

At the end of this course, each student should be able to:

- Identify key structural features of the contemporary international system (actors, processes, institutions)
- Identify the UN and its main organs, recognize other major IGOs, and be able to illustrate with examples the difference between IGOs, NGOs, and MNCs
- Outline major international security challenges (war, weapons proliferation, terrorism, etc.) and be able to assess different ways in which these challenges are being addressed
- Assess other major global challenges, such as those tied to economic development, poverty, human rights, and environmental sustainability, and articulate the different positions and perspectives surrounding these topics (what are they?, what solutions do they offer?, etc.)
- Identify, explain, and visualize data, as well as apply key indicators to global features, issues, and challenges; be able to identify locations of various geographic features on maps
- Become aware of career competencies and connect these competencies to work in the course

This is a Core IMPACTS course that is part of the Social Sciences area:

Core IMPACTS refers to the core curriculum, which provides students with essential knowledge in foundational academic areas. This course will help master course content, and support students' broad academic and career goals.

This course should direct students toward a broad Orienting Question:

- How do I understand human experiences and connections?

Completion of this course should enable students to meet the following Learning Outcomes:

- Students will effectively analyze the complexity of human behavior, and how historical, economic, political, social, or geographic relationships develop, persist, or change.

Course content, activities and exercises in this course should help students develop the following Career-Ready Competencies:

- Intercultural Competence
- Perspective-Taking
- Persuasion

General Format of the Course

There are 5 modules to this course; most modules will cover a one-week period. The modules are organized around particular themes. Each module will require that you complete a number of assignments, and all modules will follow pretty much the same format.

- Complete the related module before coming to the class
- Come to the class prepared for the lecture and discussions - with YOUR questions and comments
- Each week a group of students will present on the issue in the news around 10-15 minutes
- There will be three exams, quizzes, and assignments

➔ All components must be completed by **very specific due dates** and **exams must be taken on time**. Take note of those due dates (see the detailed schedule below); **there will be no extensions**.

A word about communication

Please get in touch through gsuglobalissues@gmail.com (use your GSU email address!), as soon as something is unclear.

I am here to help you navigate this course and make sure that you learn the material and do well in this class.

Few guidelines:

- before you email me with a question, **check the syllabus** and any instructions already posted on iCollege
 - if you email me with a question about due dates, materials to be covered during any specific week, you'll simply get a message back: **CHECK SYLLABUS**. I'm not trying to be rude, but you have a lot of info at your fingertips, just read it ☺
- **be very specific** with your questions. Please don't say: "I don't get the topic". Instead, point to a particular issue in the class and explain what it is that is unclear; **the more specific you are, the better I'll be able to answer your question**.
- 10% of your course grade depends on your discussion participation; take it seriously, engage with the materials and **be respectful** of your fellow group members
 - *Make sure you respond to specific points they make without any personal attacks whether you agree with them or not (I'm sure this goes without saying but just use common courtesy)*
- **Be reasonable with your demands on my time ☺**: I will generally respond within 24 hours; **however**, I may not respond within 24 hours during **weekends and/or holidays**.

Required materials

1. Top Hat Courseware:

This courseware embeds a text (Snarr and Snarr, "Introducing Global Issues", 7th ed.), the RCII, and other learning materials. Subscription information:

