

INTL 3200: Introduction to International Relations

University of Georgia, Department of International Affairs, Spring 2025

Course Instructor: Dr. William Acosta

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Meeting Time: T/Th 11:10-12:25 PM, Peabody Hall 115

Office Hours: Caldwell Hall 214, 9:30-10:30 AM

Course Overview

This course examines key questions in international relations: "When do states go to war?" and "When do states cooperate?" Through exploring scientific explanations for war, terrorism, political economy, human rights, and environmental protection, students will gain a foundational understanding of these dynamics, preparing them for advanced studies in international affairs.

Sections:

1. Foundations of International Relations
2. Understanding Conflict
3. International Political Economy
4. Contemporary Issues in Global Politics

Required Text and Materials

- **Textbook:** *Foundations of International Relations*, edited by Stephen McGlinchey (available for free via the UGA library).
- **Supplementary Readings:** Distributed via eLC.
- **Current Events:** Regularly follow global news for class discussions.

Grading Breakdown

- **Exams (50%):** Two exams, not cumulative.

- **Quizzes (10%):** Five quizzes throughout the semester.
- **Participation (10%):** Active involvement in class discussions and attendance.
- **Research Paper Assignments (30%):** Three structured assignments, detailed below.

Grade Scale

- A = 95-100
- A- = 90-94
- B+ = 87-89
- B = 80-86
- C+ = 77-79
- C = 70-76
- D+ = 67-69
- D = 60-66
- F = 0-59

1. Students are expected to read the assigned course materials before all class meetings and participate actively within in-class discussions and activities.
2. Check eLC regularly for updates on the course.
3. The class will follow a primarily seminar (i.e., discussion) format. I will lecture when necessary. I will break you up into groups of 5. You will work with this group for the whole semester, so exchange contact information. One of you will be the discussion leader for your group. This can change depending on the dynamics of the group. If one member of the group is missing, then 20% of that group is missing. If you are going to miss class, you must inform both me and your group members that you will not be in attendance so that they may plan accordingly. Once your group has thoroughly discussed the day's assigned readings, I will ask each group to contribute a wider class discussion.
4. Assignments are due on the dates and times given. Late work will be penalized 10% for each day it is late. After 5 days, the work will be maxed out at 50%.
5. If you need extensions, please **inform me via email**. If you tell me in person I will forget.

6. Be respectful to one another. I will not tolerate students being disrespectful or making others uncomfortable. We will discuss controversial topics in this class. Passion is fine but respect is necessary. Furthermore, only one person speaks at a time. Do not interrupt or speak over each other.
7. This is a digital free space unless I say otherwise. No laptops, tablets, or phones are allowed. Thus, bring hard copies of your talking point for your personal use. Do not work on other coursework in this class. It is disrespectful to both me and your classmates.
8. 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: [UGA Academic Honesty Policy](#). 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.
9. Avoid using generative AI. While AI has its uses, particularly in creating reference pages, it creates sloppy work.
10. It is the policy and practice of the University of Georgia to create an inclusive learning environment. Students requiring accommodations should discuss such matters with the me at the outset of the course. Students requesting accommodations must register with the Disability Resource Center on campus (706-542-8719, <http://www.drc.uga.edu>).

11. 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
- Student Care and Outreach: sco.uga.edu
- University Health Center: healthcenter.uga.edu
- Counseling and Psychiatric Services: caps.uga.edu or CAPS 24/7 crisis support at 706-542-2273
- Health Promotion/ Fontaine Center: healthpromotion.uga.edu
- Disability Resource Center and Testing Services: drc.uga.edu

12. Any exceptions to or modifications to these rules or the syllabus are given at my discretion.

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

Schedule/Topics

Week	Dates	Topics	Readings
1	Jan 7, 9	Introduction to IR	McGlinchey Chapters 1 & 2
2	Jan 14, 16	Realism, Liberalism, and Constructivism	McGlinchey Chapter 6
3	Jan 21, 23	Marxism, Feminism, and Postcolonialism	McGlinchey Chapter 7; Confortini (2006)

4	Jan 28, 30	Foreign Policy Analysis	Mintz & Wayne (2017); Masters (2023)
5	Feb 4, 6	International Political Economy	McGlinchey Chapter 10
6	Feb 11, 13	Regionalism and Global Politics	McGlinchey Chapter 4; Santos & Sharma (2024)
7	Feb 18, 20	International Law and Organizations	McGlinchey Chapters 8 & 11
8	Feb 25, 27	Midterm Review and Exam	Review
	Mar 3-7	**Spring Break**	No Class
9	Mar 11, 13	Global Governance and Diplomacy	McGlinchey Chapter 12
10	Mar 18, 20	International Security	McGlinchey Chapters 14 & 15
11	Mar 25, 27	Human Rights and Humanitarian Action	UN Declaration; Power (2002)
12	Apr 1, 3	Environmental Politics	McGlinchey Chapter 19
13	Apr 8, 10	Globalization and Cultural Diversity	McGlinchey Chapter 13
14	Apr 15, 17	Emerging Issues in IR	Patrick & Evanoff (2018); Sharma (2021)
15	Apr 22, 24	Research Paper Workshop and Review	Review
16	Apr 29, May 1	Wrap-Up	Final Discussions