

## INTL 1100: Introduction to Global Issues

University of Georgia, School of International and Public Affairs, Fall 2025

Course Instructor: Dr. William Acosta

Contact Info: [williamacosta@uga.edu](mailto:williamacosta@uga.edu)

Office Hours: 10:30-12:30, Candler Hall 216

Meeting Times & Locations:

- Section 22017: MWF 9:10–10:00 AM, Candler Hall 214
- Section 55623: MWF 1:50-2:40 PM, LeConte Hall 320

### Course Description

This course is a survey of international affairs designed to introduce students to key global issues. The course is divided into two sections: Politics Between Nations and Politics Within Nations. In the first half, we will focus on the international system, exploring concepts such as statehood, sovereignty, power, and security. We will then engage in the *Hands Off Africa!* simulation, set during the decolonization era, to examine how global politics shaped postcolonial Africa.

The second half of the course turns inward to explore domestic political systems and how they connect to global affairs. We will discuss constitutions, governance, democracy, and political change, concluding with the *Indian Independence 1945* simulation to explore how domestic struggles for self-rule connect to global forces.

### Required Texts

1. Paul Wilkinson. *International Relations: A Very Short Introduction*. Oxford University Press, 2019. (Available as an eBook via UGA Library.)

2. Dino Bozonelos, Julia Wendt, and Charlotte Lee. *Introduction to Comparative Government and Politics*. Open-access textbook (available online).
3. Molly Todd and Mindy McWilliams. *Indian Independence and the Question of Partition, 1945*. Reacting Consortium Press, 2021. (Not needed until November 5th.)

All other course materials, including *Hands Off Africa!*, will be available via eLC.

### **Grading Policy**

This course is worth a total of 100 points. Assignments will consist of two exams and two papers.

- Exam 1 (20 points): Covers Weeks 1–4 readings: Friday, September 5<sup>th</sup>.
- Paper 1 (20 points): Reflection on *Hands off Africa!*: Friday, October 10<sup>th</sup>
- Exam 2 (20 points): Covers Weeks 10–12 readings: Monday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- Paper 2 (20 points): Reflection on Indian Independence 1945: Tuesday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- Participation (20 points): Attendance, preparation, and engagement in class and simulations

### **Course Guidelines**

1. Check eLC regularly for updates on the course.
2. 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%.
3. If you need extensions, please inform me via email. If you tell me in person I will forget.
4. 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.

5. 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.
6. Avoid using generative AI. While AI has its uses, particularly in creating reference pages, it creates sloppy work.
7. 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>).
8. 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.
9. Well-being Resources: [well-being.uga.edu](http://well-being.uga.edu)
10. Student Care and Outreach: [sco.uga.edu](http://sco.uga.edu)
11. University Health Center: [healthcenter.uga.edu](http://healthcenter.uga.edu)
12. Counseling and Psychiatric Services: [caps.uga.edu](http://caps.uga.edu) or CAPS 24/7 crisis support at 706-542-2273
13. Health Promotion/ Fontaine Center: [healthpromotion.uga.edu](http://healthpromotion.uga.edu)

14. Disability Resource Center and Testing Services: [drc.uga.edu](http://drc.uga.edu)

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

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

## **Weekly Schedule**

### **Part I: Politics Between Nations (Weeks 1–4)**

**Core Text:** Paul Wilkinson, *International Relations: A Very Short Introduction* (2019 ed.) – UGA Library eBook

#### **Week 1**

Wed Aug 13: Introduction to Course – No reading

Fri Aug 15: What is International Affairs? – Wilkinson, Introduction

#### **Week 2**

Mon Aug 18: The State and Sovereignty – Wilkinson, Ch. 1

Wed Aug 20: Power and Authority – Wilkinson, Ch. 1

Fri Aug 22: Sovereignty and International Order – Wilkinson, Ch. 1

#### **Week 3**

Mon Aug 25: Security and the Causes of War – Wilkinson, Ch. 2

Wed Aug 27: War and Peace – Wilkinson, Ch. 2

Fri Aug 29: International Organizations – Wilkinson, Ch. 3

#### **Week 4**

Mon Sept 1: No Class (Labor Day)

Wed Sept 3: The United Nations and Global Governance – Wilkinson

Fri Sept 5: Globalization and Interdependence – Wilkinson

**Part II: Hands Off Africa! Simulation (Weeks 5–9)**

Mon Sept 8: Simulation Prep – Imperialism in Africa

Wed Sept 10: Simulation Prep – Pan-Africanism

Fri Sept 12: Simulation Prep

Mon Sept 15: Game Session 1

Wed Sept 17: Game Session 2

Fri Sept 19: Game Session 3

Mon Sept 22: Game Session 4

Wed Sept 24: Game Session 5

Fri Sept 26: Game Session 6

Mon Sept 29: Debrief Session 1

Wed Oct 1: Debrief Session 2

Fri Oct 3: Colonial Legacies and Modern Africa

Mon Oct 6: Essay Workshop

Wed Oct 8: Exam 1 (Weeks 1–4 Readings)

Fri Oct 10: Paper 1 Due

**Part III: Politics Within Nations (Weeks 10–12)**

**Core Text:** Bozonelos, Wendt, & Lee. *Introduction to Comparative Government and Politics* (2022)

**Week 10**

Mon Oct 13: Constitutions & Regimes – Ch. 3

Wed Oct 15: Democracies – Ch. 4

Fri Oct 17: Authoritarianism & Backsliding – Ch. 5

### **Week 11**

Mon Oct 20: Identity & Political Culture – Ch. 6

Wed Oct 22: Civil Society & Social Movements – Ch. 9

Fri Oct 24: Political Violence – Ch. 11

### **Week 12**

Mon Oct 27: Political Economy & Institutions – Ch. 8

Wed Oct 29: Public Opinion & Trust – Ch. 10

Fri Oct 31: No Class (Fall Break)

Mon Nov 3: Exam 2 (Weeks 10–12 Readings)

## **Part IV: Indian Independence 1945 Simulation (Weeks 13–16)**

### **Week 13**

Wed Nov 5: Simulation Intro & Roles Assigned

Fri Nov 7: Simulation Prep – British Rule in India

Mon Nov 10: Simulation Prep – Nationalism and Independence

### **Week 14**

Wed Nov 12: Simulation Prep – Role Strategies

Fri Nov 14: Game Session 1

Mon Nov 17: Game Session 2

### **Week 15**

Wed Nov 19: Game Session 3

Fri Nov 21: Game Session 4

Mon Nov 24: Game Session 5 & Debrief

**Week 16**

Wed Nov 26: No Class (Thanksgiving)

Fri Nov 28: No Class (Thanksgiving)

Mon Dec 1: Contemporary Legacies of Decolonization & Course Wrap-Up – Paper 2 Due

Tue Dec 2: Course Evaluations