

**PSCI 2223-100: INTRODUCTION TO INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**  
**LECTURE**  
**MW 9:05AM - 9:55AM IN MATH 100**  
**SPRING 2025**

Professor: Megan Shannon

Please call me: Meg or Professor Shannon or Dr. Shannon

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Drop-In Office Hours: Mondays 10:15am - Noon in Ketchum 124

Drop-In Zoom Hour: Wednesdays 11:00am - Noon <https://cuboulder.zoom.us/j/98157367087>

**Why Should You Care About International Relations?**

Our modern lifestyles cannot be achieved or sustained without international relations. International relations affect the products you buy, the stability of where you live, and the rights that you hold. Moreover, tackling the world's most pressing problems, such as climate change, terrorism, and civil conflict, requires working with actors outside our country. This class demonstrates how international relations affect our daily lives, often in puzzling ways. The goal is to explore questions and puzzles in international politics, including:

- If war is so costly, why do countries fight?
- If trade is economically efficient, why do countries sometimes restrict trade?
- If everyone values the earth's resources, why is global cooperation over the environment so hard to achieve?

We investigate these and other questions by identifying the interests, interactions, and institutions that lead to global outcomes. Actors have particular interests, but when they interact with others, they may end up with outcomes that do not reflect their interests. Global actors also work under institutions and rules that constrain and change their behavior. By exploring the behavior that results from interests, interactions, and institutions, we explain today's events and make predictions about the future. By the semester's end, you will understand a variety of political problems facing the world today. You will also have an appreciation for how much more there is to learn about international relations.

This class differs from current events and history classes. Even though we talk about historical events and think about the future, the theories we learn about apply to international politics across time. Moreover, this is not a class about any one country or region of the world. Even though we discuss particular countries as examples, the theories apply globally to a broad number of countries and regions.

**What Will You Get Out of this Class?**

Upon completion of the class, successful students will:

- (1) Understand the historical development of international relations as well as ongoing challenges to global order
- (2) Explain why conflict happens between and within countries and apply bargaining theory to actual conflict events
- (3) Identify how factor flows determine international trade, finance, and migration
- (4) Identify how interests, interactions, and institutions lead to various political outcomes, including international law, human rights, and global environmental cooperation

- (5) Begin to apply social science research methods to puzzles in international relations

### **Commitment to Inclusivity**

The University of Colorado is a learning community that seeks to understand the world around us. CU cannot achieve those goals without the engagement of its undergraduate students. You have unique gifts, skills, and insights that advance our search for truth and knowledge. That means your participation in this class is valuable. My commitment is to make sure that you feel included enough in our class community to participate, whether that be in lecture or recitation. If you feel your differences isolate you from CU's community or if you need specific accommodations, please speak with me and/or your TA early in the semester about what we can do together to help you engage in our class and the CU community.

### **Drop-In Hours for Students**

I am available to talk to students on Mondays from 10:15am to noon in my office in Ketchum 124, and on Wednesdays from 11:00am - noon on Zoom <https://cuboulder.zoom.us/j/98157367087> (link is also in the sidebar of the class Canvas page). You do not need to make an appointment or let me know you are coming in advance. You can come alone or with a friend. You can ask about the class, and about things such as becoming a political science major, getting into and going to graduate school, doing research in political science, your career goals, and the best trails in Boulder. Please resist the temptation to remain anonymous and let problems fester. If you have concerns about your class performance, the way the class is being taught, the functionality of the class on Canvas, or anything else related to class, get in touch with me or your teaching assistant. If you are not able to make it to drop-in hours, email me and we will make an appointment.