- a. If you are enrolled in the course in iCollege, you are *automatically enrolled* into Top Hat, which is integrated into iCollege. **Click on the link under "Content" in iCollege entitled "Top Hat Courseware Activation: YOU MUST START HERE."** Really, start there, or you'll cause yourself headaches. Follow the link and create an account.
- b. You have **two weeks** from the start of the course to purchase access from Top Hat (cheapest option) or the GSU bookstore (if you purchase from the GSU bookstore, you will receive a digital access code from them; enter the access code when prompted to pay for the courseware). After week two you will be prompted to purchase the courseware when logging in.
- c. If you fail to purchase the courseware, your Top Hat access will be disabled. The system will retain your work. Once you complete the purchase, your access will be re-enabled within 8 hours. Please contact Top Hat if you drop the course prior to the end of the second week; there will be no refunds for the courseware after the end of the second week.
- d. Questions concerning the Top Hat courseware can be submitted by email (support@TopHat.com), the help button embedded in the courseware (it's a "?" in the top right corner), calling (1-888-663-5491), or clicking [this link](#). Specific user information may be required by their technical support team when troubleshooting issues. This support is 9am to 9pm EST, Monday-Friday.
- e. Questions specific to the RCII should be directed to rcii@gsu.edu.

2. Access to "iCollege" & Internet

For this course students must have adequate online access to complete the lessons in Top Hat as well as other coursework. Since you are reading the syllabus for this course, you obviously have access to iCollege ☺. Make sure that you are using an approved browser: Use updated versions of *Chrome* or *Firefox* for this course to avoid browser difficulties.¹

- a. You must check iCollege **regularly** because you will only be able to access additional learning materials (quizzes, assignments, etc.) and upload your assignments on iCollege. I will also post **announcements** on iCollege on a regular basis.
- b. Webcams are required for the tests!
- c. If you do NOT have **access to the necessary hardware for online works**, please check [here](#) and fill out the necessary form (see [here](#)) to request the hardware needed to take this class.
- d. **"iCollege" or technical problems are no excuse** for having missed tests, quizzes, or any other assignments! *You must complete all coursework between the specified times/dates listed in the weekly course outline below.* There is an inbuilt grace period at the beginning of the semester so that you can make sure you have all the necessary equipment. Please help yourself and check you have all you need.

3. International News

Students are also expected to follow international news through such sources as [The Washington Post](#), [The New York Times](#), [The Wall Street Journal](#), [al Jazeera](#), [Foreign Affairs](#), [Foreign Policy](#), and any other sources you prefer.

So that you are expected to be familiar with current events and we shall have discussions of these events and how they bear on our studies each week. As this is a course in which you are expected to sharpen your critical thinking skills, you should try to check out at least two (2) news sources at least a couple of times a week and thoughtfully assess each source and its presentation of the information.

- You will also be asked to present a related topic of the week, which composes your 10% of your total grade.

4. World Map

You need to be able to locate various countries on a map so make sure you have access to an up-to-date atlas (you can find it online).

¹ On the log in page (before you actually log in), click on the "Perform a System Check" link. You must use an approved browser, or you will experience problems while in iCollege and these mostly show up when you are trying to take a quiz. Also, most problems occur when students try to take tests on their smart phones. Make sure you have access to a computer to avoid any problems. Avoid taking quizzes on phones; use a laptop or desktop (or even an iPad) instead.

Assessment

Student performance will be evaluated as follows:

- 15% - Test 1
- 15% - Test 2 (part. cumulative)
- 15% - Test 3 (part. cumulative)
- 27.5% - Top Hat Units
- 10% - Participation in class discussion and activities
- 10% - Issue in the News
- 5% - End of Semester Standardized Assessment
- 2.5% - Map Quizzes

100% - Total

Extra credits:

- College to Career Extra Credit (3pts extra credit)
- Syllabus Quiz (1 pt. extra credit; must make 100% during first week)

Detailed explanation of assessment components

Make sure you read all the information so that you know exactly what is expected of you and how you can get the best grade possible in this class. Contact me early so that any potential problems can be worked out before the semester is over. If you have specific grade requirements (for your major, for your scholarship, etc.) you need to make sure you work towards them from the beginning of the semester. Any efforts to get me to change your grade at the end of the semester based on your sudden realization that you need a better grade than you actually earned will not be accommodated.

