

## **INTL 3200: Introduction to International Relations**

### **University of Georgia, Department of International Affairs**

Course Instructor: Dr. William Acosta

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Meeting Time: MWF 8:00-8:50 in Candler 214

Office Hours by appointment in-person Candler Hall 216 or Zoom

### **Course Overview**

No nation exists in isolation. In the globalized world of the 21st century, the decisions and actions of one state or international actor can have consequences that shape the political realities of peoples thousands of miles away. The study of international relations helps us understand how these actors, their preferences, and their institutions interact to produce the political outcomes we see in the world. While the field of IR seeks to answer many questions, I believe all of them can be divided into two main questions: “When do states go to war?” and “When do states cooperate?”

This course is designed to explore these two questions, and to help students build a foundational understanding so they can answer them. We will focus on scientific explanations for war, terrorism, political economy, human rights, and environmental protection to understand how states cooperate and how they clash. This course is divided into four primary sections (1) the foundation of international relations, (2) understanding conflict, (3), understanding international political economy, and (4) understanding contemporary issues of world politics. At the end of this course, you will be prepared for upper-level courses on each of these topics.

### **Required Text and Readings**

The textbook required for this course is *Foundations of International Relations*, edited by Stephen McGlinchey. It is available for free through the University of Georgia library.

There will also be assigned readings throughout the semester that will be provided in advance via eLC. You will also be required to keep up with current events as we will often be discussing how the theoretical concepts, we discuss in class relate to current events.

### Grading

Your final course grade will be determined by the following assessments:

#### Exams (50%)

There will be two exams in this course. Lectures and class discussions are intended to supplement the readings. Exams will draw primarily from the readings. The exams are not cumulative. Please note the dates of midterm and final exams.

#### Quizzes (10%)

There will be five quizzes throughout the semester.

#### Participation (10%)

Simply showing up to class is not enough to earn a high participation grade. I expect you to play an active role in class discussions. I will also take regular attendance, and I hope to learn all your names. I will also post discussion questions on eLC at the end of each week in preparation for next week. These discussion questions are intended to serve as a guide for our discussion. I encourage you to develop your own questions and post them on eLC or bring them up in class.

This is a recommendation not a requirement.

**If you do not feel well, do not come to class!** Unfortunately, COVID is making a comeback with cases in GA higher than the national average. If you feel sick, please let me know and I will provide accommodation.

## Final Project (30%)

After the Midterm, I will provide you with a prompt for your final project. The simplest form of this project could be a 5–7 page paper, but if you would like to do something else, such as a podcase, video essay, photography project, or other creative endeavor, I will allow you to do so. If you choose an option other than a paper, your project can be collaborative, as long as the nature and necessity of the proposal is fully expressed in your proposal. For example, podcasts work better with more than one person. I will provide a document with full instructions after the Midterm.

## Grade Distribution

- A+ = 97-100
- A = 90-96
- B+ = 87-89
- B = 80-86
- C+ = 77-79
- C = 70-76
- D+ = 67-69
- D = 60-66
- F= 0-59

## Policies and Resources

### Rules for Writing

When writing papers for this class, you should follow these rules. Failure to do so could result in a reduction of your grade.

- All papers should be double-spaced and in 12-point font, printed on pages with 1” margins all around.
- Title pages, graphs, tables, figures, references, appendices, etc. do not count toward your paper’s length.
- You are required to use the American Political Science Association (APSA) style format for your papers. The full style guide can be found on our class’s eLC page.

## **Cell Phones and Other Noise-Making Devices**

All cell phones and other devices that make noise must be turned off or put on silent/vibrate upon entering the classroom. Repeated unnecessary disruptions of class caused by such devices may negatively affect a student's grade

## **Academic Honesty**

As a University of Georgia student, you are expected to adhere to the University's academic honesty policy, "A Culture of Honesty," and the Student Honor Code. All academic work must comply with the standards outlined in "A Culture of Honesty," which can be found at: [www.uga.edu/honesty](http://www.uga.edu/honesty). Ignorance of the academic honesty policy is not an acceptable excuse for violations. If you have questions related to course assignments or the academic honesty policy, please direct them to the instructor. Any student caught cheating or plagiarizing will be referred to Judicial Affairs, as mandated by university policy.

The most common issue of academic dishonesty encountered is plagiarism. Plagiarism involves copying from any source material, whether direct quotations or paraphrased ideas, published or unpublished without giving proper credit. To avoid plagiarism, always ensure that you properly cite all sources used in your work.

The use of artificial intelligence in this course is prohibited. While AI can be a useful tool, I believe you will be better off developing your own writing skills than supplementing it with artificial intelligence. Unauthorized use of artificial intelligence is a violation of UGA's Culture of Honesty.

