

INST 2100.002 Introduction to International Studies

Dr. Dariga Abilova

TueThur: 7PM – 8.20 PM in LANG 316

Office Hours: Thursday 1PM – 2:30PM or by appointment

Email: Dariga.Abilova@unt.edu

Course Description Objectives

Welcome to the course! Are you enthusiastic about global affairs? Do you frequently consider how global events might affect you and your local community? How do you envision your role as a global citizen in contributing to a more just and compassionate world? This introductory course aims to help you explore these questions by immersing you in the interdisciplinary study of global issues and the dynamic nature of globalization. Through a combination of lectures, discussions, short case studies, projects, and active self-learning, the course will address critical contemporary issues such as ethnic conflict, gender equality, racial justice, identity formation, climate change, infectious diseases, and global security.

Course Objectives

- Foster a better understanding of what international studies is, why international studies matters, and how nations, society, and people impact the world and shape today's international narratives. (*Key transferable skill: international awareness*)
- Appreciate, accept, and value diverse perspectives from members of the learning community on international issues. (*Key transferable skill: Respect for diversity*)
- Strengthen the abilities to critically evaluate theories and policies on international issues and consider counterarguments on contemporary international issues. (*Key transferable skill: Analytical thinking and critical thinking*)
- Effectively articulate and explain various positions or perspectives on major international topics both verbally and in writing. (*Key transferable skill: Communication and writing skills*)
- Learn how to effectively use the knowledge and skills gained to becoming thoughtful citizens engaging in society. (*Key transferable skill: Citizenship engagement*)

Required Materials

1. **In-class weekly lectures.** You need to attend in-class lectures, pay serious attention to them and take notes from them to perform well in this class. Lecture slides will not be provided.
2. Readings and media materials posted on Canvas Modules.

This course has digital components! To fully participate in this class, you will need internet access to reference content on the Canvas Learning Management System. The University is committed to providing a reliable online course system to all users. However, in the event of any unexpected server outage or any unusual technical difficulty which prevents students from completing a time sensitive assessment activity, I will extend the time windows and provide an appropriate accommodation based on the situation. Please immediately report any technical problems that are preventing you from accessing the course and contact the UNT Student Help Desk: helpdesk@unt.edu or

940.565.2324 and obtain a ticket number.

How to Succeed in this Course

Please read this syllabus carefully. If you attend class lectures and complete all assignments on time - *you will succeed in this class*. The schedule and policies in this syllabus are all designed with the purpose of giving you the tools you need to succeed. Every deadline is in place to support your pacing. Every grading policy is there to encourage and reward you for working up to your own high standards.

If you are struggling for any reason please send me an email, text me on MS Teams or come by my office during my office hours. I want to hear what you're experiencing with the class, and we will work together to fix it. Depending on your struggle, there might be immediate help from UNT's Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) and/or a medical note from a counselor or therapist that will authorize me to accommodate your needs. If your struggle doesn't match either of these, we will work to find another solution.

I am generally strict about enforcing everything in this syllabus because that strictness usually helps my students achieve their goals and they thank me later for the tough love. If for any reason you fall off the train and feel unable to catch up, reach out to me right away and we'll get you back on board!

Academic Integrity:

We will have written assignments in the class. I am a big believer that each one of you is more than capable of coming up with your own original thoughts. And if you happen to agree with someone else's – that is fine, too, but you always need to give credits to the creators. Stealing someone else's hard work or failing to give proper credits to respective authors will never help to pass the assignments and goes against the university's policy on academic integrity.

Academic integrity emanates from a culture that embraces the core values of trust and honesty necessary for full learning to occur. As a student-centered public research university, the University of North Texas promotes the integrity of the learning process by establishing and enforcing academic standards. Academic dishonesty breaches the mutual trust necessary in an academic environment and undermines all scholarship. The Student Standards of Academic Integrity are based on educational principles and procedures that protect the rights of all participants in the educational process and validate the legitimacy of degrees awarded by the University. ([UNT Policy 18.1.16 \[EXT LINK\]](#)).

Acts academic dishonesty include cheating, plagiarism, fabrication, forgery, sabotage of other's works, self-plagiarism, team plagiarism and patch-writing plagiarism ([UNT Policy 18.1.16 \[EXT LINK\]](#)). Any attempt to engage in academic dishonesty will result in receiving zero for the assigned items and may get reported to the Dean of Students.

