

INTL 4770: Special Topics: Geostrategic Competition in the Arctic

Fall 2023 (CRN 56918)

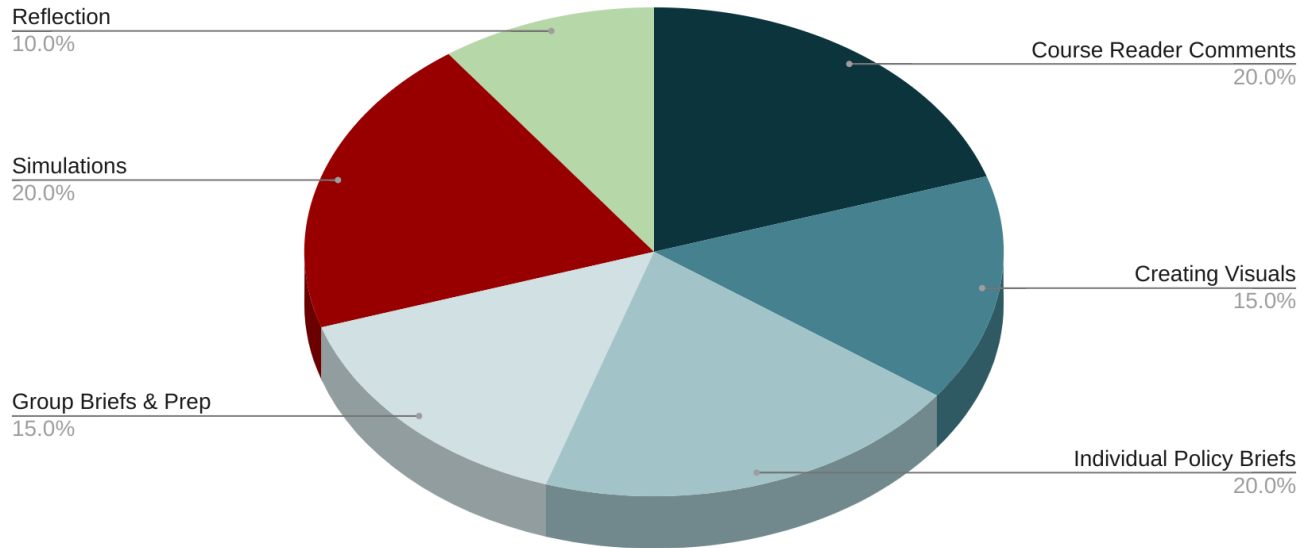
Course Logistics	
Instructor	Dr. Leah Carmichael (she/her)
Peer Learning Assistants (PLAs)	Austin Fabritius & Hannah Kesner
Time & Place	Tues & Thursdays: 9:45 to 10:50 am, Journalism Building 514,
Email & Office Hours	If you have any questions throughout the course, please contact your instructor at leahlang@uga.edu. Please use appropriate salutations (e.g., Dear Dr. Carmichael). Also, please write the email from your UGA email account. She will check her email daily and will typically return your email within two business days (excluding weekends).

Course Description & Student Learning Outcomes	
<p>As the Arctic Ocean becomes increasingly accessible due to the impacts of climate change, the strategic competition for territory and resources in the region will become a primary focus in 21st-century global power politics. What was once a region relatively isolated from geostrategic economic and security concerns, this region is now a central focus for states seeking more efficient shipping routes and wishing to extract vast amounts of natural resources (e.g., oil, natural gas, seafood, and minerals, including rare earth elements). This course will delve into multi-layered issues affecting key actors within the Arctic region and ultimately ask students to make an informed prediction about how this region will be impacted over the next several decades. Upon completion of this course, students will be able to...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ identify the main ideas from the course materials, evaluate the strength of the evidence presented in the material, determine whether any information is missing or incorrect, and begin to generate additional material to be included in future versions of the reading materials. ➤ create visual representations of the course material to organize what they know about the actors and key events mentioned in the course material, to analyze the material for main ideas and supporting evidence, and to make inferences about the strategic motivations of different actors. ➤ write original policy briefs that analyze the key problems facing their assigned actor, evaluate the actor's previous motivations, and recommend the best future strategic choice for their assigned actor based on a cost-benefit analysis. ➤ work collaboratively with peers to evaluate their policy brief draft. In doing so, they will analyze areas in which ideas converge with or diverge from those of their peers, determine collaboratively which components are strongest, and ultimately generate an ideal version of the policy brief that uses the best components from each group member's original policy draft. ➤ prepare and present information within a political simulation (either orally, visually, or via written format) in a manner that is appropriate, relevant, and compelling to other actors. ➤ work collaboratively with others within the simulation to effectively achieve personal goals and consider the best option for all or most other actors involved. ➤ reflect on the development of their skills, the group dynamics within the simulation, and how the simulation compared to real-world events that unfolded in the Arctic. 	

