

IAFS 1000-100

Global Issues and International Affairs

Contact Information

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Course Information

August 20 to December 4
 Classroom: MATH 100
 Class-time: TuTh 11:00-12:15 + recitation

Course Description: This course introduces students to the study of international affairs. We will analyze and discuss key concepts, approaches, and issues that are the cornerstone of studies in international affairs. As an interdisciplinary program, we will cover a range of topics including development, war and conflict, environmentalism, migration, and other issues that have come to shape the world stage. We will also discuss current affairs in the geographic concentrations of Europe, Africa & the Middle East, Asia, and Latin America. This class serves as a gateway for continued studies in global affairs and involved global citizenship. By the end of this course, students will be equipped with the tools and background necessary to better understand current events around the world from an interdisciplinary perspective.

This is a **four-credit** hour class, which means it is more demanding than other courses on your time. For every credit, you are expected to do 2-3 hours of work *outside* of class in addition to regular attendance in class.

Recitation: Alongside the weekly lectures on Tuesdays and Thursdays, you also enrolled in a recitation section that serves as a complement to lecture. **Recitation is not a substitute for attending lecture.** Recitations are intended to review the week's material and connect it to current events related to the themes of the week. Attendance is **mandatory** in recitations. You must attend the section in which you are enrolled. Each recitation will have its own syllabus.

Section	Day	Time	Location	Instructor
101	Tuesday	3:35-4:25pm	ECON 205	Izzy Praslin
102	Thursday	4:40-5:30pm	GUGG 3	Naya O'Reilly
103	Thursday	9:05-9:55am	LBB 341	Ezra Buonopane
104	Thursday	1:25-2:15pm	ECON 205	Ethan Carr
105	Tuesday	4:40-5:30pm	ECON 205	Izzy Praslin
106	Wednesday	2:30-3:20pm	ECON 2	Lars Schwaebe
107	Thursday	3:35-4:25pm	VAC 1B88	Naya O'Reilly
108	Wednesday	9:05-9:55am	ECON 205	Holland Eddy
109	Wednesday	3:35-4:25pm	GUGG 3	Larson Schwaebe
110	Friday	9:05-9:55am	HLMS E1B05	Ezra Buonopane
111	Wednesday	10:10-11am	ECON 205	Holland Eddy

Course Requirements and Grading:

Attendance and Participation	15 Points
Current Event Presentation	10 Points
Weekly Quizzes	10 Points
Exams (3)	50 Points
Analysis Paper	15 Points

Letter grades will be assigned at the end of the semester based on the following scale. I **do not** round grades, and grades will not be curved.

		B+	87-89%	C+	77-79%	D+	67-69%
A	94-100%	B	84-86%	C	74-76%	D	64-66%
A-	90-93%	B-	80-83%	C-	70-73%	D-	60-63%

Attendance and Participation (15 Points)

This class will be taught in person, and attendance is **mandatory** in both lecture and recitation. Attendance in lecture will be taken via in-class surveys in which you get credit for responding to the survey. Students may be dropped from the course for non-attendance. In lieu of tracking excused and un-excused absences, each student gets **three PTO days** which cover both excused and un-excused absences. Use these carefully throughout the duration of the semester. In essence, I will drop your three lowest scores from the survey responses at the end of the semester. Attendance will also be taken in recitations, and your combined attendance in lecture and recitation will comprise your attendance grade. If you have **ten** total absences across lecture and recitation, you will receive a 0% for this category. **Twelve** or more absences will result in an “F” in the course.

- If something comes up that prevents you from attending class regularly, or you have university approved exemptions to this policy, please contact your TA as soon as possible.
- In recitations, you are also expected to participate in discussion and make meaningful contributions to the learning environment in your section. Your TA will set the policy for how participation is evaluated in your section. Missing recitations will also negatively impact your participation grade.
- Attendance alone is not sufficient to receive full credit for this portion of your grade. Students with perfect attendance but no participation in recitation should expect to receive no more than a 70% on the participation and attendance grade.
- If you miss class, slides will be posted to Canvas to allow you to review material on your own schedule, though these are not a replacement to attending lecture. Lectures are not recorded.

Late Arrivals and Departures: In lecture, attendance will be taken at the time of the survey, which will occur randomly throughout class, including at the very beginning. There are no make-up surveys. Failure to arrive on time or stay throughout the duration of class will harm your attendance grade if it becomes a pattern over the course of the semester. **Plan ahead!**

Weekly Quizzes (10 Points)

Each week, there will be a weekly quiz on that week’s readings and lecture which makeup 10 points in total of the overall course grade. There will be **twelve** quizzes over the course of the semester,

and the two lowest scores will be dropped. Quizzes are open note. Quizzes will be published on Canvas at the end of class on Thursday (12:15pm) and students will have until before class on Tuesday to complete each quiz. There are no make-up quizzes or extensions for quizzes.