You can use spellchecking tools like Grammarly to proofread your original writing. However, the use of any content-producing application, such as ChatGPT, will result in an automatic zero for the assignment. In other words, you must write all your assignments yourself and you can only use AI for editing and checking for misspellings.

If you would like assistance with translating your ideas into academic writing, or just want to refresh your knowledge about proper citation mechanisms (so that you can give proper credits to authors),

consider visiting the UNT's Writing Studio. Also, check [these very helpful handouts on the Writing Center \[EXT LINK\]](#), which can help you with organizing and citing your academic papers.

ADA accommodation statement:

The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking reasonable accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Access (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with a reasonable accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request reasonable accommodations at any time; however, ODA notices of reasonable accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of reasonable accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. Students are strongly encouraged to deliver letters of reasonable accommodation during faculty office hours or by appointment. Faculty members have the authority to ask students to discuss such letters during their designated office hours to protect the privacy of the student. For additional information, refer to the [Office of Disability Access \[EXT LINK\]](#) website. You may also contact ODA by phone at (940) 565-4323.

Word on Communication:

For this course, I will check my email at least once per day during regular business hours, so please remember that you will not necessarily receive an instant reply from me, but I will answer your email within 48 hours during regular working hours. **Make sure that you only use your UNT email when contacting me.** When emailing me, please identify yourself by giving me your entire name, the class you are in, and your specific question. ***Try to be very specific with your questions, as the more specific you are, the better I will be able to answer your question!***

Learning Environment

I value the many perspectives students bring to our campus. Please work with me to create a classroom culture of open communication, mutual respect, and belonging. All discussions should be respectful and civil. Although disagreements and debates are encouraged, personal attacks are unacceptable. Likewise, when others critique your points, don't take them personally but think about what about your and others' arguments could be presented in a more persuasive manner. Remember, you can disagree without becoming disagreeable and in addressing disagreements you will help your own and the class's learning. In return for your thoughtful engagement with the material and each other, I will work to provide a learning environment that allows you to take intellectual and emotional risks. Together, we can ensure a safe and welcoming classroom for all. If you ever feel like this is not the case, please stop by my office and let me know. We are all learning together.

Every student in this class should have the right to learn and engage within an environment of respect and courtesy from others. We will discuss our classroom's habits of engagement and I also encourage you to review UNT's student [Code of Conduct \[EXT LINK\]](#) so that we can all start with the same baseline civility understanding.

Prohibition of Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation (Policy 16.004):

UNT prohibits discrimination and harassment because of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, or any other characteristic protected under applicable federal or state law in its application

and admission processes; educational programs and activities; employment policies, procedures, and processes; and university facilities. The University takes active measures to prevent such conduct and investigates and takes remedial action when appropriate.

Attendance

Attendance is a major part of your learning in this class. Attendance Research has shown that students who attend class are more likely to be succeed in it. You should attend every class unless you have a university excused absence such as active military service, a religious holy day, or an official university function as stated in the [Student Attendance and Authorized Absences Policy \(PDF\)](#).

If you cannot attend a class due to an emergency, please let me know as soon as you can. Your safety and well-being are important! Also, UNT will notify through Eagle Alert of any emergencies or if there is a campus closing that will impact a class in accordance with the [Emergency Notifications \[EXT LINK\]](#).

Please try to arrive before class begins to find a seat, prepare your materials, and connect with your peers. Because this course involves collaboration, participation is essential to everyone's learning. Our in-class activities require you to be actively engaged in discussions and group work. The beginning of class is especially critical—just like the beginning of a movie or book. Being late to class is sometimes inevitable. **If you are late, know that you are welcome to join the class, but please do so without distracting others.**

Withdrawal

The Dean of Students Office is committed to helping you if you should ever intend to withdraw from a semester (drop ALL courses). If you wish to withdraw, do so in person at the Dean of Students Office (Sage Hall 110) during the office hours. This is a “one stop shop” for the withdrawal process. Students may only withdraw from the first day of class until the official last day to withdraw as indicated in the academic calendar. You can find the Fall 2026 Academic Calendar [here](#) [EXT LINK].

You must visit the Dean of Students Office to obtain the official University Withdrawal Form and meet with a staff member. The meeting will ensure you are informed of any obligations you may have with the University or items you may need to fulfill upon returning to UNT. Students will also receive Financial Aid Exit counseling (as applicable). This will allow UNT to better understand the reasons why students leave to improve our university and its services. Students may access and find more information regarding withdrawal [here](#) [EXT LINK].

