

INTL 1100: Introduction to Global Issues
University of Georgia, Department of International Affairs

Course Instructor Information:

Dr. Erin Little

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Office hours by appointment in-person (304 Candler Hall) or Zoom (link available on eLC)

Course Meeting Information:

Spring 2023

Sanford Hall 313

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Global news outlets and social media reveal a multitude of issues that challenge our governance institutions, statehood, natural environment, and human security. We are reminded of the problems of the world daily, and this barrage can at times seem esoteric without understanding the source of these issues and how we can respond to contribute to a solution.

This class is designed to facilitate a mindful discussion of global issues that will equip you with a solid foundation in introductory international affairs. You will gain a framework of tools, divided into four key parts: 1) the global structures and main actors that currently comprise our international system; 2) the environments and factors that catalyze conflict; 3) observable responses to these inequalities in group and state-level dynamics; and 4) post-conflict processes that map constructive developments moving forward.

EXAMS AND ASSIGNMENTS

SHORT POLICY PROPOSALS

Beginning in Week 2, I will divide you into small groups every Friday and charge with the task of developing a very small-scope policy proposal concerning the global issue we discuss that week. You will receive a prompt in class for the policy proposal, and we will discuss your proposals in class. Some weeks, we may combine or alter the requirements of this assignment with relevant group activities, but these activities will remain scheduled for Fridays. There will be 12 of these proposals/activities throughout the semester, each worth 2 percentage points on your final grade as a Pass/Fail assignment.

RESOLUTIONS

You will complete two resolutions in this class, one halfway through the semester and one just prior to finals week. For each resolution, you will have one week of class time (3 class sessions) to work within

assigned small groups to collaborate with other groups and develop a more extensive Resolution concerning a prompted global issue. You will receive specific requirements leading up to the “Resolution Week” available on eLC, along with a template for how to write up this assignment for submission. For your first resolution, you will be free to work in small groups according to the ideal policies you think should exist in the world. For your second resolution, I will assign your groups state identities and your work will have to be consistent with that state’s existing global policies and economic and environmental restrictions. We will discuss the details of this activity further in class leading up to the scheduled event.

EXAM AND QUIZZES

Students will take two open-note exams through eLC – a midterm and a final. The midterm will be a combination of multiple choice and true/false questions and taken at-home, so we will not have class that day. The final exam will be taken at-home and will be primarily short answer questions. Due dates for these exams and quizzes are outlined in the course topics below. More guidelines will be provided on eLC prior to the exam. Additionally, most modules will have a quiz concerning the lecture material from that week. You must do 8 quizzes for full credit (each worth 2%). I will take the 8 highest-graded quizzes, and any additional quizzes beyond the 8 that earn 100% will get 1 point of bonus added to your final grade.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Attendance will be taken at the start of each class. Absences will only be excused for the following, discussed with me in advance: observance of a religious practice, documented (by a doctor or health clinic/hospital) sickness, or death of a relative or close friend. More than three cumulative absences without an above listed excuse will affect students' attendance and participation grades. Three unexcused absences are permitted without penalty. However, the fast-paced nature of this course and the use of supplemental materials in class, which will also appear on exams, will make it more difficult for students to do well in this course without being present.

GRADING POLICY

The breakdown of your grades and the scoring rubric for this course are below (P/F indicates a Pass/Fail grade):

- 16% - Module Quizzes
- 24% - Short Policy Proposals (P/F)
- 15% - Resolution #1
- 15% - Resolution #2
- 15% - Midterm Exam
- 15% - Final Exam

94 to 100 – A

80 to 83 – B-

67 to 69 – D+

90 to 93 – A-

77 to 79 – C+

64 to 67 – D

87 to 89 – B+

74 to 77 – C

60 to 63 – D-

84 to 87 – B

70 to 73 – C-

59 and below – F

OUTLINE OF TOPICS

PART I: GLOBAL STRUCTURES	
Jan. 9, 11, 13	Module 1 – Introduction to Global Issues
Topics	Defining global issues and international affairs Great power politics in historical perspective
<i>Due by 1/16</i>	<i>Module 1 quiz</i>
Jan. 18, 20	Module 2 – International Law and Organizations as Paths to Peace <i>1/16 - NO CLASS; MLK, JR. DAY</i>
Topics	The scope and goals of international law Duties of international organizations
<i>Due by 1/23</i>	<i>Module 2 quiz</i>
Jan. 23, 25, 27	Module 3 – The Global South in a World of Powers
Topics	What is the “Global South”? How historical power structures and institutions preserve the Global South
<i>Due by 1/30</i>	<i>Module 3 quiz</i>