Exams (50 Points)

There will be three exams during this course: two midterms and one final. Exams will consist of some combination of multiple choice and essay questions. Each exam is worth at least 12.5 points of your course grade, with the highest score being weighted at 25 points. Exams are not cumulative.

- **Exam 1:** September 24th, In-Class
- **Exam 2:** October 29th, In-Class
- **Final:** Thursday, December 10th, 10:30-1pm

Populism Analysis Paper (15 Points)

There is one paper for the course, worth 15 points, students are expected to write a 2000-word essay that examines the impact of the rise of populism on an outcome related to material covered in Weeks 1-9. More specifics will be made available on Canvas. Final essays, worth 15 points of your final grade, are due **November 19th**.

Current Event Presentation (10 Points)

During recitation, each student will give at least one presentation as part of a group on a current event related to course themes covered in the two lectures prior to their section. Students are expected to prepare a 15-minute presentation for the class that provides important background on the event, discusses the details of the event, and outlines the most important implications of the event. At least 24 hours before their presentation, students are expected to circulate at minimum two news articles about the event to their section. You will form groups and sign-up for your presentation in coordination with your TAs in recitation. More information will be provided on Canvas.

Late/Makeup Assignment Policy

All assignments must be submitted by their specified due date as designated in the syllabus. Late assignments will suffer a 10 percent penalty for each day that they are late and will not be accepted after three days unless discussed in advance of the deadline. In general, there will be no make-up exams or extensions without a university approved excused absence. However, if you find yourself in a situation where you cannot complete the exam, please communicate with me and your TA as soon as possible *before* the day of the exam.

Communication Policy

I will primarily communicate with you via Canvas Announcements. Please ensure Canvas notifications are enabled, and announcements go to your inbox. **Please do not use Canvas to send me a message.** E-mail is the best way to get in touch with me.

Contact your TA first! In general, your TA is the first point of contact for all matters pertaining to this course. Your TA will loop me in or refer you to me if the issue requires my attention. You are of course always free to come to office hours to discuss the course with me, but all e-mails should first go to your TA. When communicating with me or your TAs, emails must have 1000, IAFS, Global Issues, or a logical alternative indicating the email pertains to this course. Emails must be

sent from your official University of Colorado email address. It is class policy that grades will not be discussed over email. I will generally reply to e-mails within 48 hours.

Artificial Intelligence

Generative artificial intelligence tools—software that creates new text, images, computer code, audio, video, and other content—have become widely available and pose new threats to academic integrity. **You may not use generative AI tools on assignments in this course.** Generative AI tools are typically trained on limited and pre-existing datasets that may be out of date and are designed to produce content that *appears* to be written by a human. As a result, work produced using generative AI is considered plagiarism and will often produce potentially outdated and inaccurate work that is not your own. If you use generative AI tools to complete assignments in this course, in ways that I have not explicitly authorized, this will be considered a violation of the Honor Code and there will be consequences appropriate to your specific case. These include getting a zero on the assignment and possibly failing the class. Please act with integrity, for the sake of both your personal character and your academic record.

Please be **extremely careful** if you use tools like Grammarly or other generative AI for proofreading. This can and will rewrite your text and is considered a violation per the policy stated above if it does so. Use Spellcheck or other non-AI proofreading tools. If you aren't sure if you are using AI, err on the side of caution and don't use it.

Course Materials

There is one textbook required for this course. It is available through CU Book Access, which is the recommended source to acquire the book. You can opt out of CU Book Access and purchase the book from another source, but this is not recommended. If you do this, make sure you are buying the right edition. All other readings not from this textbook will be made available on Canvas.

- McCormick, John. 2025. Introduction to Global Studies, 3rd Edition. Bloomsbury Academic. (IGS)

Schedule

This schedule is subject to change throughout the semester. I will communicate all changes in advance.

Week 0: Course Introduction and Syllabus

Thursday, August 20th: Course Introduction & Syllabus

- No Reading

Recitation: No Recitations

Week 1: What is International Affairs

Tuesday, August 25: What is International Affairs?

- IGS: Introduction & Chapter 1

Thursday, August 27: The Origins of the Global System

- No New Reading. Finish Chapter 1

Recitation: Introductions, Section Expectations and Current Event Sign-Up

- No Readings

Week 2: Building Blocks

Tuesday, September 1: States and Nations

- IGS: Chapter 3 (pages 71-84; 90-94)

Thursday, September 3: Culture and Identity

- IGS: Chapter 4

Recitation: Current Event Presentations

- Read Student Provided News Articles

Week 3: Global Security

Tuesday, September 8: International Security

- IGS: Chapter 7

Thursday, September 10: Human Security

- IGS: Chapter 10

Recitation: Current Event Presentations

- Read Student Provided News Articles

Week 4: Governments

Tuesday, September 15: Democracy vs. Authoritarianism

- IGS: Chapter 3 (pages 84-90)