## **Class Discussion and Debates**

Political debates and discussions can become heated. Passion is fine, but respect is necessary. All students are expected to be courteous and respectful to their classmates.

## **Communicating with Me**

My primary method of communicating with you outside of class time and office hours will be through email. Each of you has been assigned a university email address and you are responsible for regularly checking this account. Important information such as assignment changes, important dates, modifications to the class schedule, and other valuable updates will be sent to this email account throughout the semester.

## **Students with Disabilities**

The University of Georgia is committed to providing equal access to academic programs and university-administered activities, as well as reasonable modifications for students with disabilities. Students requiring academic accommodation should request these services from the Disability Resource Center (DRC), located at 114 Clark Howell Hall. For more information, visit [www.drc.uga.edu](http://www.drc.uga.edu).

## **Disclaimer**

I reserve the right to change the syllabus at any time. If I do, I will inform you via eLC and via email.

## **Course Schedule**

- August 14-16
  - Introduction
- August 19-23: What is IR?/Who are the Actors
  - McGlinchey Chapters 1&2
  - <https://apnews.com/article/israel-hamas-war-palestinian-state-recognition-what-to-know-ed18d4cc50b20c8238e0de0068080eb0>
- August 26-30: Realism, Liberalism, and Constructivism
  - McGlinchey Chapter 6
  - Busby. 2020. What International Relations Tells Us About COVID-19. E-IR.

<https://www.e-ir.info/2020/04/26/what-international-relations-tells-us-about-covid-19/>

- September 2-6: Marxism, Feminism, and Postcolonialism
  - No Class September 2 for Labor Day
  - McGlinchey Chapter 7
  - Confortini, Catia C. 2006. "Galtung, Violence, and Gender: The Case for a Peace Studies/Feminism Alliance." *Peace & Change* 31 (3): 333-367.
  
- September 9-13 Foreign Policy Analysis
  - Mintz, Alex, and Carly Wayne. 2017. "Decision Making Theories in Foreign Policy Analysis." *Oxford Research Encyclopedias*.  
<https://oxfordre.com/politics/politics/view/10.1093/acrefore/9780190228637.001.0001/acrefore-9780190228637-e-405>
  - Maclellan, Nic. 2023. "France, Australia and the First Nations Foreign Policy." <https://devpolicy.org/france-australia-and-the-first-nations-foreign-policy-20230203/>.
  - Masters, Jonathan. 2023. "Ukraine: Conflict at the Crossroads of Europe and Russia." <https://www.cfr.org/background/ukraine-conflict-crossroads-europe-and-russia>.
  - Walt, Stephen M. 2019. "America's Polarization Is a Foreign Policy Problem, Too." <https://foreignpolicy.com/2019/03/11/americas-polarization-is-a-foreign-policy-problem-too/>.
  
- September 16-20: International Political Economy
  - McGlinchey Chapter 10
  - CNN. 2020. "NAFTA is Officially Gone. Here's What Has and Hasn't Changed." <https://www.cnn.com/2020/07/01/politics/usmca-nafta-replacement-trump/index.html>.
  - Guisinger, Alexandra. 2017. "Americans' Views on Trade Aren't Just About Economics. They're Also About Race." <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/monkey-cage/wp/2017/08/16/americans-views-of-trade-arent-just-about-economics-theyre-also-about-race/>.
  - PBS News Hour. 2019. "Impact of U.S.-China Trade War Felt in Both Countries." <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dt2W2uOyLGw>.
  - Council on Foreign Relations. "What is the Transpacific Partnership?" <https://www.cfr.org/background/what-trans-pacific-partnership-tpp>.
  - Council on Foreign Relations. "What is the RCEP?" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=weyA6-aqqfo>.
  
- September 23-27: Regionalism and Global Politics
  - McGlinchey Chapter 4
  - Santos, Alexandra, and Rahul Sharma. 2024. "Global South, Colonialism, and Imperialism." Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

<https://carnegieendowment.org/research/2024/05/global-south-colonialism-imperialism?lang=en>.