### **Electronic Device Policy**

Electronic devices, specifically computers and mobile phones, are not allowed during lecture (note: the policy on electronics for your recitation section is determined by your TA and may differ from the policy for lecture). This policy is aimed at providing the best learning environment for all students. It is also to encourage note-taking by hand, which research shows to be a more effective way of retaining information. Devices must be put in airplane mode or turned off and put away during class. If you need to make a call, send a text, or use an electronic device during class, leave the lecture hall and return when you are finished. Students will receive a warning when violating this policy. Students who repeatedly violate this policy will be asked to leave the class. Exceptions to this policy are at my discretion. Please talk to me if you feel you cannot adhere to this policy, and we will find a workable solution. Tablets used for note-taking by hand are fine under this policy, so long as they are not used for other purposes.

### **Written Work Policy**

Written work must be uploaded to Canvas. Work turned in late will be docked one letter grade for each day late, beginning at the end of class on the day the written work is due.

### **Use of AI**

For this class, you may use generative AI programs such as ChatGPT to help generate ideas and brainstorm. You will also use Packback, an instructional AI-supported online writing platform for creating discussion posts (more below). However, be aware of generative AI's limitations. The material generated by these programs may be inaccurate, incomplete, and may perpetuate racial, gender, ethnic, and other biases. In fact, you should not trust anything AI says, and you should confirm the information it gives you through other means.

You may not submit any work generated by an AI program as your own. If you include material generated by an AI program, it should be cited like any other reference material (but consider that the quality of the reference may be poor). Plagiarism or other forms of cheating will be addressed according to CU Honor Code policies (see statement later in this syllabus).

You may not use AI to complete the exams for this class.

## Class Materials

- Frieden, Jeffrey A., David A. Lake, and Kenneth A. Schultz. 2022. World Politics: Interests, Interactions, Institutions, 5th edition. New York: W.W. Norton. ISBN 978-0-393-87222-4. The ebook is available here: <https://digital.wwnorton.com/worldpol5>.

## Graded Components of the Class

### *Exams (top 3 grades), 75%*

There will be four examinations. The first three exams will be given in Math 100 on February 10, March 5, and April 14 from 9:05am to 10:00am. The fourth exam is not cumulative, and will be given on Tuesday May 6th from 1:30pm to 2:30pm, location TBA. **You must take all four exams**, and the top three exam grades will count toward your final grade. If you do not take all four exams, your lowest exam score will not be dropped. **In other words, to earn the right to drop the lowest exam score, you must take all four exams.**

Examinations will not be given to anyone at a day and time other than that which is specified on the syllabus unless you notify me **before the exam** that you will miss the exam. Makeup exams are given at my discretion, are essay format, and are administered during finals week. Students may take only one makeup exam during the semester. Make a note of the exam days now, because forgetting to take an exam is not grounds for a makeup exam. Students requiring accommodation on the exams should provide a letter from Disability Services and contact me five days prior to the exam to make arrangements.

### *Collective Security and International Human Rights Papers (7.5% each for a total of 15%)*

You will write two short (three page) papers on topics in collective security and international human rights. The due dates are given in the syllabus schedule.

### *Attendance in Recitation Section (5%)*

Attendance will be taken at every recitation meeting. You have two 'free' absences this semester; after that, ten percent will be deducted from the attendance portion of the grade for each additional absence.

### *Packback Participation Posts and Responses to Peers (5%)*

You will write weekly question posts using Packback, an instructional AI-supported platform integrated into Canvas. You will also respond to two of your peers' question posts. The teaching assistants will incorporate some of the discussion posts and responses into recitation section. The deadline for each Packback Participation question post and two responses is Sunday night at 11:59pm.