The course is designed to give you ample opportunity to master the material and do well in this course. However, **if you don't do the work, you cannot get the grade.** Write down all the requirements with their various due dates into your calendar and/or set up reminders so that you have no reason to ever fall behind or miss a deadline. I will give you reminders but if I forget to remind you, this will not be a reason for you to get an extension or an exception. You need to keep track of your own due dates. I am more than happy to work with you throughout the semester to make sure you understand the material. I will not be able to help you after deadlines have passed and the semester is over.

1. Online Tests (3 at 45% total):

The three tests in this course cover all materials assigned through the Top Hat courseware (except the map quizzes), material covered in class, and any other required materials noted on the Course Outline for that section of the course. Test 2 and Test 3 are also partially cumulative, as they will address some of the key concepts carried throughout the course to that point. Tests are administered on iCollege using Lockdown Browser with video capture (*webcams required*). Tests incorporate a variety of question types. Study guidelines are posted on iCollege.



Dates: Each exam will be during a designated four-day “exam period.” The exam periods are also indicated on the Course Outline at the end of this syllabus.

- **Test 1:** September 23-27
- **Test 2:** October 21-25
- **Test 3:** December 2-6

Length: ~75 minutes - to take each exam by 11:59pm on the last day of the exam period.

2. Top Hat Units and Lessons (27.5%):

This class includes 11 online units inside the Top Hat courseware, as well as three map quizzes also incorporated into Top Hat. The courseware units include lessons using sections from your course text (Snarr and Snarr “Introducing Global Issues”), the Robinson Country Intelligence Index (which reinforces course concepts and strengthens global, data, and digital literacy), and other materials (such as videos, PowerPoints, or additional readings). These lessons are designed to help you learn the material, prepare for exams, and gain a deeper appreciation of the topics covered.

Due Dates: Every week one or two units will be due no later than **11:59pm on due date.**

Notes:

- a. You may move forward to subsequent units to self-pace through the courseware, and *you may revisit units* after they are listed as due (to, for example, study for tests) *to subsequent Units prior to the weeks they are assigned*. This allows you to have ample time for review and revision. However, *grades tied to a specific week's unit will be finalized the day it is due*. After the due date, *you can continue to access past Units in Top Hat to study for tests*, but your grade for that Unit will have been submitted.
- b. *The lowest Top Hat Unit is dropped.*
- c. How your work on the Top Hat units/lessons turns into grades in the gradebook:
 - i. Top Hat will report the percentage of correct answers across all the lessons in an entire Unit (this is what you will see transferred to iCollege). For example, if there are 50 questions across all the lessons in a Unit, and you get 45 correct, you will receive a 90. *Note, you are encouraged to go back and revisit questions to continue to improve your score.*
 - ii. You have **three** attempts at each question in the courseware.
 - iii. *Upon the due date, the Unit grade transfers to iCollege.*
 - iv. Grades automatically sync to iCollege once the due date passes for a Unit.

3. Attendance and Participation (10%)

Your attendance is very important and **MANDATORY** for your learning and for the effective learning environment of the classroom. Yet, 'attendance' does not only mean that your physical presence in the class. It is important to realize that there are multiple components to your learning. So, you need to participate into the discussions, ask questions, and respond to questions in order to gain attendance points.

I want you to do more than just passively listening the lectures and, therefore, to ensure that you really think about the concepts and ideas we discuss. **You can gain points even if you answer the questions incorrectly.**

Due: Each Class!

Policy on Attendance, Missed Assignments, and Emergencies:

Regular attendance is expected in this class and work must be completed as set out in the course outline. You are responsible for announcements made in class and material covered on days you are absent. There are no makeup tests; if you miss an exam, you will receive a 0. Similarly, if you miss an assignment due date, you will receive a 0. Simply put, late assignments will not be accepted except for well documented emergencies. Note, given that you have 5 days to take tests, and other assignments open starting the first day of the semester, the bar is very high for making up missed assignments.

