



**INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS 1000, SECTION 200  
GLOBAL ISSUES AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS  
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO BOULDER  
ONLINE SUMMER B TERM 2023 (JULY 11 - AUG. 11)**

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### **Course Overview**

This course is an introductory international affairs course and has multiple goals. IAFS courses at CU-Boulder explore global issues within political, cultural, economic, social, and military frameworks. Students of international affairs are interested in the connections between nations, societies, technologies, and ideas. The course is designed to introduce you to not only to key topics, crises, and countries of interest to the international community but also to many of the best-known organizations, media outlets, and authors within that community.

Since IAFS majors are expected to think critically and write intelligently about a wide variety of topics, this course also allows you to hone your skills as scholars. We will deepen our reading, reasoning, and writing skills through online discussion and writing assignments.

Although this is an entry-level, online course and assumes no prior knowledge, it is not an easy course. **Since it is four-credit course that covers the same material as a traditional fifteen-week class in five weeks, the reading load is heavy and the assignments are substantial. Please expect to do an average of three hours of work for the class per day. Some days may require less, but others (such as days assignments are due) may require more.**

You will be expected to read a variety of articles, books and book excerpts, and other documents in a timely manner. It will require you to think critically about what you read and to apply what you have learned on a daily basis. I will expect everyone to have done the reading—your consistent effort and participation is key to the course’s overall success. If you do not think you are up to the task of actively engaging yourself in the learning process, please drop the course now and save yourself the trouble and expense associated with failing.

### **Course Objectives**

The objectives of this course are to:

- Introduce you to key problems of interest to the global community and how various international actors understand, interpret, discuss, and attempt to resolve those problems
- Introduce you to sources commonly used by those working in the realm of international affairs
- Encourage your interest in current events, especially as they are related to geopolitics
- Improve your reading comprehension, critical thinking, and synthesizing skills
- Further develop your writing skills

## Communication

Please expect that it may take up to 24 hours during the week for me to respond to email. I hope to respond quickly (and likely will), but make sure you do not assume that because this is an online class you can wait to the last minute to ask questions. Lastly, although I have given you until 11:59 pm Mountain Time on Friday evenings for all your major assignments to be due, please keep in mind that it will be unlikely I can respond to your questions after 5 pm or so those days. Similarly, I understand you are all juggling many responsibilities and I do not expect immediate replies to our correspondence either.

Please always check the “Announcements” section of the Canvas “Course Home” page for regular updates and announcements from me.

## Grading

Papers	30% (15% each)
Midterm	20%
Final	20%
Current Event Forum	10%
Discussion Forums	20% (10% each)

**Due Dates/Late Policy:** All due dates/times are for Boulder local time zone, Mountain Time. Papers will be penalized 1/3 of a letter grade for each calendar date they are late (i.e., a paper submitted either five minutes after the due time at 12:05 am on Saturday or 11:55 pm that Saturday would both be considered one day late). Late exams will not be accepted and will receive a zero for the assignment. The only exceptions will be for verified medical emergencies (e.g., a doctor’s note for a cold or unspecified illness does not qualify, but one for a broken arm does).

## Course Structure

As an online class, much of the work will stem from extensive reading and, at times, film viewing. Each week, I will provide a brief, recorded lecture that will give you guidance for how to approach the week’s sources and topics as well as an overview of the ideas I hope you gather from them. Each class day (Day One, Day Two, etc.) on the course website will have a full list of the day’s readings, assignments, and upcoming deadlines. These sources will be the basis for your papers and midterms.

### Papers

You will be required to turn in two four-page papers. They are due electronically at **11:59 pm on Friday, July 21 and Friday, August 4**. The first paper, due on 7/21, will ask you to watch a debate about a key topic in international affairs today: is the liberal international order over? You will engage with the ideas of the presenters and use the readings of the previous days to make an argument in favor of one side. The second paper will ask you to reflect on the book *Putin Country: A Journey into the Real Russia* and assess its strengths and weaknesses for understanding Russian society today in comparison to other sources we will also read. More details and a full prompt for each will be provided one week or more before the papers are due. **Papers will be run through TurnItIn, which now includes an Artificial Intelligence tracker. Violations will be assessed and treated as plagiarism as appropriate.**

### Exams

You will also have a **Midterm due Friday, July 28**, and a **Final Exam due Friday, August 11**. The format for both will be a mix of short answer questions and essay responses. You will be provided with the take-home exam the Tuesday before the exam date and must turn in the exam in via Canvas by **11:59 pm** on the due date. The final exam will deal with material assigned after the midterm, but will still require you to understand the earlier major concepts we have learned.