<b>Requirement</b>	<b>Due Date and Time</b>	<b>Weight</b>
Exam One	February 10 at 9:05 am	Top Three Exams 75%
Collective Security Paper	February 26 at 9:05am	7.5%
Exam Two	March 5 at 9:05 am	Top Three Exams 75%
Exam Three	April 14 at 9:05 am	Top Three Exams 75%
International Human Rights Paper	April 28 at 9:05am	7.5%
Exam Four	May 6 at 1:30pm	Top Three Exams 75%
Attendance in Recitation	Weekly	5%
Participation Posts and Responses	Sunday nights at 11:59pm	5%

*Grading Scale*

	B+ 89.49 - 87	C+ 79.49 - 77	D+ 69.49 - 67	
A 93.5 - 100	B 87 - 83.5	C 77 - 73.5	D 67 - 63.5	F 59 - 0
A- 93.49 - 89.5	B- 83.49 - 79.5	C- 73.49 - 69.5	D- 63.49 - 59.5	

### **Schedule of Lecture Topics and Readings**

This schedule may change with advance notice. You will get the most benefit from reading the designated pages before coming to lecture that day. You should also check the weekly modules on Canvas to see the learning objectives before doing the reading.

#### **Unit One: Foundations and History of International Politics**

*Why should we care about international politics? What makes international politics different from domestic politics? What historical events contributed to the current world order?*

Jan 13: Introduction

Jan 15: Chapter 1

#### **Unit Two: Interests, Interactions, and Institutions**

*What do actors want from international politics? Why can't actors always get what they want? Do rules matter in world politics?*

Jan 22: Chapter 2, pp 42-68

Jan 27: Chapter 2, pp 69-84 and "Why Race Matters in International Relations" (posted to the weekly module on Canvas)

#### **Unit Three: International Conflict**

*If war is so costly, why does it happen?*

Jan 29: Chapter 3, pp 92-120

Feb 3: Chapter 3, pp 120-142

Feb 5: Catch-up day (no additional reading)

**Exam 1 over Intro and Ch 1, 2, and 3: Monday, February 10 at 9:05am in Math 100**

#### **Unit Four: Domestic Politics and War**

*What domestic interests affect matters of war and peace?*

Feb 12: Chapter 4, pp 144-175

Feb 17: Chapter 4, pp 175-192

#### **Unit Five: International Institutions and War**

*Can international law and institutions prevent war?*

Feb 19: Chapter 5, pp 194-215 and Haile Selassie's speeches (posted to this week's module on Canvas)

Feb 24: Chapter 5, pp 216-242

#### **Unit Six: Civil War and Terrorism**

*Why does war happen within countries? Why do terrorists kill?*

Feb 26: Collective Security paper due to Canvas at 9:05am

Feb 26: Chapter 6, pp 246-278

March 3: Chapter 6, pp 278-302

**Exam 2 over Ch 4, 5, and 6: Wednesday, March 5 at 9:05am in Math 100**

#### **Unit Seven: International Trade**

*What's so good about trade? Why do countries sometimes restrict trade?*

March 10: Chapter 7, pp 306-336

March 12: Chapter 7, pp 336-363

#### **Unit Eight: International Finance and Migration**

*How and why do labor and capital flow across borders?*

March 17: Chapter 8, pp 364-389

March 19: Chapter 8, pp 390-404

### **Unit Nine: International Monetary Policy**

*Without world government, how do countries supply money and regulate currency?*

March 31 : Chapter 9, pp 406-433

April 2: Chapter 9, pp 433-444

### **Unit Ten: International Development**

*Why are some countries rich and others poor?*

April 7: Chapter 10, pp 446-460 and Grenfell Fire reading (posted to this week's module on Canvas)

April 9: Chapter 10, pp 460-482

**Exam 3 over Ch 7, 8, 9, and 10: Monday, April 14 at 9:05am in Math 100**

### **Unit Eleven: International Law and Norms**

*Without global police to enforce it, can international law change how countries behave?*

April 16: Chapter 11, pp 484-498

April 21: Chapter 11, pp 499-518

### **Unit Twelve: Human Rights**

*If everyone values human rights, why hasn't the human rights movement been more successful?*

April 23: Chapter 12, pp 520-533 and "We Charge Genocide" shadow report (posted to this week's module on Canvas)

April 28: Chapter 12, pp 534-562

### **Unit Thirteen: The Global Environment**

*If everyone values the earth's resources, why is global cooperation over the environment so hard to achieve?*