4. Issue in the News (10%)

Tying current issues in the news into our Global Issues class helps us apply key course concepts and gain a deeper understanding of relevant topics of the students' choosing. It also helps in preparation for course assignments, such as the tests and paper.

Four Steps & Due Dates:

- a. Select your top 3 choices for an issue (or a Top Hat Unit) to present and work with from the [survey link](#) → 1st week of the class (August 30)
- b. Students chose and clear with the professor a video clip (roughly 10 minutes) or an article (1-2 pages formatted) that they would like to present and discuss in their assigned class → minimum of one week before assigned class.
- c. In their assigned class, students lead a discussion of their article/video, applying concepts from that week's Top Hat materials and raising key questions → 15 minutes
- d. Students turn in a 1-page, single spaced write up of their discussion item, the concepts they applied, and their reflections on the class discussion → Within one week after the assigned class

5. End-of-Semester Standardized Assessment (5%)

The final graded component of this course is a standardized, roughly 30-question assessment that all POLS 2401 students at GSU Atlanta and GSU Perimeter take during the last two weeks of the semester. You will take the exam online via iCollege at the end of the semester. Completing the work in the course is what prepares you for this assessment.

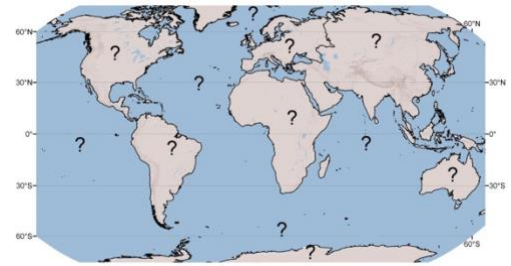
Due Date: December 6

6. Map Quizzes (3 at 2.5%):

The three short map quizzes each cover two regions of the world. Knowing the basic geography of the places we are covering is central to getting the most out of this course. Hint, having the RCII mapping tab open while taking the quizzes can be very helpful. Combined, the map quizzes count as the equivalent of one Top Hat Unit in your overall grade tied to Top Hat (or 1/12 of the 30%). You must get all correct on a map to get credit for that map.

Due Date: The map quizzes open the first day of the course and close the last day of the first exam period (September 27)!

- Map Quiz 1: Middle East & Former Soviet Union
- Map Quiz 2: Asia & Latin America
- Map Quiz 3: Africa & Europe



7. Extra Credits (1+3 points)

a. Syllabus Quiz: To make sure you have read this syllabus, you are required to take a Syllabus Quiz using the same software as for our exams so that you know how it works (Lockdown Browser with webcam). You must pass the Syllabus Quiz with **100%** correct answers to unlock the Modules in the course.

Due Date: You must complete this quiz by the end of week 1 to receive one extra credit point on your final grade.

b. College to Career: Students can earn up to 3pts extra credit on their final grade by completing three College-to-Career “topics” posted on the Discussion Board. For each topic, you must answer both questions with a paragraph consisting of at least 100 words (i.e., for each topic you should have two answers in your post, each with at least 100 words). These are all interesting videos meant to get your creative juices flowing about what happens after you leave Georgia State.

Due Date: This extra credit possibility opens after the second test and closes with the last test (see Course Outline below).

Grading

Finally, a general point about all grades in this course. Any request to change a grade must be made in writing and must give specific reasons. Once a request is made, I will give it consideration, but I reserve the right to lower your grade as well if I think that you were originally given too many points.

