**IAFS 4930   
Internship in International Affairs  
3 credits, Fall 2017**

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Office Hours: by appointment   
  
**COURSE DESCRIPTION AND GOALS**

This class offers students the opportunity to develop their understanding of international affairs through practical experience in relevant organizations. Internship placements are intended to help develop global engagement and to prepare students to contribute in a range of environments. Students also contextualize their experiences at the internship placement through independent research.

Through the internship class, students are encouraged to ask questions about their studies and reflect on their experiences. What does it mean to be an International Affairs major and what are you interested in exploring outside the classroom? How does your education support critical thinking about your community and the world?

Through this class, you will learn and do the following:

* Complete an internship relevant to international affairs (min. 120 hours at the placement)
* Identify and analyze the principles and goals of your organization
* Complete an analytical research project related to the internship placement
* Apply concepts and skills you are learning in your International Affairs degree program
* Develop professional strategies, including best practices for communication and performance
* Communicate the skills and experiences you have gained through your placement

As well, you will learn to start thinking of yourself professionally: how the critical thinking abilities you gain at CU help you in a professional setting, how to set goals and build relationships, how to communicate with different groups, and what professional ethics apply to your work.

**INTERNSHIP PROGRAM POLICIES**

*Internship Contract:* All students are required to fill out an internship contract that details expected duties and academic goals. A draft of the contract is required for admission to the internship program. An email from the internship supervisor can substitute for a signature. The contract can be downloaded from the IAFS internship page: <http://www.colorado.edu/iafs/academics/internships>. The completed contract can be submitted to the IAFS office, University Club A5, or a scanned copy can be emailed to [iafs@colorado.edu](mailto:iafs@colorado.edu).

*International Students:* If you are an international student, please contact CU-Boulder International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS) prior to starting any internship – <http://www.colorado.edu/oie/isss>.

*Activities with Alcohol:* Any internship that involves alcohol-related activities must receive an alcohol waiver from CU-Boulder and program approval before students are enrolled in the internship class.

**WHAT’S AN INTERNSHIP?**

An internship is short-term experience in a professional setting. It is intended to be educational and mainly developmental. As you select a placement, communicate with your supervisor, and carry out your responsibilities, learning should be your main goal.

Students must work at the placement for the equivalent of 40 hours per credit taken (a minimum of 120 hours overall for the 3-credit course), in addition to the independent research required for the academic component of this class. At approved placements, students will receive regular direct supervision, be exposed to the mission and operations of the office or institution, and become familiar with the relationship between internship duties and the overall efforts of the organization.

Guidelines to remember:

* *Always ask yourself the theoretical significance of your experiences.* How does your organization and its work relate to what you study in other International Affairs classes? Global society is not just “out there” beyond your national borders; it’s all around you and in your own community, and your internship is a chance to explore that.
* *During your internship, you are representing International Affairs and CU Boulder.* You are expected to benefit their host organization, and you must maintain your commitments and complete duties promptly and efficiently. You are expected to dress and act appropriately. You may not use your position for personal political advantage.
* *Be curious.* At your placement, be reflective and analytical. Ask questions professionally and at appropriate times, and be an active participant in your learning experience. Find out about the culture of your organization. When you meet or hear of people of interest, follow up and make appointments to talk in greater depth later.
* *While you are on your internship, enjoy yourself!* Take full advantage of the opportunities your internship presents.

**GRADES & ASSIGNMENTS**

Weekly email updates and meetings with instructor (2 during semester): 30%  
Project prospectus: 20%  
Final project: 40%  
On-site supervisor evaluation: 10%  
  
Please note: *If you need an extension, discuss it with me* ***in advance****, except in cases of documented medical or family emergency. Late papers will be penalized a point for each day they are late.*

1. ***Weekly email updates –*** ***due each Monday by 5pm in D2L***  
   Upload an update each week (minimum 250 words per update, uploaded to that week’s Dropbox folder in D2L). Each weekly update **is due no later than 5pm each Monday, with the first due by 5pm on Tuesday, September 5** (CU is closed on Monday, September 4 for Labor Day). If you are starting your internship after that date, contact the instructor for other arrangements. There is no update due on Monday, November 20 during fall break.

In your updates, you will detail your internship: what you’re doing, what challenges you’re facing and new skills you’re learning, any insights about your experience or organization, etc. Some weeks, I will send prompts for you to address in your weekly update; prompts will be available at the beginning of the week on Mondays. Students are responsible for answering questions I send in responses to these updates. These updates are my main avenue for finding out what you are accomplishing, so please be as detailed as possible. **The last update, due Monday, December 4, will include an updated resume that covers your internship duties and skills gained**.

**Students must also meet at least twice during the semester with the instructor (one is the initial meeting to be admitted to the class).**

1. ***Project prospectus* –** ***Due Friday, October 13 at 5pm in D2L***Your final project is intended to connect your internship experience to your study of international affairs, and your prospectus is your research plan. The prospectus allows you to start thinking about and organizing ideas for your project. The goal is to identify a research topic and a question with a viable scope, and to explain how you want to go about answering your question.

