

**Sam Nunn School of International Affairs
Georgia Institute of Technology
INTA 1050 – The World Today**

Spring 2025

Time: Tu-Th 2-3:15, Instructional Center 211

Instructor: Dr. Kirk Bowman • TA: Selena Lin

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Office hours: Thursdays 1-1:50 in Student Center near Blue Donkey Coffee and 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, and Persuasion.

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. Since a course or equivalent on US politics is a State of Georgia separate requirement, the foci of the course will be on the rest of the globe. 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.

Textbooks

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

The Economist—available for **free** from the GT Library: log in to library.gt.edu > search “the economist” on home page > under “journals” select “economist (London, England, 1843)” > click “Weekly edition.” *The Economist* is a liberal British weekly magazine founded in 1843. It is “liberal” in the true definition of the word and would be most like libertarian in the United States. The journalism is exceptional as is the coverage of the globe, politics, technology, and current events. Every Monday the instructor will put a list in the “files” tab of Canvas for the required readings for the following Thursday. We encourage you to read the entire magazine, especially the letters to the editor and the obituary, but readings beyond the specifically assigned are not required for the exams.

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. There are no screens of any kind allowed in this class. If you need to use your laptop, I-pad, or cellphone, feel free to leave class. You are adults and can come and go or attend as you please.

2. Class attendance and participation

Participation is welcome, and attendance is encouraged. The three exams will include a lot of material only covered in class. We will not post slides or notes from class. If you can’t attend class regularly, you should either consider dropping the course or having a friend that you trust to share notes.

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

First Test: 30%

Second Test: 30% (the second exam is not cumulative)

Third Test: 40% (This is the final and there will be some major themes and events that will be cumulative.

Extra credit: You can earn up to 5 extra credit points (5% of final grade) by attending events on campus, signing in at the event, and submitting a 2 paragraphs response within 7 days of the event (no exceptions). We will announce events in class. Let us know if you learn of an event that you want included in the announcements.

Marks (%)

90% and above = A

80% to 89.999% = B

70% to 79.999% = C

60% to 69.999% = D

Below 60% = fail

The exams 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 is not cumulative.

January 7: Introduction

January 9: Economist readings

January 14: IGS: The Rise of the Global System

January 16: Economist readings

January 21: IGS: Population and Resources

January 23: Economist readings

January 28: IGS: Science and Technology

January 30: Economist readings

February 4: IGS: States & Governments

February 6: Economist readings

February 11: IGS: Identity & Culture

February 13: Economist readings

February 18: IGS: Global Governance

February 20: Economist readings

February 25: IGS: Human Rights

February 27: Economist readings

March 4: IGS: War, Peace & Security

March 6: Economist readings

March 11: IGS: The Global Economy: 2 extra credit opportunities

March 13: Economist readings

March 18: Spring Break

March 20: Spring Break

March 25: IGS: Trade

March 27: Economist readings

April 1: IGS: Migration

April 3: Economist readings

April 8: IGS: Health and Disease

April 10: Economist readings

April 15: IGS: The Global Environment

April 17: Economist readings

April 22: Last Day of Class

April 29, 2:40 to 5:30: Final Exam