Plus/Minus Grading

Numerical score and letter grade equivalent:

A+	=	98 and higher	B	=	83-87	C-	=	70-72
A	=	93-97	B-	=	80-82	D	=	60-69
A-	=	90-92	C+	=	78-79	F	=	59 and below
B+	=	88-89	C	=	73-77			

Course Outline

Module 1: Our Globalized World and Key Actors on the World Stage

- WEEK I:** GLOBAL AFFAIRS and GLOBALIZATION (begins August 26)
- Module 1 Opening Survey
 - Top Hat Unit 1: “Our Globalized World” (Unit 1 closes September 6)
 - *Note one week extension for Unit 1 because of the beginning of the semester. Even with this extension, it is strongly suggested you finish Unit 1 in week 1.*
 - Select your presentation/paper topic by August 30
 - **Syllabus Quiz due September 1**
 - **MAP QUIZZES OPEN August 26**

- WEEK II:** ACTORS ON THE WORLD STAGE (begins September 2)
- Top Hat Unit 2: “Key Actors on the World Stage” (Unit 2 closes September 6)
 - *Note no class on Labor Day September 2.*

Module 2: The Challenge of Global Security

- WEEK III:** GLOBAL SECURITY (begins September 9)
- Module 2 Opening Survey
 - Top Hat Unit 3: “Global Security: Old Issues, New Realities” (Unit 3 closes September 13)

- WEEK IV:** WEAPONS PROLIFERATION (begins September 16)
- Top Hat Unit 4: “Global Security Challenges: Weapons Proliferation” (Unit 4 closes September 20)

- WEEK V:** **TEST 1 - SEPTEMBER 21 - 27**
- **MAP QUIZZES CLOSE September 27**

Module 3: The Global Political Economy and Strategies for Development

- WEEK VI:** THE GLOBAL POLITICAL ECONOMY (begins September 30)
- Module 3 Opening Survey
 - Top Hat Unit 5: “Global Political Economy” (Unit 5 closes October 4)

- WEEK VII:** TRADE AND MONEY IN THE INTERNATIONAL POL. ECONOMY
- Top Hat Unit 6: “Trade and Money in the International Political Economy” (Unit 6 closes July 5)
 - **Mid-point Survey**

- WEEK VIII:** DIMENSIONS AND STRATEGIES OF DEVELOPMENT (begins October 14)
- Top Hat Unit 7: “Dimensions and Strategies of Development” (Unit 7 closes October 18)

October 15, Last day to withdraw, semester midpoint

- WEEK IX:** **TEST 2 - OCTOBER 21-25**

Module 4: Challenges to Development: Demographics and Human Rights

- WEEK X:** DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGES: DEMOGRAPHICS (begins October 28)
- Module 4 Opening Survey
 - Top Hat Unit 8: “Challenges of Population Growth and Migration” (Unit 8 closes Nov. 1)
 - College-to-Career extra credit open on Discussion Board October 28

- WEEK XI:** DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGES: HUMAN RIGHTS (begins November 4)
- Top Hat Unit 9: “The Quest for Universal Human Rights” (Unit 9 closes November 8)

Module 5: Challenges to Dev.: Achieving Sustainable Development and Confronting Climate Change

- WEEK XII:** DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGES: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (begins Nov. 11)
- Module 5 Opening Survey
 - Top Hat Unit 10: “Achieving Sustainable Development” (Unit 10 closes Nov. 15)

- WEEK XIII:** DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGES: CLIMATE CHANGE (begins Nov. 18)
- Top Hat Unit 11: “Confronting Climate Change” (Unit 11 closes Nov. 22)

THANKSGIVING BREAK – November 25-30

- WEEK XIV:** **TEST 3 - December 2-6**
- **END OF SEMESTER STANDARDIZED ASSESSMENT DUE December 6, 11:59pm**
 - **COLLEGE-TO-CAREER EXTRA CREDIT CLOSES December 6, 11:59pm**

*Please note: Your constructive assessment of this course plays an indispensable role in shaping education at GSU. Upon completing the course, please take time to fill out **the course evaluation online.***

Information on GSU and Class Policies

Policy on Disruptive Behavior:

It is imperative that certain rules be followed to ensure that everyone has an opportunity to learn. The university policy on disruptive behavior will be strictly enforced. Below is an extract from the university handbook on disruptive behavior.