Your prospectus will be 2-3 pages (500-750 words, double spaced, 1” margins). It should include the following:

* Brief introduction to your topic
* Explanation of why your topic is important
* Research question – Your research question helps you refine and contextualize your topic. When developing your research question, think about the following: What are you curious to learn about your organization and its role in the international arena? How do your organization’s mission and actions relate to a theory or approach you’ve encountered in another class or found in the scholarly literature? What does your organization’s work say about broader themes or issues in international affairs, such as development, intercultural communication, gender, policy, trade, human rights, or conflict?
* Detail the evidence you want to use to answer your question. This helps you determine if your project is workable in scope. Do you plan to conduct interviews with your supervisor and others at your internship placement? Consult reports or data published by governments, international agencies, and your organization?
* The prospectus also must include **a formatted, preliminary bibliography with 5-10 scholarly sources** (scholarly sources include peer-reviewed journal articles and university press books). You will use these sources in your final project. You can add other sources **in addition** as needed (e.g., primary sources like government or NGO reports). If you have questions about scholarly sources or how to format a bibliography, ask the instructor or a CU-Boulder librarian. For a place to start, check the library’s *Find Articles and Databases* page, under International Affairs: <http://ucblibraries.colorado.edu/research/findarticles/>
* You don’t have to have read everything in your bibliography for the prospectus. **However, tell me about the key scholarly sources you plan to use.** How do you anticipate that the source will be useful? What concepts are you finding that relate to your topic? Are you finding something in the literature that is supported, or not supported, by your observations at your internship?

1. ***Final paper* – *Due Friday, December 15 at 5pm in D2L***The final paper will be 12-15 pages (3000-3750 words, excluding bibliography and citations, double spaced with 1” margins). Please use a standard style (e.g., MLA or Chicago), and ask the instructor or a CU-Boulder librarian if you have questions about standard styles.

**The final paper should include:**

* An overview of your organization (its history, mission, funding, audience, etc.)
* Answers to the key research question in the prospectus and analysis of your findings about your organization, its goals, and/or your specific topic. What does the literature say about this type of organization and the role it plays, or about your topic – and did your internship experiences align with these sources? What did you seek to examine and how did you go about doing this? Who did you talk to and why? What events and actions did you observe? What conclusions did you reach?
* Bibliography of resources. Remember to have a consistent style, including how you format journal volumes, commas, periods, etc. Your bibliography is an important part of your argument, so make it count!
* If applicable, your paper should include in an appendix a sample of any product from your internship duties, such as reports or memos you’ve written.

**To submit along with the final paper:**

*Supervisor Evaluation/Review*   
Please have your supervisor fill out the evaluation that is on the internship page of the IAFS website, and submit this with your final paper: <http://www.colorado.edu/iafs/academics/internships>  
  
*Thank You Letters*   
Each student is expected to write thank you letters to individuals who played significant roles assisting the intern during the placement. Copies of these letters are to be attached with the final paper.  
  
 **Grading scale:**

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| --- | --- |
| *SCORE* | *GRADE* |
| 93-100 | A |
| 90-92 | A- |
| 87-89 | B+ |
| 83-86 | B |
| 80-82 | B- |
| 77-79 | C+ |
| 73-76 | C |
| 70-72 | C- |
| 67-69 | D+ |
| 63-66 | D |
| 60-62 | D- |
| 0-59 | F |

**CU-BOULDER POLICIES**

RELIGIOUS OBLIGATIONS AND CLASS CONFLICTS   
Campus policy regarding religious observances requires that faculty make every effort to deal reasonably and fairly with all students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments or required attendance. Please let me know at least two weeks in advance if you have a conflict with exams, assignments, or class meetings because of religious obligations. We will work together to arrange appropriate accommodations. See full details at <http://www.colorado.edu/policies/observance-religious-holidays-and-absences-classes-andor-exams>.

DISABILITY SERVICES   
If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit to me a letter from Disability Services in a timely manner so that your needs can be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities. Contact Disability Services at 303-492-8671 or by e-mail at [dsinfo@colorado.edu](mailto:dsinfo@colorado.edu). Further information and answers to Frequently Asked Questions can be found at [www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices](http://www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices).

DISCRIMINATION AND SEXUAL HARASSMENT   
CU-Boulder is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working, and living environment. CU-Boulder will not tolerate acts of discrimination or harassment based upon Protected Classes or related retaliation against or by any employee or student. For purposes of this CU-Boulder policy, "Protected Classes" refers to race, color, national origin, sex, pregnancy, age, disability, creed, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, veteran status, political affiliation or political philosophy. Individuals who believe they have been discriminated against should contact the Office of Institutional Equity and Compliance at 303-492-2127 or the Office of Student Conduct (OSC) at 303-492-5550. Information about the Office of Institutional Equity and Compliance, the above referenced policies, and the campus resources available to assist individuals regarding discrimination or harassment can be obtained at <http://www.colorado.edu/institutionalequity>.

PLAGIARISM AND THE HONOR CODE   
Cheating (using unauthorized materials or giving unauthorized assistance during an examination or other academic exercise) and plagiarism (using another's ideas or words without acknowledgment) are serious offenses in a university, and may result in a failing grade for a particular assignment, a failing grade for the course, and/or suspension for various lengths of time or permanent expulsion from the university. All students of the University of Colorado at Boulder are responsible for knowing and adhering to the academic integrity policy of this institution. Violations of this policy may include: cheating, plagiarism, aid of academic dishonesty, fabrication, lying, bribery, and threatening behavior. All incidents of academic misconduct shall be reported to the Honor Code Council (honor@colorado.edu; 303- 725-2273). Students who are found to be in violation of the academic integrity policy will be subject to both academic sanctions from the faculty member and non-academic sanctions (including but not limited to university probation, suspension, or expulsion). Other information on the Honor Code can be found at <http://www.colorado.edu/academics/honorcode>.