### Online Forums – Current Events and Discussion Topics

The second aspect of the class will be the course discussion boards, of which there are two. There will be one discussion board centered on current events (the Current Event Forum) and another based on questions I pose related to one of the topics for the weeks two and four (the Discussion Forum). Both will require you to both post and respond to your classmates. I have broken the class up into three “groups” to keep the online forums small, in order to get you to know your groupmates, and to ensure everyone has a fair chance to speak (I recognize message boards can become easily dominated).

It is essential that everyone remain polite and respectful on these messages, both because we will be dealing with polarizing topics and because it can be easy to forget that someone may read your post in a way you did not intend. **Discussion Posts will also be assessed for use of AI/ChatGPT.**

### Current Event Forum

Each week has a Current Event Forum, in use from Monday morning at 6:00 am to the following Sunday night at 11:59 pm. **The current event forum is required for your grade. 10% of your overall course points come from posting and analyzing relevant news articles and by responding to others’ posts.**

I hope it goes without saying, but these articles should deal with international relations rather than domestic issues (e.g., President Biden’s next meeting with another world leader would qualify, but the next Supreme Court ruling, as important as it is generally speaking, would not.)

**You earn 1% point overall, up to 5% total, each time you post a unique article and support discussion of it. Unlike the other portions of the class grade, here you start at 0 and earn your way up to full credit for the 10% of the overall grade. You build up your grade through posting.**

You should provide a link and an assessment of the article. Simply paraphrasing the text is not sufficient. I want to see you analyze the article. If appropriate, tie it to the course material, but do not stretch just do so. You are then responsible for engaging with students who respond to your posts meaningfully. You must post at least twice before the midterm to earn the full 5% -- I will award points for a maximum of 3 posts after the midterm. I do not want to see a flurry of posts at 11:00 pm on the day of the final.

**You can earn an additional 5% by responding to stories/post begun by others, with 1% earned for each quality post engaged.** I want to see your original ideas here, not just a re-iteration of the initial post. As such, these posts should be **50 words or more.**

I have provided you with a suggested source base to find reputable articles in the “Getting Started” module on Canvas. It is not exhaustive and there are plenty more trustworthy sources out there, but you must post from a genuine source to earn credit.

### Discussion Forums

Starting Week Two, I will post a “Discussion Forum” question based on class material for that week. You will have to participate twice over the semester, once during the **Week Two session** and once during **Week Four**, with a possible 10% to earn each of those two times.

To earn full credit, you must write a **200 word-response** to the question and post it in the Discussion Forum section for your group by **5:00 pm that Wednesday**. Additionally, once you post (it can be earlier than 5 on Wed.), the forum will open for you to read other group members’ responses. You must thoughtfully respond to **two** of your groupmates’ initial responses in **50 words or more by 11:59 pm that Friday**. Continued conversation is strongly encouraged, though the bare minimum is two responses.

The first discussion forum, due the Wed. and Friday of Week Two, will ask you to consider a question related to a documentary on nuclear weapons, *Countdown to Zero*, assigned from that Monday and is intended to help get you practice writing for the rest of the class. The questions for Week Four will be posted when that week goes live.