“Disruptive student behavior is student behavior in a classroom or other learning environment (to include both on and off-campus locations), which disrupts the educational process. Disruptive behavior for this purpose is defined by the instructor.”

Policy on Academic Dishonesty:

In the interests of fairness and academic integrity university policies will be strictly enforced. Please pay special attention to the underlined sections in this extract from the university policy on academic dishonesty.

“The university assumes as a basic and minimum standard of conduct in academic matters that students be honest and that they submit for credit only the products of their own efforts. Both the ideals of scholarship and the need for fairness require that all dishonest work be rejected as a basis for academic credit. They also require that students refrain from any and all forms of dishonorable or unethical conduct related to their academic work. The policy represents a core value of the university and all members of the university community are responsible for abiding by its tenets. Lack of knowledge of this policy is not an acceptable defense to any charge of academic dishonesty.”

Academic dishonesty includes but is not limited to:

- A. **Plagiarism:** Plagiarism includes but not limited to:
 - a. presenting another person’s work as one’s own
 - b. any paraphrasing or summarizing of the works of another person without acknowledgement,
 - c. submitting of another student’s work as one’s own...
- B. **Cheating on Examinations;** Cheating on examinations involves giving or receiving unauthorized help before, during, or after an examination...
- C. **Knowing that cheating occurs but not reporting it.**
- D. Falsifying identity, tampering with academic records, multiple submissions; unauthorized collaboration with others; being an accessory to acts of academic dishonesty
- E. **Unauthorized use of AI** to complete your writing assignments

*** Citation guidelines are posted on iCollege. All student work goes through Turnitin.

Violations of the academic dishonesty rules are grounds for receiving an “F” on an assignment, in the course, or harsher penalties. See the [University Policy on Academic Honesty](#).

Title IX/Clery Act Notification:

Sexual misconduct (including sexual harassment, sexual assault, and any other nonconsensual behavior of a sexual nature) and sex or gender discrimination violate University policies. Students experiencing such behavior may obtain confidential support from GSU's Student Victim Assistance services. Student Victim Assistance is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week at 404-413-1965. Disclosures made to Student Victim Assistance staff will be held in strict confidence and will not serve as notice to the university requiring initiation of a review of the disclosed conduct. Disclosure to university faculty or instructors is not confidential under federal law. If you disclose sexual misconduct, domestic violence, dating violence, or sex or gender discrimination occurring on campus, in a university-sponsored program, or involving a campus visitor or university student or employee (whether current or former) to me, I am required by federal law to forward such reports, including names and circumstances, to the University's Title IX officer. You can learn more about Title IX and reporting instances of sexual misconduct [here](#).

Policies on Disabilities, Incompletes, and Withdrawals:

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. Students who wish to request accommodation for a disability may do so via the Access and Accommodations Center (AACE; [click here](#)). Students may only be accommodated upon issuance of a signed Accommodation Plan by the AACE Center and are responsible for providing a copy of that plan to instructors of all classes in which accommodations are sought. For **GSU policy on incompletes** please see [here](#); for **GSU Policy on hardship withdrawals** please see [here](#).

FERPA statement:

In keeping with USG and university policy, this course website will make every effort to maintain the privacy and accuracy of your personal information. Specifically, unless otherwise noted, it will not actively share personal information gathered from the site with anyone except university employees whose responsibilities require access to said records. However, some information collected from the site may be subject to the Georgia Open Records Act. This means that while we do not actively share information, in some cases we may be compelled by law to release information gathered from the site. Also, the site will be managed in compliance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), which prohibits the release of education records without student permission. For more details on FERPA, go [here](#).

Basic Needs Statement:

Any student who faces challenges securing their food or housing and believes this may affect their performance in the course is urged to contact the Dean of Students for support. Furthermore, please notify the professor if you are comfortable doing so. This will enable us to provide resources that we may possess. The Embark program at GSU provides resources for students facing homelessness and Panther's Pantry provides resources for students facing food insecurity.