

Georgia Institute of Technology
The Sam Nunn School of International Affairs
Fall 2017

INTA 1110-B. Introduction to International Relations **(For INTA majors)**

Instructor: Dr. Fei-Ling Wang
Time: MW15:00-16:15
Office Hours: MW 12:00-15:00 or by appointment.
Office: 214, Habersham House (894-1904);
E-mail: fw@gatech.edu

Course Description

This introduction course is designed to be a gateway to the fascinating world of international relations for the INTA majors. 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 on the field.

An effort of following the current events of world politics is strongly encouraged. Publications such as *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, and *The Economist* as well as the web-based news services such as CNN are good sources of information.

Course Requirements.

Requirement	Marks	(%)
First Test	300	30
Second Test	300	30
Participation/Attendance	200	20
Group project	200	20
Total	1,000	100

The two tests will be in-class and close book/notes written exams primarily in multiple-choice and short-essay format. The tests will be drawn from all aspects of the class: readings, lectures, and classroom discussions.

Participation/attendance is the instructor portion of your grade. It 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 two unexcused absences 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? What is globalization? How to understand international terrorism?

The written paper should be 7-8 pages long, double-spaced, excluding bibliography. The in-class oral presentation should be 20 minutes including a five-minute Q&A session. 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.

Learning Outcomes

Student will demonstrate the ability to describe the social, political, and economic forces that influence social behavior and 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.

Student will have cultural, contextual and ethical awareness of the diversity of cultural and ethical systems in the world.

GT Honor Code

This class strictly observes the Georgia Tech Honor Code and does not tolerate any form of plagiarism, defined as “to steal and pass off the ideas or words of another’s as one’s own or use another’s production without crediting the source.” For questions involving these or any other Academic Honor Code issues, please consult me or visit www.honor.gatech.edu/plugins/content/index.php?id=9.

For contact information of ADAPTS, see www.adapts.gatech.edu.

Course Materials

(Books are available for purchase online or at GT Bookstore).

Robert J. Art & Robert Jervis: *International Politics: Enduring Concepts and Contemporary Issues*, 13th edition, Pearson, 2017. (Art & Jervis)

Joseph S. Nye, Jr. & David A. Welch: *Understanding Global Conflict and Cooperation: An Introduction to Theory and History*, 10th edition, Pearson, 2017. (Nye & Welch)

Additional readings will be handed out in class or posted on T-Square.

Course Outline

Week 1 **(8/21, 8/23)** **Class Orientation: The World and World Politics**

Nye & Welch 1-38; Art & Jervis 1-9

- Week 2** (8/28, 8/30) **The Field of International Relations**
Nye & Welch 39-80; Art & Jervis 10-47
- Week 3** (9/4) **No class – Happy Labor Day!**
(9/6) **From Westphalia to United Nations**
Nye & Welch 81-145
- Week 4** (9/11, 9/13) **The Cold War and Its Aftermath**
Nye & Welch 146-230
- Week 5** (9/18, 9/20) **IPA and Its Mitigation**
Art & Jervis 48-188
- Week 6** (9/25) **No Class – Study Session**
(9/27) **First Test**
- Week 7** (10/2, 10/4) **Power and Force**
Art & Jervis 190-274
- Week 8** (10/9) **No Class – Enjoy the Fall Recess**
(10/11) **IPE**
Art & Jervis 275-313
- Week 9** (10/16, 10/18) **Globalization**
Nye & Welch 298-326; Art & Jervis 314-342, 500-510
- Week 10** (10/23, 10/25) **Flashpoints**
Nye & Welch 231-297; Wang Chapter 7 (handout)
- Week 11** (10/30, 11/1) **The Information Revolution**
Nye & Welch 328-345;
Westcott 1-19; Hocking & Mellissen 5-7 (skim the rest)
- Week 12** (11/6, 11/8) **Conflicts, Civil Wars, and Terrorism**
Art & Jervis 369-453
- Week 13** (11/13, 11/15) **Transnational Issues and Actors**
Nye & Welch 346-358; Art & Jervis 314-342
- Week 14** (11/20) **The Future of International Relations**
Nye & Welch 359-393; Art & Jervis 512-571
(11/22) **No Class – Happy Thanksgiving**
- Week 15** (11/27) **Second Test**
(11/29) **Group Presentations - I**
- Week 16** (12/4) **Group Presentations - II**