**BOOKS**

Anne Garrels, *Putin Country: A Journey into the Real Russia* (New York: Picador, reprint edition, 2017)  
 --Found in “Course Materials” tab on Canvas. You will automatically be charged \$11.24 for the book to your CU account unless you **opt-out through the Course Materials page by Wed, 7/19**  
 --It’s up to you, but this price is actually cheaper than getting it through Kindle or a paperback

\*\*The remainder of the reading is provided via pdfs or links on Canvas

**COURSE SCHEDULE (readings are subject to change if breaking news occurs related to that day’s topic and if I provide you with ample advance notice)**

Date	Topic(s)	Readings (subject to change if breaking news occurs for that day’s topic and I provide ample notice)	Assignments Due
Week 1	Ideas and Institutions		
Tuesday July 11	Introductions	Watch “Course Tour” and “Week One Overview” videos International Crisis Group, “10 Conflicts to Watch in 2023” Swanson with Kanna, “Six Maps That Will Make You Rethink the World”	
Wednesday July 12	Theories of International Relations	Baylis, ed., “Theories of World Politics” Kotkin, “Realist World” Deudney & Ikenberry, “Liberal World” Varghese, “Marxist World” PPTs of “Realism and Liberalism” and “Other Theories of International Relations”	Intro Discussion Post by 11:59 PM
Thursday July 13	U.S. Foreign Policy Structure and America’s Role in the World	PowerPoint of “U.S. Foreign Policymaking” Bacevich, “The Reckoning That Wasn’t” Power, “How Democracy Can Win” Brenes, “How America Broke Its War Machine”	

Friday July 14	The United Nations	PowerPoint of “The United Nations” Taylor and Curtis in Baylis, “The United Nations” Raustialala and Iemanja Jeronimo, “Why the UN Still Matters” “Introduction” and Epilogue” of Power, <i>Sergio</i> Watch <i>Sergio</i> (90 minutes)	
Week 2	The Liberal International Order Under Fire		
Monday July 17	Nuclear Weapons	Watch “Week Two Overview” Watch <i>Countdown to Zero</i> (85 minutes) PowerPoint of “Nuclear Non-Proliferation” Mueller, “Nuclear Weapons Don’t Matter” Tannenwald, “The Vanishing Nuclear Taboo” Updated articles on Iran and North Korea	
Tuesday July 18	Globalization vs. Nationalism & Populism	McGrew in Baylis, “Globalization and Global Politics” Chua, “Tribal World” Updated globalization and populism articles	
Wednesday July 19	Is the Liberal International Order Over?	PowerPoint on the Liberal International Order Updated articles on the LIO Watch Munk Debate on “Is the Liberal International Order Over?” (80 minutes)	Discussion Forum 1 post due by 5 PM
Thursday July 20	International Alliances, Organizations, and Trade	Updated articles on NATO, Brexit/EU, and Trade	

Friday July 21	End of the Liberal International Order?	No new readings; review past readings for Paper 1	Paper 1 and Disc. Forum comments both due by 11:59 PM
Week 3	The Middle East Today		
Monday July 24	Modern Middle Eastern History and Issue #1: Intra-regional Rivalries and Partnerships	Watch “Week Three Overview” PowerPoint of “The Modern Middle East” Watch Vox, “The Middle East’s Cold War Explained” CBS News, “In Detail: Sunnis vs. Shiites” Erickson, “What’s Behind the Feud Between Saudi Arabia and Iran? Power.” Updated articles on Saudi Arabia and Iran	
Tuesday July 25	Syria and the Refugee Crisis	Watch Vox, “Syria’s War: Who is Fighting and Why” BBC, “Syria: The Story of the Conflict” <i>Economist</i> , “Why Most Refugees Do Not Live in Camps” Watch Frontline, “Syria’s Children” (50 minutes) Updated articles on geopolitics and refugees surrounding Syria	