INTL 4770: Special Topics: Geostrategic Competition in the Arctic

Fall 2023 (CRN 56918)

Assignments



Course Reader Comments Assignments (20%) [Outside of Class]

- **Purpose:** The purpose of these assignments is for students to be able to identify the main ideas from the course materials, evaluate the strength of the evidence presented in the material, determine whether any information is missing or incorrect, and begin to generate additional material to be included in future versions of the reading materials.
- **Process:** At the beginning of each module, every student will be asked to review the course materials outside of class before the first class period. When reading the material, students will be asked to identify the main ideas in at least three paragraphs, evaluate both the strongest and weakest evidence to support these main ideas, identify any areas where information is confusing or incorrect, articulate any lasting questions, and begin to generate additional material that may be included in future versions of the reading materials. To complete this assignment, students will navigate to the relevant course reader for each module on eLC, review instructions, and insert comments directly within the pdf of each course reader on eLC. Please see the submission deadlines below.
- **Grading:** These assignments will be graded via an analytic rubric. These assignments comprise twenty percent of your overall grade (or approximately 3.33% each).

INTL 4770: Special Topics: Geostrategic Competition in the Arctic

Fall 2023 (CRN 56918)

Assignments (continued)

Creating Visuals, Gallery Walks, & Peer Feedback (15%) [In-Class]

- **Purpose:** The purpose of this assignment is for students to create visual representations of the course material to organize what they know about the actors and key events mentioned in the course material, to analyze the material for main ideas and supporting evidence, and to make inferences about the strategic motivations of different actors. It also encourages students to collaborate with peers toward an end goal, make formal presentations, and practice giving constructive feedback to peers.
- **Process:** During the first class of the module, students will work in pairs or small groups to create visuals (e.g., main idea organizers, timelines, concept maps, etc.) using templates provided in class. Visuals will be created in the first part of the class period. In the second part of the class period, students will give presentations on the visuals and garner feedback from their peers. To complete this assignment, students will determine their small groups, select which template they want to use, and create a visual representation of the material. When students have finalized their visuals, they will take turns presenting their visual representations to the class while students in the audience complete a peer feedback form to share their perspectives on the content included in the visual and the presentation. Any work submitted will be done so via eLC. Please see the submission deadlines below.
- **Grading:** These assignments will be graded via a holistic rubric. These assignments comprise fifteen percent of your overall grade (or approximately 2.5% each).

INTL 4770: Special Topics: Geostrategic Competition in the Arctic

Fall 2023 (CRN 56918)

Assignments (continued)

Policy Briefs (20%) [Outside of Class]

- **Purpose:** Students will practice creating brief yet thorough policy briefs that analyze the key problems facing their assigned actor, evaluate the actor's previous motivations, and recommend the best future strategic choice for their assigned actor based on a cost-benefit analysis. This writing format and analysis will be extremely useful for future careers in International Affairs.
- **Assignment:** During each module, every student will be asked to assume the role of a real-world actor within a political simulation exercise. These actors and the events in the simulation will be closely based on the actors and events within the course material. Once every student has chosen their role for the simulation, they will be tasked with drafting an original policy brief that analyses the information from the course material to identify key problems facing their assigned actor, to reflect on the previous actions and possible motivations of their actor, and to offer three to five strategic choices their actor can take within the simulation, highlighting the likely results of such actions, the overall cost and benefits, and finally ranking each strategy from best to worst for their actor's best interest.
- **Process:** To complete this assignment, students will make a copy of a policy brief template provided, complete the relevant sections outside of class, and submit these assignments as a pdf on eLC. Please see the submission deadlines below.
- **Grading:** These assignments will be graded via an analytic rubric. These assignments comprise twenty percent of your overall grade (or approximately 3.33% each).

