

# INTA 1050 Syllabus

The World Today, Section A, 3 Credit Hours

MW 3:00-4:15p, DM Smith 105

## Instructor Information

**Instructor**  
Vince Pedicino

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vince@gatech.edu

**Office Hours & Location**  
Ivan Allen College 157, By Appt.

**Teaching Assistant(s)**  
Polina Aleshina

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**Office Hours & Location**  
Ivan Allen College 155

## General Information

### Description

This class is designed to give you the skills and experience to look at events facing our world and understand the context and situations involved. We will be keeping up with the news and discussing the stories in historical and political context. This class will be a large amount of class discussion. Each week the class will break into small groups and discuss the top news of the day and how it relates to our class lectures. It will be vitally important to keep updated on the news of the world and be ready to discuss the items in detail.

### Course Goals and Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, you should be able to:

- Understand the political, historical, economic and cultural context of major current world events
- Discuss with confidence current world events with other informed individuals
- Understand the complexities of world politics and the interwoven nature of major events and issues
- Be able to differentiate between reliable and unreliable sources of news information

## Course Requirements & Grading

Assignment	Date	Weight (Percentage, points, etc)
Attendance/Participation		30%
Map Quiz	8/30	10%
Midterm	10/4	25%
Event Paper	By 12/4	10%
Final	12/11	25%

### Description of Graded Components

#### Participation

Throughout the course, your participation in class activities and discussions will be evaluated. At the very least, you are expected to be attentive and engaged. A high participation grade will reflect regular

valuable/constructive contributions to group or class discussions. Your attendance will also determine your participation grade. Because class time is valuable, you will lose ten points from your participation grade for each unexcused absence and five points for each tardy. You can have one unexcused absence without penalty. Please notify the TA in advance via email about absences from class.

### **Map Quiz**

You will be given maps of the world with no labels. You will be asked to label as many countries as you can in 20 minutes. You will be given one point per correctly labelled country. Only member states of the United Nations will be counted.

### **Midterm and Final**

There will be two exams during the semester. Both will be multiple-choice exams that you will be given the length of the class to finish (or the final exam period of the final). The final will be cumulative.

### **Event Paper**

During the semester, you will write 1 one-page essay where you give a description of a current event and relate it back to material we've covered in the course. The paper should be double-spaced, 12-point Times New Roman font with 1-inch margins. Papers must be handed in at the beginning of class.

### **Grading Scale**

Your final grade will be assigned as a letter grade according to the following scale:

A	90-100%
B	80-89%
C	70-79%
D	60-69%
F	0-59%

## **Course Materials**

### **Course Text**

Payne, Richard J. *Global issues: politics, economics, and culture*. Boston: Pearson, 2017. Available at GT Bookstore and online.

### **Additional Materials/Resources**

You need to keep up with the major events of world. I would recommend you not use American sources as your main information. BBC, NPR, NY Times, Washington Post, Financial Times, and the Economist are all good options.

### **Course Website and Other Classroom Management Tools**

This course will make use of T-Square as necessary.

## **Course Expectations & Guidelines**

### **Academic Integrity**

Georgia Tech aims to cultivate a community based on trust, academic integrity, and honor. Students are expected to act according to the highest ethical standards. For information on Georgia Tech's Academic Honor Code, please visit <http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/policies/honor-code/> or <http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/rules/18/>.

Any student suspected of cheating or plagiarizing on a quiz, exam, or assignment will be reported to the Office of Student Integrity, who will investigate the incident and identify the appropriate penalty for violations.

## Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

If you are a student with learning needs that require special accommodation, contact the Office of Disability Services at (404)894-2563 or <http://disabilityservices.gatech.edu/>, as soon as possible, to make an appointment to discuss your special needs and to obtain an accommodations letter. Please also e-mail me as soon as possible in order to set up a time to discuss your learning needs.

## Attendance and/or Participation

Attendance in class is mandatory. However, being in class is not enough - you should participate and ask questions. Demonstration of having done the reading will result in a better grade. Please advise the TL ahead of time if you will miss class or afterward if you are ill. I will grant you **one absence** (for whatever reason) during the semester, after which, your final grade will be deducted 3 points for each additional absence (10 points off your participation grade). Obviously, there are extenuating circumstances that we will consider, but you need to consider your presence in class as vital to your final grade. Only family emergencies, illnesses, or Institute-approved absences will count as excused absences.

## Collaboration & Group Work

There are no circumstances where you should need group assistance. All grades will come from in-class assessments.

## Extensions, Late Assignments, & Re-Scheduled/Missed Exams

Make-up examinations will only be done for those with Institute-approved absences or documented illness. Late work will not be accepted without an Institute-approved excuse.

## Student-Faculty Expectations Agreement

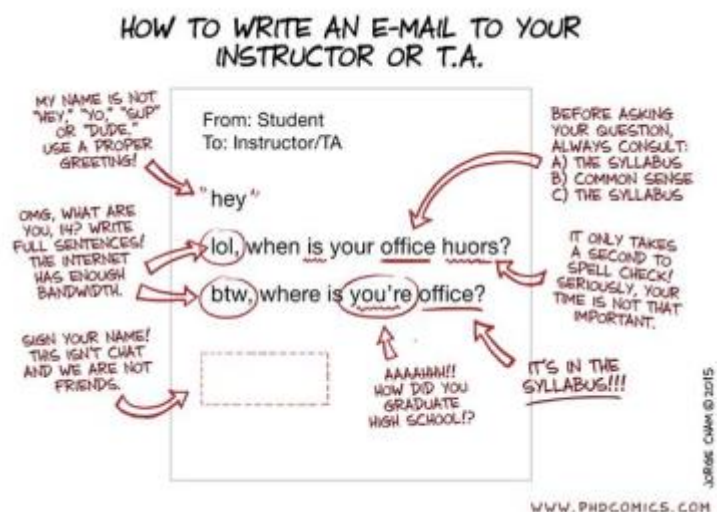
At Georgia Tech, we believe that it is important to strive for an atmosphere of mutual respect, acknowledgement, and responsibility between faculty members and the student body. See <http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/rules/22/> for an articulation of some basic expectation that you can have of me and that I have of you. In the end, simple respect for knowledge, hard work, and cordial interactions will help build the environment we seek. Therefore, I encourage you to remain committed to the ideals of Georgia Tech while in this class.

## Student Use of Mobile Devices in the Classroom

No electronic devices (mobile phone, laptop, tablet, etc.) are permitted during the class. If you have a ADAPTS-related requirement for an electronic device, that is an allowed exception.

## Campus Resources for Students

The Communication Center ([communicationcenter.gatech.edu/](http://communicationcenter.gatech.edu/)) provides support for students with respect to developing competency and excellence in written, oral, visual, electronic, and nonverbal communication.



## Course Schedule

Week Of	Topic	Reading, Notes, due dates, and more
8/21	Intro	Ch 1
8/28	Hegemony and Power	Ch 2 WED: Map Quiz
9/4		MON: Holiday
9/11	Human Rights and Promoting Democracy	Ch 3-4
9/18	Global Terrorism	Ch 5
9/25	Weapons Proliferation	Ch 6
10/2	Global Financial Crisis & Trade	Ch 7-8 WED: Midterm
10/9		MON: Holiday
10/16	Global Inequality and Poverty	Ch 9
10/23	Environmental Issues	Ch 10
10/30	Population and Migration	Ch 11
11/7	Global Crime	Ch 12
11/14		WED: Holiday
11/21	Global Health Challenges	Ch 13
11/28	Cultural Clashes & Conflict Resolution	Ch 14
12/4	Wrap Up	