PART II: CATALYZING CONFLICT

Jan. 30, Feb. 1, 3	Module 4 – Climate Change and Environmental Issues
Topics	Water contamination and air pollution Changing biospheres
<i>Due by 2/6</i>	<i>Module 4 quiz</i>
Feb. 6, 8, 10	Module 5 – Population and Resource Management
Topics	Global health issues Poverty and access to food
<i>Due by 2/13</i>	<i>Module 5 quiz</i>
Feb. 13, 15, 17	Module 6 – Non-state Actors and the Challenge of Global Governance
Topics	National identity and representation Threats to conventional power
<i>Due by 2/20</i>	<i>Module 6 quiz</i>

RESOLUTION WEEK #1

Feb. 20, 22, 24	Module 7 – In-class group activity: Resolution Week #1
	No preparation required prior to class Details to be announced
<i>Due by 2/27 at 11:59pm</i>	<i>MIDTERM EXAM (no Module 7 quiz)</i>

PART III: RESPONDING TO INEQUALITY

Mar. 1, 3 **Module 8 – Social Movements and Political Violence**
2/27 – NO CLASS; MIDTERM EXAM

Topics Grievance and forms of protest
The role of social media

Due by 3/6 *Module 8 quiz*

Mar. 6-10 ***SPRING BREAK – NO CLASS***

No lectures – Have a good Spring Break!

Mar. 15, 17 **Module 9 – Conventional Warfare** *3/13 – NO CLASS*

Topics State-to-state war processes
Alliances and arms races

Due by 3/20 *Module 9 quiz*

Mar. 20, 22, 24 **Module 10 – Non-conventional Warfare**

Topics Domestic and international terrorism
Civil conflict

Due by 3/27 *Module 10 quiz*

Mar. 27, 29, 31 **Module 11 – Civilian Victimization**

Topics Civilian targets in conflict
Human rights abuses through neglect and greed

<i>Due by 4/3</i>	<i>Module 11 quiz</i>
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PART IV: POST-CONFLICT PROCESSES	
Apr. 3, 5, 7	Module 12 – Post-Conflict Justice
Topics	International courts and tribunals Forms of domestic accountability
<i>Due by 4/10</i>	<i>Module 12 quiz</i>
Apr. 10, 12, 14	Module 13 – Economic and Political Development
Topics	Foreign aid, NGOs, and labor Legitimizing new political institutions
<i>Due by 4/17</i>	<i>Module 13 quiz</i>
Apr. 17, 19, 21	Module 14 – Moving Onward
Topics	Migration patterns and effects New challenges to identity, statehood, and citizenship
<i>Due by 4/24</i>	<i>Module 14 quiz</i>

RESOLUTION WEEK #2	
Apr. 24, 26, 28	Module 15 – In-class activity: Resolution Week #2
	No preparation required prior to class Details to be announced

May 1	Optional Review Day
Topics	Optional class day to review expectations and material for your final exam; <i>Attendance not required</i>

May 9th at 11:59pm	Final Exam is due on eLC
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ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

UGA Student Honor Code: “I will be academically honest in all of my academic work and will not tolerate academic dishonesty of others.” A Culture of Honesty, the University’s policy and procedures for handling cases of suspected dishonesty, can be found the website of Office of Instruction. We expect that the Student Honor Code will guide your efforts in this course. A lack of knowledge of the academic honesty policy does not explain a violation. Please direct any questions to the instructor.

COURSE POLICIES

The following is taken verbatim from the University Council: “The course syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviations announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary.”

The following is taken verbatim from LINK: “In the absence of written authorization from the UGA Disability Resource Center, students may not make a visual or audio recording of any aspect of this course. 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 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 not profit financially and will not allow others to benefit personally or financially from lecture recordings or other course materials.
- Will erase/delete all recordings at the end of the semester.

- 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.”

FERPA STATEMENT

The following is taken verbatim from the Syllabus Checklist:

“The Federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) grants students certain information privacy rights. See the registrar’s explanation. FERPA allows disclosure of directory information (name, address, telephone, email, date of birth, place of birth, major, activities, degrees, awards, prior schools), unless requested in a written letter to the registrar.”

DISABILITY SERVICES

The following is taken verbatim from the Disability Resource Center:

“If you plan to request accommodations for a disability, please 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”

The following is taken verbatim from the document of Syllabus Creation:

“Students with disabilities who require reasonable accommodations in order to participate in course activities or meet course requirements should contact the instructor or designate during regular office hours or by appointment.”

MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS RESOURCES

The following is taken verbatim from the University Council:

“If you or someone you know needs assistance, you are encouraged to contact Student Care and Outreach in the Division of Student Affairs at 706-542-7774 or visit the website of Student Care and Outreach. They will help you navigate any difficult circumstances you may be facing by connecting you with the appropriate resources or services.

UGA has several resources for a student seeking mental health services or crisis support. If you need help managing stress anxiety, relationships, etc., please visit 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.”