INTL 4770: Special Topics: Geostrategic Competition in the Arctic

Fall 2023 (CRN 56918)

Assignments (continued)

Converging Policy Briefs & Simulation Prep (15%) [Both In & Out of Class]

- **Purpose:** Students will be able to work collaboratively with peers to evaluate their policy brief draft. In doing so, they will analyze areas in which ideas converge with or diverge from those of their peers, determine collaboratively which components are strongest, and ultimately generate an ideal version of the policy brief that uses the best components from each group member's original policy draft. Once the briefs are finalized, students will plan and prepare materials for the simulation (e.g., speeches, draft agreements, etc.) that are highly quality, engaging, and compelling to other actors.
- **Process:** During the second class of each module, students who have agreed to be the same actor in the political simulation exercise will work together to merge their policy briefs into an ideal form for their group's course of action during the simulation and plan their steps to prepare for the simulation. To do so, students will begin in pairs or small groups (e.g., three members), working to analyze where their ideas within their policy briefs converge with or diverge from their partner's. They will conclude which components are strongest and which components should be included in a group-level writing project. Next, each pair will converge with another pair or small group to determine the strongest components, consolidate ideas, and ultimately arrive at a strong group-level policy brief. Finally, groups will organize their roles and prepare their agreed-upon simulation materials outside of class to prepare for the simulation (which takes place on the third day of each module). Any work submitted will be done so via eLC. Please see the submission deadlines below.
- **Grading:** These assignments will be graded via holistic rubrics (here) and comprise ten percent of your overall grade (or approximately 2.5% each).

INTL 4770: Special Topics: Geostrategic Competition in the Arctic

Fall 2023 (CRN 56918)

Assignments (continued)

Simulation Participation (20%) [In-Class]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Purpose: Students will be able to work collaboratively with others within the simulation to effectively achieve personal goals and consider the best option for all or most other actors involved. ➤ Assignment: During the third class of each module (and often part of the fourth class), students will participate in a political simulation acting within the constraints of their assigned role. To be successful in a political simulation, students should be present and actively contribute to the simulation (e.g., participate in one-on-one or group negotiations, give speeches, draft agreements, etc.). Finally, students' actions within the simulation should align with the likely actions of their real-world counterparts. Any work submitted will be done so via eLC. Please see the submission deadlines below. ➤ Grading: These assignments will be graded via an analytic rubric. These assignments comprise twenty percent of your overall grade (or approximately 3.33% each).
---	--

Assignments (continued)

Reflection (10%) [In-Class]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Purpose: Reflection assignments in this course will help students contemplate their growth in the course and the deep challenges facing people in the Arctic. In these assignments, students will be able to consider how their skills develop throughout the semester, how they contribute to small-group and class dynamics, and how the simulation compares to real-world events that unfolded in the Arctic. ➤ Process: During the fourth class for each substantive module (i.e., two through seven), students will provide reflection responses either individually, in small groups, and/or as a whole class via templates. Any work submitted will be done so via eLC. Please see the submission deadlines below. ➤ Grading: These assignments will be graded via a holistic rubric. These assignments comprise ten percent of your overall grade (or approximately 1.67% each).
---	---

Grading Scale

94 to 100 = A	82 to 87.99 = B	72 to 77.99 = C	There is no rounding of your grade.
90 to 93.99 = A-	80 to 81.99 = B-	70 to 71.99 = C-	
88 to 89.99 = B+	78 to 79.99 = C+	60 to 69.99 = D	

INTL 4770: Special Topics: Geostrategic Competition in the Arctic

Fall 2023 (CRN 56918)