Grading

A	B	C	D	F
90-99%	80-90%	70-80%	60-70%	0-60%

Grades are never rounded up. For example, if you have earned 89.99%, your grade is B+.

Late work is not accepted unless there is a valid documented reason for missing the original deadline. Also, if you have an important life event, or an emergency, or any other situation that is preventing you from submitting the work on time – ***please let me know as soon as possible.***

In the interest of academic fairness, all students are graded on same criteria for each assignment. Personal desires or needs to maintain a particular GPA for scholarships, athletics, or other reasons cannot be considered in grading the submitted material.

If you believe that the grade assigned should be reviewed again, I am more than happy to take another look. However, a granted grade review will require a full re-grade of the entire work and may discover that certain portions were graded too leniently.

Graded Assignments

In-Class Map Quizzes – 15%

There will be four (3) short map quizzes, administered in the first four weeks of the semester starting from Week 2, which will cover the following regions of the world: A) Western and Eastern Europe; B) East, Central and Southeast Asia; C) Africa and the Middle East. Knowing the basic geography of the places we're covering is **central** to getting the most out of this course.

Attendance and Participation – 15%

Throughout the semester, learners will be expected and required to attend every class and to be actively engaged in class as a member of the learning community for this course. ***You will not pass this course without attending lectures as both midterm and final exams are based on in-class lectures, so strive to attend every class session to gather maximum points for map quizzes and to take important notes to prepare for the midterm and the final tests.*** Please remember that your attendance is necessary to engage with your classmates, critically analyze the material, express your opinions and help each other learn. Attending every class is going to be the easiest assignment to earn. All you need to do is show up to the class during the 16-week semester and earn 0.5 points for every attendance towards your final 15 points.

Midterm – 20%

On Week 8, we will have a Midterm in class. The Midterm will consist of forty (40) multiple-choice questions. The test will be on Wednesday of Week 8, and we will meet on Monday to review the material and prepare for the test together. Study guide will be posted on Canvas on Week 7.

“My Voice” Podcast Project Assignment – 30%

For this podcast project, you will create a short podcast (5 minutes) discussing one (out of 17) UN sustainable development goals. You can either self-narrate the topic or invite someone else and record a conversation. The first option is great for providing the background on the topic whereas the second option is great for debating a topic instead.

A (Self-narrative Podcast) B (Conversational Podcast)	
Briefly introduce the name of your podcast.	Briefly introduce the name of your podcast.
Briefly state the issue or topic you will be introducing to the audience. (Give a title to your podcast)	Briefly introduce your invited guest and state the issue or topic you will be conversing with your invited guest. (Give a title to your podcast)
Narrate the chosen issue or topic by highlighting 1 or 2 key problems currently affecting the issue or topic.	Prepare 2–3 questions on the chosen issue or topic to ask your invited guest.

Provide a brief conclusion at the end of the podcast. The assignment is due on Week 14 and must be submitted on Canvas.

“My Voice” project will be assessed using the UNT Core Rubric based on the following criteria:

- Communication skills
- Critical thinking skills
- Social responsibility

Final Test – 20%

On Week 16, we will have a final test in class. The format will be similar to the midterm test, i.e. the final test will consist of forty (40) multiple-choice questions. The study guide will be posted on Canvas a week prior, and we will meet on Monday of that week to review the material and prepare for the test.

Course Schedule

* PLEASE NOTE: I reserve a right to make amendments to this schedule and should they become necessary – you will be notified well ahead of any deadlines both in class and on Canvas.

Week 1	Introduction to the class • <u>Intro to the class</u>
Week 2	Globalization • Stiglitz, J.E. The overselling of globalization. <i>Bus Econ</i> 52, 129–137 (2017). https://doi.org/10.1057/s11369-017-0047-z Map Quiz 1 (in-class): Europe
Week 3	Main actors on the Global Stage Map Quiz 2 (in-class): Asia
Week 4	History of the Global Security System Map Quiz 3 (in-class): Africa
Week 5	Global Security Challenges: Weapons Proliferation & Terrorism • Pape, R. A. (2003). The Strategic Logic of Suicide Terrorism. <i>The American Political Science Review</i>, 97(3), 343–361. http://www.jstor.org/stable/3117613
Week 6	Global Political Economy: Roots of uneven development
Week 7	Global Political Economy: Neoliberalism • Borgen, E. (Director). (2005). <i>The debt of dictators</i> [Documentary].
Week 8	In-Class Midterm
Week 9	Global Political Economy and Free Trade Debate
Week 10	Global Demography Map, Population Growth and Migration • World Population Prospects 2024: Ten Key Messages [EXT LINK]

