

## INTL 1101: Introduction to Global Issues

<p><i>Course Instructor Information:</i> Aleksandr Kuznetsov Email: akuz@uga.edu Office hours: Wednesday 3:00-5:00 pm Candler Hall B01</p>	<p><i>Course Meeting Information:</i> Fall 2024 Monday, Wednesday, Friday 10:20-11:10 pm Baldwin Hall 322</p>
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### Course Description

This course is designed to help students understand the processes of global politics, the structure of the international system, the role of the actors involved in major political events, and the causes and consequences of such events. This course will provide basic knowledge and a review of some political events that have taken place in the past and take place nowadays. But the goal is not to simply familiarize and memorize such events – rather, students will use real world examples of specific political issues to analyze them in a systemic way, find patterns, causes, and consequences, and outline potential solutions to major world problems. The goal is to introduce students to a more scientific understanding of the ongoing political processes. This course will use a multidisciplinary approach, incorporating elements of history, geography, and anthropology, as well as international relations and comparative politics.

### Course Objectives

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- understand the field of international relations, the structure of international system, and its major foundational assumptions;
- explain causes of political events and predict their potential outcomes based on the observed patterns in world politics;
- conduct research on topics of interest and develop policy recommendations grounded in academic work and reliable data.

### Course Materials

There is only one textbook required for this course:

*Introduction to Global Politics* by John S. Masker, Patricia Owens, Steven L. Lamy, John Baylis and Steve Smith. 2020. (6th edition)

You can purchase it online (a used copy of the book will work perfectly). Make sure that you get the right edition of the book – although the changes in different versions may be minor, having the wrong edition may affect your preparedness for class discussions. You do not need any additional materials provided with the original copy of the book (such as digital learning materials associated with the book) – only the text is needed.

All other required readings will be posted on ELC and/or are available via UGA Library or other resources.

### Course Requirements

- **Participation** (20% of the final grade)

Students will be required to participate in class discussions each week. The quality of each class depends on how well the students prepare for it. Students are expected to do the readings, analyze them, share their thoughts about the assigned material, and debate the topics with colleagues. A good contribution is not limited only to thoughtful critiques of the ideas presented in the assigned readings but also includes questions to the

class, as long as it helps move the discussion forward. Students should be familiar with contemporary international political events and are encouraged to integrate their knowledge and experience from outside the course in the discussion.

- **Policy proposals (20%)**

Each week, students will develop a small policy proposal concerning an issue discussed in class that week. The prompt for the proposal will be given in class. This assignment will require students to work in groups and do some research of the assigned issue. The proposals will then be discussed in class. During some weeks, this assignment may be combined with other exercises or altered to accommodate certain topics.

- **Issue report (20%)**

In groups of three, students will need to pick an issue in global politics, examine its causes, magnitude, and consequences, and suggest how it can be resolved. This assignment has two elements: a presentation of the issue in class (group project) and writing of the report for submission (individual work). Reports (actual papers) must be individually written by each student to adequately demonstrate their research and writing skills, while presentations in groups will demonstrate students' ability to work in a team. Most importantly, students in the group may have different views on the issue with respect to its causes, impact, and best potential solutions. They may reflect this in their presentations but need to try to find common ground. They may then fully express their individual opinions in their written reports.

The issue needs to be specific (e.g., it cannot be a world hunger in general, but can be, for example, the global food shortage due to war in Ukraine or the hunger crisis in Haiti). Considering how complex the global politics is, students are expected to implement the knowledge acquired in class and account for many aspects of international relations that may either allow for a better solution or, to the contrary, provide for new hardships. Students will then make 5-10 minute presentations at the end of the semester. Reports are due the day before scheduled presentations. Students need to consult the instructor about the issue they choose before they can start working on it.

*Format of the report:* font - 12 Times New Roman, single-spaced, around 1500 words

- **Midterm exam (20%)**

Students will have one midterm exam. The exam will be administered in class via ELC and will be closed-note. It will be a combination of multiple choice, identification questions, and/or short essays.

- **Final exam (20%)**

Final exam will be held in class via ELC and will be closed-note. It will be a non-comprehensive exam except for some major topics (to be announced in class). It will be a combination of multiple choice, identification questions, and/or short essays.