Additional Policies

General Respect & Participation

We will all work to be great citizens in this course. Here are just a few ways we will achieve this (and we may add more as we evolve in our expectations of each other):

- We will be respectful and actively engaged with each other and the ideas presented by others. Both personally and professionally, I value open discourse across the political spectrum. If you feel that anyone is not allowing you to express well-informed political opinions at any time, please feel free to communicate with me.
- We will all work to ensure that our contributions to the class discussion improve (rather than detract from) the quality of the course. Active engagement is prized, but we will not tolerate discourse that is meant to quiet others. Instead, we will work toward discussions that seek to value all contributions.
- Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important when dealing with differences in race, culture, religion, politics, sexual orientation, gender, gender variance, and nationalities.
- Class rosters are provided to the instructor with the student's legal name. I am eager to address you by your preferred name and/or gender pronoun. Please advise me of this preference early in the semester so I may make appropriate changes to my records.
- All students must demonstrate academic integrity in all parts of the course. Any cases of academic dishonesty will be dealt with according to the University's guidelines. Being unfamiliar with the academic honesty policy is not a reasonable explanation for a violation. The University's policy and procedures for handling cases of suspected dishonesty can be found at www.uga.edu/ovpi.
- Without written authorization from the UGA Disability Resource Center, students may not make a visual or audio recording of any aspect of this course unless the instructor has agreed via email. Students who have a recording accommodation agree in writing that they: will use the records only for personal academic use during the specific course, understand that faculty members have a copyright interest in their class lectures and that they agree not to infringe on this right in any way, understand that the faculty member and students in the class have privacy rights and agree not to violate those rights by using recordings for any reason other than their own personal study, will not release, digitally upload, broadcast, transcribe, or otherwise share all or any part of the recordings. They also agree that they will not profit financially and will not allow others to benefit personally or financially from lecture recordings or other course materials, they will erase/delete all recordings at the end of the semester, and they understand that violation of these terms may subject them to discipline under the Student Code of Conduct or subject them to liability under copyright laws.

INTL 4770: Special Topics: Geostrategic Competition in the Arctic

Fall 2023 (CRN 56918)

Additional Policies (continued)

Learning Accommodation Policy

UGA is committed to the success of all learners and strives to create an inclusive and accessible course environment to ensure such success. In collaboration with the [Disability Resource Center](#), the instructor will work with students to access the accommodations and academic support they need to excel. For example, all videos and audio will include captions or transcriptions. For more information, please contact the instructor directly (leahlang@uga.edu) or the Disability Resource Center at (706) 542-8719, TTY only phone at (706) 542-8778, or visit their website at www.drc.uga.edu.

Federal Family Educational Rights & Privacy Act (FERPA)

The Federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) grants students certain information privacy rights. For more detail, please visit the registrar's relevant webpage: www.apps.reg.uga.edu/FERPA/.

Additional Student Resources

UGA has resources to support students facing various challenges. Please do not hesitate to contact me or these resources directly.

- Office of Student Care & Outreach (coordinate assistance for students experiencing hardship/unforeseen circumstances) – 706-542-7774 or by email sco@uga.edu
- Counseling and Psychiatric Services (CAPS) - 706-542-2273 (during regular business hours) After Hour Mental Health Crisis: 706-542-2200 (UGA Police—ask to speak to the CAPS on-call clinician)
- Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention – 706-542-SAFE (The advocates at RSVP can provide student confidentiality). Please be aware that UGA faculty and staff must report any knowledge of sexual assault/relationship violence to UGA's equal opportunity office.
- Other Mental Health and Wellness Resources: UGA has several resources for a student seeking mental health services (<https://www.uhs.uga.edu/bewelluga/bewelluga>) or crisis support (<https://www.uhs.uga.edu/info/emergencies>). If you need help managing stress anxiety, relationships, etc., please visit BeWellUGA (<https://www.uhs.uga.edu/bewelluga/bewelluga>) for a list of FREE workshops, classes, mentoring, and health coaching led by licensed clinicians and health educators in the University Health Center. Additional resources can be accessed through the UGA App.