Thursday, September 17: Global Governance

- IGS: Chapter 6

Recitation: Current Event Presentations

- Read Student Provided News Articles

Week 5: Exam 1

Tuesday, September 22: Review for Exam 1

Thursday, September 24: Exam 1

Recitation: Optional First Exam Review Sessions

- No Readings

Week 6: Global Economy

Tuesday, September 29: Global Finance

- IGS: Chapter 8 (pages 201-211; 214-218)

Thursday, October 1: Global Trade

- IGS: Chapter 9

Recitation: Current Event Presentations

- Read Student Provided News Articles

Week 7: Migration

Tuesday, October 6: Migration

- IGS: Chapter 11

Thursday, October 8: Reading Day (No Class)

Recitation: No Recitations

Week 8: Development

Tuesday, October 13: Global Inequality

- IGS: Chapter 8 (pages 212-214; 218-226)

Thursday, October 15: Public Health

- IGS: Chapter 13

Recitation: Current Event Presentations

- Read Student Provided News Articles

Week 9: Transnational Challenges

Tuesday, October 20: Environmentalism

- IGS: Chapter 14

Thursday, October 22: Populism

- Berman, Sheri. 2021. "The Causes of Populism in the West." *Annual Review of Political Science* 24(1):71–88.

Recitation: Current Event Presentations

- Read Student Provided News Articles

Week 10: Exam 2

Tuesday, October 27: Catch-Up & Review

Thursday, October 29: Exam 2

Recitation: Optional Second Exam Review Sessions

- No Readings

Week 11: Current Affairs: Europe

Tuesday, November 3: European Union & Euroscepticism

- James McBride. 2022. "How Does the European Union Work?". *Council on Foreign Relations*. <https://www.cfr.org/background/ how-does-european-union-work#chapter-title-0-5>

Thursday, November 5: Russia-Ukraine War

- Götz, Elias, and Per Ekman. 2024. "Russia's War Against Ukraine: Context, Causes, and Consequences." *Problems of Post-Communism* 71(3):193–205.

Recitation: Current Event Presentations

- Read Student Provided News Articles

Week 12: Current Affairs: Latin America

Tuesday, November 10: State Building, Security, and Crime

- Angell, Katie. 2025. "State Absenteeism: Vigilantism and Security Provision in Latin America." *Latin American Politics and Society* 67:85–106.

Thursday, November 12: Inequality & Exclusion

- Hoffman, K., & Centeno, M. A. (2003). "The Lopsided Continent: Inequality in Latin America." *Annual Review of Sociology*, 29(1), 363–390.

Recitation: Current Event Presentations

- Read Student Provided News Articles

Week 13: Current Affairs: Middle East & North Africa

Tuesday, November 17: Religious Fundamentalism

- Foer, Chapter 9

Thursday, November 19: Non-State Violence

- Gleditsch, N. P., & Rudolfson, I. 2016. "Are Muslim countries more prone to violence?" *Research & Politics*, 3(2)

Recitation: Current Event Presentations

- Read Student Provided News Articles

Week 14: Current Affairs: Asia

Tuesday, December 1: China

- Kim, Patricia. 2026. "Why 'China First' Will Fail". *Foreign Affairs*
- Walt, Stephen. 2026. "Chinese Hegemony Might be Happening." *Foreign Policy*

Thursday, December 3: Catch-Up & Review

Recitation: Optional Final Exam Review Sessions

FINAL EXAM: Thursday, December 10 from 10:30am-1pm

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 [classroom behavior policy](#), the [Student Code of Conduct](#), and the [Office of Institutional Equity and Compliance](#).

Accommodation for Disabilities: 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](#). Contact Disability Services at 303-492-8671 or DSinfo@colorado.edu for further assistance. If you have a temporary medical condition, see [Temporary Medical Conditions](#) on the Disability Services website.

If you have a temporary illness, injury or required medical isolation for which you require adjustment, please let me know as soon as possible via e-mail.

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](#). Violations of the Honor Code may include but are not limited to: plagiarism (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 & Conflict Resolution: StudentConduct@colorado.edu. Students found responsible for violating the [Honor Code](#) will be assigned resolution outcomes from the Student Conduct & Conflict Resolution as well as be subject to academic sanctions from the faculty member. Visit [Honor Code](#) for more information on the academic integrity policy.

Discrimination and Harassment: 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. 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 for a variety of concerns, visit the [Don't Ignore It page](#).

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, **please let me know by the end of week 3 of any religious accommodations you may require.** See the [campus policy regarding religious observances](#) for full details.

Mental Health and Wellness: The University of Colorado Boulder is committed to the well-being of all students. If you are struggling with personal stressors, mental health or substance use concerns that are impacting academic or daily life, please contact [Counseling and Psychiatric Services \(CAPS\)](#) located in C4C or call (303) 492-2277, 24/7. Free and unlimited telehealth is also available through [Academic Live Care](#). The Academic Live Care site also provides information about additional wellness services on campus that are available to students.