- Richard, Anne, and James Dobbins. 2023. "The Term 'Global South' Is Surging. It Should Be Retired." Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. <https://carnegieendowment.org/posts/2023/08/the-term-global-south-is-surging-it-should-be-retired?lang=en>.
- Mittelhammer, Rebecca, David Brown, and Maria Lopez. 2023. "Rethinking the EU's Approach to Women's Rights in Iran." Carnegie Europe. <https://carnegieeurope.eu/2023/04/25/rethinking-eu-s-approach-to-women-s-rights-in-iran-pub-89559>.
- September 30-October 4: International Law and Organizations
  - McGlinchey Chapters 8 & 11
  - Council on Foreign Relations. "What Is International Law?" <https://education.cfr.org/learn/reading/what-international-law>.
  - Barnett, Michael N., and Martha Finnemore. 2019. "The Politics, Power, and Pathologies of International Organizations." *International Organization*.
  - Hathaway, Oona A. 2023. "How Russia's Invasion of Ukraine Tested the International Legal Order." Brookings. <https://www.brookings.edu/articles/how-russias-invasion-of-ukraine-tested-the-international-legal-order/>.
- October 7: Midterm Exam
- October 14-18: Global Governance and Diplomacy
  - Smith, John. 2017. "Global Poverty and Wealth." *E-International Relations*. <https://www.e-ir.info/2017/01/15/global-poverty-and-wealth/>.
  - Smith, John, and Emily Davis. 2024. "America's Shuttle Diplomacy to Wind Down the War in Gaza." *The Economist*. <https://www.economist.com/middle-east-and-africa/2024/02/01/americas-shuttle-diplomacy-to-wind-down-the-war-in-gaza>.
  - Sagan, Scott D., and Benjamin A. Valentino. 2017. "Revisiting Hiroshima in Iran: What Americans Really Think about Using Nuclear Weapons and Killing Noncombatants." *International Security*. [http://www.mitpressjournals.org/doi/full/10.1162/ISEC\\_a\\_00284](http://www.mitpressjournals.org/doi/full/10.1162/ISEC_a_00284).
- October 21-25: International Security
  - McGlinchey Chapters 14 & 15
  - Axworthy, Lloyd. 2001. "Human Security and Global Governance: Putting People First." *Global Governance* 7(1): 19-23.
- October 28-November 1: Human rights and Humanitarian Interventions
  - UN Declaration of Universal Human Rights. Available: <http://www.un.org/en/documents/udhr/>
  - Power, Samantha. 2002. "The Responsibility to Protect: A New Global Norm." *Foreign Affairs*. <https://www.foreignaffairs.com/world/responsibility-protect>.

- Gowan, Richard. 2021. "The Astonishing Success of Peacekeeping." *Foreign Affairs*. <https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/world/2021-11-29/astonishing-success-peacekeeping>.
- November 4-8: Environmental Politics
  - McGlinchey Chapter 19
  - Podesta, John, and Peter Ogden. 2007. "The Security Implications of Climate Change." *The Washington Quarterly* 31 (1): 115-138.
  - Brimmer, Esther. 2019. "Changing Geopolitics in the Arctic." *Council on Foreign Relations*. [https://cdn.cfr.org/sites/default/files/report\\_pdf/Testimony%20Text%20FINAL\\_Brimmer\\_1.pdf](https://cdn.cfr.org/sites/default/files/report_pdf/Testimony%20Text%20FINAL_Brimmer_1.pdf).
- November 11- 15: Globalization, Cultural Diversity, and Gender
  - McGlinchey Chapters 12 & 13
  - Pagel, Mark. 2014. "Does Globalization Mean We Will Become One Culture?" *BBC Future*. <https://www.bbc.com/future/article/20120522-one-world-order>.
  - De Dios, Martin. 2020. "The Situation of Latin America's Indigenous Population and the Impact of COVID-19." *UNDP Latin America*. <https://www.undp.org/latin-america/blog/situation-latin-americas-indigenous-population-and-impact-covid-19>.
  - Lazarou, Elena, and Ionel Zamfir. 2019. "Women in Foreign Affairs and International Security: Still Far from Gender Equality." *European Parliamentary Research Service*. Graphics by Lucille Killmayer. [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2021/689356/EPRS\\_BRI\(2021\)689356\\_EN.pdf](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2021/689356/EPRS_BRI(2021)689356_EN.pdf).
- November 18-22: Emerging Issues in International Relations
  - Patrick, Stewart, and Kyle L. Evanoff. 2018. "The Right Way to Achieve Security in Space: The U.S. Needs to Champion International Cooperation." *Foreign Affairs*, September 17. <https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/space/2018-09-17/right-way-achieve-security-space>.
  - Sharma, Anika. 2021. "The Privatized Frontier: The Ethical Implications and Role of Private Companies in Space Exploration." *The Space Review*. <https://www.thespacereview.com/article/4238/1>.
  - Bollyky, Thomas J., Sawyer Crosby, and Samantha Kiernan. 2020. "Fighting a Pandemic Requires Trust: Governments Have to Earn It." *Foreign Affairs*, October 23. <https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/united-states/2020-10-23/coronavirus-fighting-requires-trust>.
  - Fidler, David P. 2020. "The COVID-19 Pandemic, Geopolitics, and International Law." *Journal of International Humanitarian Legal Studies* 11: 237-248. [https://brill.com/view/journals/ihls/11/2/article-p237\\_237.xml](https://brill.com/view/journals/ihls/11/2/article-p237_237.xml).
- Thanksgiving Break
- December 2



- Review for Final Exam
- December 11
  - Final Exam 8:00am-11:00am