INTL 4770: Special Topics: Geostrategic Competition in the Arctic

Fall 2023 (CRN 56918)

Module One: Welcome!	
Thursday 8.18.23	Welcome & Introductions
Tuesday 8.22.23	Arctic Changes Overview
Thursday 8.24.23	Skills & Content Overview
Module Two: Indigenous Populations & State Expansion	
Tuesday 8.29.23	Course Reader Comments Assignment due before 9:15 AM
	In-Class: Creating Visuals, Gallery Walks, & Peer Feedback
Thursday 8.31.23	Policy Brief Assignment due before 9:15 AM
	In-Class: Converging Policy Briefs & Simulation Prep
Tuesday 9.5.23	Simulation Prep Materials due before 9:15 AM
	In-Class: Political Simulation
Thursday 9.7.23	Simulation Prep Materials due before 9:15 AM
	In-Class: Political Simulation Final Vote & Reflection
Module Three: Cold War Period & Chilling Arctic Tensions	
Tuesday 9.12.23	Course Reader Comments Assignment due before 9:15 AM
	In-Class: Creating Visuals, Gallery Walks, & Peer Feedback
Thursday 9.14.23	Policy Brief Assignment due before 9:15 AM
	In-Class: Converging Policy Briefs & Simulation Prep
Tuesday 9.19.23	Simulation Prep Materials due before 9:15 AM
	In-Class: Political Simulation
Thursday 9.21.23	Simulation Prep Materials due before 9:15 AM
	In-Class: Political Simulation Final Vote & Reflection
Module Four: Cold War & the Est. of the Arctic Council	
Tuesday 9.26.23	Course Reader Comments Assignment due before 9:15 AM
	In-Class: Creating Visuals, Gallery Walks, & Peer Feedback
Thursday 9.28.23	Policy Brief Assignment due before 9:15 AM
	In-Class: Converging Policy Briefs & Simulation Prep
Tuesday 10.3.23	Simulation Prep Materials due before 9:15 AM
	In-Class: Political Simulation
Thursday 10.5.23	Simulation Prep Materials due before 9:15 AM
	In-Class: Political Simulation Final Vote & Reflection

INTL 4770: Special Topics: Geostrategic Competition in the Arctic

Fall 2023 (CRN 56918)

Module Five: Russian Revisionism	
Tuesday 10.10.23	Course Reader Comments Assignment due before 9:15 AM
	In-Class: Creating Visuals, Gallery Walks, & Peer Feedback
Thursday 10.12.23	Policy Brief Assignment due before 9:15 AM
	In-Class: Converging Policy Briefs & Simulation Prep
Tuesday 10.17.23	Simulation Prep Materials due before 9:15 AM
	In-Class: Political Simulation
Thursday 10.19.23	Simulation Prep Materials due before 9:15 AM
	In-Class: Political Simulation Final Vote & Reflection
Module Six: China's "Near-Arctic" Status	
Tuesday 10.24.23	Course Reader Comments Assignment due before 9:15 AM
	In-Class: Creating Visuals, Gallery Walks, & Peer Feedback
Thursday 10.26.23	Policy Brief Assignment due before 9:15 AM
	In-Class: Converging Policy Briefs & Simulation Prep
Tuesday 10.31.23	Simulation Prep Materials due before 9:15 AM
	In-Class: Political Simulation
Thursday 11.2.23	Simulation Prep Materials due before 9:15 AM
	In-Class: Political Simulation Final Vote & Reflection
Module Seven: The Future of the Arctic?	
Tuesday 11.7.23	Course Reader Comments Assignment due before 9:15 AM
	In-Class: Creating Visuals, Gallery Walks, & Peer Feedback
Thursday 11.9.23	Policy Brief Assignment due before 9:15 AM
	In-Class: Converging Policy Briefs & Simulation Prep
Tuesday 11.14.23	Simulation Prep Materials due before 9:15 AM
	In-Class: Political Simulation
Thursday 11.16.23	Simulation Prep Materials due before 9:15 AM
	In-Class: Political Simulation Final Vote & Reflection