additional opportunities for learning, research and communication. It is therefore allowed in this class as long as the GT Honor Code and the guidelines below are met.

*Responsibility:* you are responsible for the work submitted/presented, and ensure that any factual statements produced by a generative AI tool are true and that any references or citations produced by the AI tool are correct.

*Transparency:* Any generative AI tools you use in the group presentation of the course should be clearly acknowledged, including not only content directly produced by a generative AI tool but also when a generative AI tool is used in the process of composition and translation.

*Documentation:* You should cite any content generated by an AI tool as you would when quoting, paraphrasing, or summarizing ideas, text, images, or other content made by other people.

## 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.

## Course Materials

Jon Pevehouse and Joshua Goldstein, *International Relations* - 14th Edition. Pearson Education, 2024. ISBN-13: 9780136901549. E-version/rental: ISBN 9780136901457.

In GT Bookstore; Or online access at: <https://www.pearson.com/en-us/subject-catalog/p/international-relations/P200000010704/9780138118914>

Additional readings posted on Canvas.

## Course Outline

<b>Week 1</b>	<b>(1/7, 1/9)</b>	<b>Class Orientation: The World and World Politics</b> Pevehouse and Goldstein Chapter 1: 1.1
<b>Week 2</b>	<b>(1/14, 1/16)</b>	<b>The Field of International Relations</b> “Theories” on Canvas; Pevehouse and Goldstein Chapter 1: 1.2-1.3
<b>Week 3</b>	<b>(1/21, 1/23)</b>	<b>From Westphalia to United Nations</b> “History” on Canvas; Pevehouse and Goldstein Chapter 1: 1.4
<b>Week 4</b>	<b>(1/28, 1/30)</b>	<b>Realism, Liberalism and Social Theories</b> Pevehouse and Goldstein Chapters 2 & 3 <b>Group Presentation Topic due</b>
<b>Week 5</b>	<b>2/4</b>	<b>Foreign Policy</b> Pevehouse and Goldstein Chapter 4
	<b>2/6</b>	<b>First Test</b>
<b>Week 6</b>	<b>(2/11, 2/13)</b>	<b>Conflict, War, and Terrorism</b> Pevehouse and Goldstein Chapters 5 & 6

<b>Week 7</b>	<b>(2/18, 2/20)</b>	<b>International Law and Human Rights</b> Pevehouse and Goldstein Chapter 7
<b>Week 8</b>	<b>(2/25, 2/27)</b>	<b>Trade and Protectionism</b> Pevehouse and Goldstein Chapter 8
<b>Week 9</b>	<b>(3/4, 3/6)</b>	<b>Global Financial System</b> Pevehouse and Goldstein Chapter 9
<b>Week 10</b>	<b>3/11</b> <b>3/13</b>	<b>Second Test</b> <b>International Integration</b> Pevehouse and Goldstein Chapter 10
<b>Week 11</b>	<b>(3/18, 3/20)</b>	<b>No class - enjoy Spring Break</b>
<b>Week 12</b>	<b>(3/25, 3/27)</b>	<b>Population, Environment, and Technology</b> Pevehouse and Goldstein Chapter 11
<b>Week 13</b>	<b>(4/1, 4/3)</b>	<b>North-South Gap</b> Pevehouse and Goldstein Chapter 12
<b>Week 14</b>	<b>(4/8/4/10)</b>	<b>International Development</b> Pevehouse and Goldstein Chapter 13
<b>Week 15</b>	<b>4/15</b> <b>4/17</b>	<b>Third Test</b> <b>Group Presentation I</b>
<b>Week 16</b>	<b>4/22</b>	<b>Group Presentation II</b>