Week 11	Human Rights
Week 12	Climate Change
Week 13	Achieving Sustainable Development Filho, W. L., Dinis, M. A. P., Ruiz-de-Maya, S., Doni, F., Eustachio, J. H., Swart, J., & Paço, A. (2022). The economics of the UN sustainable development goals: Does sustainability make financial sense? <i>Discover Sustainability</i>, 3(1), 20-8. https://doi.org/10.1007/s43621-022-00088-5
Week 14	Global Refugee Crisis Podcast Assignment Due on Canvas
Week 15	Thanksgiving Break - No Classes
Week 16	Final In-Class Test

Additional UNT Policies

Retention of Student Records:

Student records pertaining to this course are maintained in a secure location by the instructor of record. All records such as exams, answer sheets (with keys), and written papers submitted during the duration of the course are kept for at least one calendar year after course completion. Course work completed via the Canvas online system, including grading information and comments, is also stored in a safe electronic environment for one year. Students have the right to view their individual record; however, information about student's records will not be divulged to other individuals without proper written consent. Students are encouraged to review the Public Information Policy and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) laws and the University's policy. See [UNT Records Management and Retention Policy \[EXT LINK\]](#) for additional information.

Access to Information - Eagle Connect:

Students' access point for business and academic services at UNT is located at: my.unt.edu. All official communication from the University will be delivered to a student's Eagle Connect account. For more information, please visit the website that explains Eagle Connect and how to forward e-mail Eagle Connect (<https://it.unt.edu/eagleconnect>).

Student Evaluation Administration Dates:

Student feedback is important and an essential part of participation in this course. The student evaluation of instruction is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT. The survey will be made available during weeks 13-15 of the long semesters to provide students with an opportunity to evaluate how this course is taught. Students will receive an email from "UNT SPOT Course Evaluations via IASystem Notification" (no-reply@iasystem.org) with the survey link. Students should look for the email in their UNT email inbox. Simply click on the link and complete the survey. Once students complete the survey, they will receive a confirmation email that the survey has been submitted. For additional information, please visit the [SPOT website \[EXT LINK\]](#) or email spot@unt.edu.

Survivor Advocacy:

UNT is committed to providing a safe learning environment free of all forms of sexual misconduct. Federal laws and UNT policies prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex as well as sexual misconduct. If you or someone you know is experiencing sexual harassment, relationship violence, stalking and/or sexual assault, there are campus resources available to provide support and assistance. The Survivor Advocates can be reached at SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu or by calling the Dean of Students Office at 940-5652648.

Use of Student Work:

A student owns the copyright for all work (e.g. software, photographs, reports, presentations, and email postings) he or she creates within a class and the University is not entitled to use any student work without the student's permission unless all of the following criteria are met:

- The work is used only once.
- The work is not used in its entirety.
- Use of the work does not affect any potential profits from the work.
- The student is not identified.
- The work is identified as student work.

If the use of the work does not meet all of the above criteria, then the University office or department using the work must obtain the student's written permission.

Transmission and Recording of Student Images in Electronically Delivered Courses:

No permission is needed from a student for his or her image or voice to be transmitted live via videoconference or streaming media, but all students should be informed when courses are to be conducted using either method of delivery. No notification is needed if only audio and slide capture is used or if the video only records the instructor's image.

Student Support Services:

UNT provides mental health resources to students to help ensure there are numerous outlets to turn to that wholeheartedly care for and are there for students in need, regardless of the nature of an issue or its severity. Listed below are several resources on campus that can support your academic success and mental well-being:

- [Student Health and Wellness Center \[EXT LINK\]](#)
- [Counseling and Testing Services \[EXT LINK\]](#)
- [UNT Care Team \[EXT LINK\]](#)
- [UNT Psychiatric Services \[EXT LINK\]](#)
- [Individual Counseling \[EXT LINK\]](#)

Additional Student Support Services:

- [Registrar \[EXT LINK\]](#)
- [Financial Aid \[EXT LINK\]](#)
- [Student Legal Services \[EXT LINK\]](#)
- [Career Center \[EXT LINK\]](#)
- [UNT Food Pantry \[EXT LINK\]](#)
- [Academic Resource Center \[EXT LINK\]](#)

- [Academic Success Center \[EXT LINK\]](#)
- [UNT Libraries \[EXT LINK\]](#)
- [Writing Lab \[EXT LINK\]](#)