Alasdair Young • [alasdair.young@gatech.edu](mailto:alasdair.young@gatech.edu) • 212B Habersham Building (IAC Building, 781 Marietta St.) Office hours: TTR: 2-3 and by appointment

INTA 3XXX: Global Politics of Technology

There are no prerequisites for this course

This course fulfills the Social Science and Global Perspective GEN ED requirements at Georgia Tech.

**Course Description**:

The development and adoption of technological innovations are greatly influenced by the rules and regulations affecting their use. This course examines the economic and political dynamics that influence how regulations governing technology are adopted around the world. We focus on a broad range of technical areas -- including civil aviation; food safety; the Internet; and nuclear energy -- to explore how regulatory decisions are made and explain why different governments adopt different rules. These differences are illustrated by comparing the regulatory processes of the world’s two largest markets and most influential regulators: the United States and the European Union. We also explore how their regulatory choices influence the rest of the world through emulation, coercion, and cooperation.

**Learning Outcomes:**

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

* *demonstrate the ability to describe the social, political, and economic forces that influence social behavior;*
* *demonstrate the ability to describe the social, political, and economic forces that influence the global system;*
* *understand causal and determinant relationships between science and technology (S&T) and international affairs (Science, Technology and International Affairs); and*
* *interpret, analyze and explain developments in global technology governance.*

**Required Texts:**

Fischhoff, B. and Kadvany, J. (2011), *Risk: A Very Short Introduction*, Oxford University Press.

Vogel, D. (2012), *The Politics of Precaution: Regulating Health, Safety and Environmental Risks in Europe and the United States*, Princeton University Press.

Additional readings will be added to t-square.

**List of Graded Assignments:**

Midterm: 25%

Presentation: 15%

Policy case study: 20%

Final Exam: 30% (given at time as shown on GT calendar)

Participation: 10%

**Attendance Policy**

Attendance is mandatory as is reading before class.

**ADAPTS**

The professor will work with ADAPTS so that all students have an equal opportunity for success. For information on ADAPTS, see <http://www.adapts.gatech.edu/>

**Honor Code Statement:**

Plagiarizing is defined by Webster’s as “to steal and pass off (the ideas or words of another) as one's own: use (another's production) without crediting the source.”If caught plagiarizing, you will be dealt with according to the GT Academic Honor Code.

For more information see: <http://www.honor.gatech.edu/plugins/content/index.php?id=9>

**Week by week schedule**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Introduction | *Risk* – 1&2 |
|  | Regulatory failures: false positives & negatives | Readings on t-square |
|  | Analyzing and managing risk | *Risk* –3, 4, 5, 7 |
|  | Comparing American and European approaches to analyzing and managing risk | *Politics* – 1, 2, 7, 8 |
|  | Regulatory conflict | Readings on t-square |
|  | Regulatory diffusion | *Politics* – 9 |
|  | Regulatory diplomacy | Readings on t-square |
|  | Food safety | *Politics* – 3 (part) |
|  | Agricultural biotechnology | *Politics* – 3 (part) |
|  | Chemicals | *Politics* – 5 |
|  | Pharmaceuticals | *Politics* – 6 (part) |
|  | Aviation | Readings on t-square |
|  | Automobiles | *Politics* – 4 (part) |
|  | The internet and privacy | Readings on t-square |
|  | Reflection and review |  |