April 28: International human rights paper due to Canvas at 9:05am

April 30: Chapter 13, pp 564-606

**Exam 4 over Ch 11,12, and 13: Tuesday, May 6th from 1:30 - 2:30pm, location TBA**

## **Institutional Policies**

### *Classroom Behavior*

Students and faculty are responsible for maintaining an appropriate learning environment in all instructional settings, whether in person, remote, or online. Failure to adhere to such behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with race, color, national origin, sex, pregnancy, age, disability, creed, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, veteran status, marital status, political affiliation, or political philosophy. For more information, see the policies on classroom behavior at <https://www.colorado.edu/policies/student-classroom-course-related-behavior>, the Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution policies at <https://www.colorado.edu/sccr/>, and the Office of Institutional Equity and Compliance.

### *Accommodation for Disabilities, Temporary Medical Conditions, and Medical Isolation*

If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit your accommodation letter from Disability Services to your faculty member in a timely manner so that your needs can be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities in the academic environment. Information on requesting accommodations is located on the Disability Services website at <https://www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices/>. Contact Disability Services at 303-492-8671 or [dsinfo@colorado.edu](mailto:dsinfo@colorado.edu) for further assistance. If you have a temporary medical condition, see <https://www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices/students/temporary-medical-conditions>. If you have a temporary illness, injury, or required medical isolation for which you require adjustment, please notify me via email.

### *Preferred Student Names and Pronouns*

CU Boulder recognizes that students' legal information doesn't always align with how they identify. Students may update their preferred names and pronouns via the student portal; those preferred names and pronouns are listed on instructors' class rosters. In the absence of such updates, the name that appears on the class roster is the student's legal name.

### *Honor Code*

All students enrolled in a University of Colorado Boulder course are responsible for knowing and adhering to the Honor Code. including use of paper writing services or technology [such as essay bots]), cheating, fabrication, lying, bribery, threat, unauthorized access to academic materials, clicker fraud, submitting the same or similar work in more than one course without permission from all course instructors involved, and aiding academic dishonesty. Understanding the course's syllabus is a vital part in adhering to the Honor Code. All incidents of academic misconduct will be reported to Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution; [StudentConduct@colorado.edu](mailto:StudentConduct@colorado.edu). Students found responsible for violating the Honor Code will be assigned resolution outcomes from the Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution as well as be subject to academic sanctions from the faculty member. Additional information regarding the Honor Code academic integrity policy can be found at <https://www.colorado.edu/sccr/>.

### *Sexual Misconduct, Discrimination, Harassment and/or Related Retaliation*

CU Boulder is committed to fostering an inclusive and welcoming learning, working, and living environment. University policy prohibits protected-class discrimination and harassment, sexual misconduct (harassment, exploitation, and assault), intimate partner abuse (dating or domestic violence), stalking, and related retaliation by or against members of our community on- and off-campus. The Office of Institutional Equity and Compliance (OIEC) addresses these concerns, and individuals who have been subjected to misconduct can contact OIEC at 303-492-2127

or email [cureport@colorado.edu](mailto:cureport@colorado.edu). Information about university policies, reporting options, and support resources including confidential services can be found on the OIEC website.

Please know that faculty and graduate instructors must inform OIEC when they are made aware of incidents related to these policies regardless of when or where something occurred. This is to ensure that individuals impacted receive outreach from OIEC about resolution options and support resources. To learn more about reporting and support options for a variety of concerns, visit Don't Ignore It at <https://www.colorado.edu/dontignoreit/>.

### *Religious Holidays*

Campus policy requires faculty to provide reasonable accommodations for students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments or required attendance. Please communicate the need for a religious accommodation in a timely manner. In this class, notify me via email in advance if observance of a religious holiday will conflict with a scheduled exam. Students should use their free absences from recitation section for observance of religious holidays. See the campus policy regarding religious observances at <https://www.colorado.edu/policies/observance-religious-holidays-absences-classes-or-exams>.