**Grading Scale**

93 to 100: A	73 to 77: C
90 to 93: A-	70 to 73: C-
87 to 90: B+	67 to 70: D+
83 to 87: B	63 to 67: D
80 to 83: B-	60 to 63: D-
77 to 80: C+	Below 60: F

## Course policy and useful information

- **Academic Honesty Policy**

As a University of Georgia student, you have agreed to abide by the University's academic honesty policy ("A Culture of Honesty") and the Student Honor Code ("I will be academically honest in all of my academic work and will not tolerate academic dishonesty of others."). All academic work must meet the standards of "A Culture of Honesty" found at <https://honesty.uga.edu/Academic-Honesty-Policy/>. These standards include, but not limited to, policies that cover plagiarism and unauthorized assistance (including assistance from AI software). Lack of knowledge of the academic honesty policy is not a reasonable explanation for a violation. Questions related to course assignments and the academic honesty policy should be directed to the instructor.

- **Students with Disabilities.**

Students with disabilities who require reasonable accommodations to participate in course activities or meet course requirements should contact the instructor and may register with the Disability Resource Center. They can be reached by visiting Clark Howell Hall, calling 706-542-8719 (voice) or 706-542-8778 (TTY), or by visiting the Disability Resource Center.

- **Make-up procedures for assignments**

Failure to complete any course assignment on time will result in a failing grade (0). Make-up options may only be offered in case of documented emergencies and require prior approval of the instructor.

- **UGA Well-being Resources**

UGA Well-being Resources promote student success by cultivating a culture that supports a more active, healthy, and engaged student community.

Anyone needing assistance is encouraged to contact Student Care & Outreach (SCO) in the Division of Student Affairs at 706-542-8479 or visit [sco.uga.edu](http://sco.uga.edu). Student Care & Outreach helps students navigate difficult circumstances by connecting them with the most appropriate resources or services. They also administer the Embark@UGA program which supports students experiencing, or who have experienced, homelessness, foster care, or housing insecurity.

UGA provides both clinical and non-clinical options to support student well-being and mental health, any time, any place. Whether on campus, or studying from home or abroad, UGA Well-being Resources are here to help.

- Well-being Resources: [well-being.uga.edu](http://well-being.uga.edu)
- Student Care and Outreach: [sco.uga.edu](http://sco.uga.edu)
- University Health Center: [healthcenter.uga.edu](http://healthcenter.uga.edu)
- Counseling and Psychiatric Services: [caps.uga.edu](http://caps.uga.edu) or CAPS 24/7 crisis support at 706-542-2273
- Health Promotion/ Fontaine Center: [healthpromotion.uga.edu](http://healthpromotion.uga.edu)
- Disability Resource Center and Testing Services: [drc.uga.edu](http://drc.uga.edu)

Additional information, including free digital well-being resources, can be accessed through the UGA app or by visiting <https://well-being.uga.edu>.

## Class schedule and readings list

The course syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviations announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary.

**Week 01** – Introduction to Global Politics

Textbook Ch. 1

**Week 02** – Evolution of Global Politics

Textbook Ch. 2

**Week 03** – Paradigms of International Relations

Textbook Ch. 3 (pp 76-104)

**Week 04** – Critical Theories

Textbook Ch. 3 (pp 104-122)

Monday, Sep 2: Labor Day - No Classes

**Week 05** – Making Foreign Policy

Textbook Ch. 4

**Week 06** – Nations, States, and Governments

Kriesi, H., Grande, E., Lachat, R., Dolezal, M., Bornschie, S., & Frey, T. (2006). Globalization and the transformation of the national political space: Six European countries compared. *European journal of political research*, 45(6), 921-956.

**Week 07** – Global and Regional Governance – the United Nations

Textbook Ch. 5 (pp 166-193)

**Week 08** – European Union and Non-Governmental Organizations

Textbook Ch. 5 (pp 193-217)

**Week 09** – Why Conflict?

Textbook Ch. 6 (pp 219-240)

Monday, Oct 7: **MIDTERM EXAM**

**Week 10** – Wars and other issues

Textbook Ch. 6 (pp 240-267)

**Week 11** – Human Rights and Human Security

Textbook Ch. 7

**Week 12** – Global Trade and Finance

Textbook Ch. 8

Friday, Nov 1: Fall Break - No Classes

**Week 13** – Poverty, Development, and Hunger

Textbook Ch. 9

**Week 14** – Environmental Issues

Textbook Ch. 10

Friday, Nov 15: No Classes

**Week 15** – Issue Report presentations

Issue Report presentations

**Week 16** – Issue Report presentations

Monday, Nov 25: Issue Report presentations (continued)

Wednesday, Nov 27: Thanksgiving - No Classes

Friday, Nov 29: Thanksgiving - No Classes

**Week 17** – Final exam

Monday, Dec 2: Review of the final exam

Friday, Dec. 6, 8:00 - 11:00 am: **FINAL EXAM**