Wednesday July 26	Arab-Israeli Conflict and Other Entrenched Issues	Watch Vox, “The Israel-Palestine Conflict: A Brief, Simple History” Adams, “Six Day War: Six Ways the Conflict Still Matters” Chamberlin, “Want to Understand Islamic Extremism? The Answer Isn’t in Islam—It’s the Cold War” Updated articles on Palestine-Israel	
Thursday July 27	Study Day	No new readings; review past readings for Midterm	
Friday July 28	MIDTERM	No new readings; review past readings for Midterm Begin Garrels, <i>Putin Country: A Journey into the Real Russia</i>	Midterm due by 11:59 PM
Week 4	A Return to the Cold War?		
Monday July 31	Russia	Watch “Week Four Overview” Continue <i>Putin Country</i> Watch “Putin’s Road to War” (50 minutes) Listen to <i>This American Life</i> , “The Other Mr. President” (60 minutes) PowerPoint of “Russia Today”	
Tuesday August 1	Russia, Ukraine, and the United States	Continue <i>Putin Country</i> Updated Articles on Russia-Ukraine War, U.S.-Russia	
Wednesday August 2	North Korea	Finish <i>Putin Country</i> Watch “Secret State of North Korea” (50 minutes) Bowden, “How to Deal with North Korea” Updated articles on North Korean nukes, US policy	Initial Discussion Forum 2 post due by 5pm
Thursday August 3	China and the United States	Review <i>Putin Country</i> BBC, “China Profile” Rudd, “How Xi Jinping Views the World” Updated articles on U.S.-China	

Friday August 4	Learning about Russia Today	No new readings; review <i>Putin Country</i> and review past Russia sources for Paper 2	Paper 2 and Discussion Forum 2 Comments both due by 11:59 PM
Week 5	Long-Term Issues		
Monday August 7	Climate Change	Watch “Week Four Overview” Vogler in Baylis, ed., “Environmental Issues” PowerPoint of “Climate Change” Busby, “Warming World” Leonhardt, “The Problem with Putting a Price on the End of the World” <i>National Geographic</i> , “How We Saved the World” and “How We Lost the Planet” Updates	
Tuesday August 8	Global Migration	IOM, “Key Migration Terms” Listen to <i>This American Life</i> , “Abdi and the Golden Ticket” Watch De Leon, “Decoding Stories of Border Crossing” Felter and Laud, “Who Secures the U.S. Border?” Updates	



Wednesday August 9	Humanitarian Aid and Human Rights	<i>The New Humanitarian</i> , “Ten Humanitarian Crises and Trends to Watch in 2023” McBride, “How Does the U.S. Spend its Foreign Aid?” Donally in Baylis, ed., “Human Rights” United Nations, “Universal Declaration of Human Rights” Bellamy and Wheeler in Baylis, ed., “Humanitarian Intervention World Politics” United Nations, “Responsibility to Protect (R2P)” Updated Articles on Humanitarianism	
Thursday August 10	The Future	Slaughter, “Networks, Not Nation-States, Will Solve Global Crises” Drum, “Tech World” Kaine, “A New Truman Doctrine” Other updates	
Friday August 11	FINAL EXAM	No new readings; review past readings for Final Exam	Final Exam and Discussion Comments by 11:59 PM

## UNIVERSITY POLICIES

### Disabilities

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 be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities. Contact: 303-492-8671, Willard 322, and <http://www.Colorado.EDU/disabilityservices>

If you have a temporary medical condition or injury, see guidelines at <http://www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices/go.cgi?select=temporary.html>

Disability Services' letters for students with disabilities indicate legally mandated reasonable accommodations. The syllabus statements and answers to Frequently Asked Questions can be found at <http://www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices>.

### Religious Observances

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. In this class, notify me as soon as possible. See full details at

[http://www.colorado.edu/policies/fac\\_relig.html](http://www.colorado.edu/policies/fac_relig.html). A comprehensive calendar of the religious holidays most commonly observed by CU-Boulder students is at <http://www.interfaithcalendar.org/>

### **Classroom/Online Behavior**

Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. Students who fail to adhere to behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Faculty has the professional responsibility to treat students with understanding, dignity, and respect, to guide classroom discussion and to set reasonable limits on the manner in which students express opinions. See policies at <http://www.colorado.edu/policies/classbehavior.html>.

### **Honor Code**

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](mailto:honor@colorado.edu), 303-735-2273). 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/policies/honor.html> and at <http://www.colorado.edu/academics/honorcode/>

### **Discrimination**

The University of Colorado at Boulder policy on Discrimination and Harassment, the University of Colorado policy on Sexual Harassment and the University of Colorado policy on Amorous Relationships apply to all students, staff, and faculty. Any student, staff or faculty member who believes s/he has been the subject of sexual harassment or discrimination or harassment based upon race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, creed, religion, sexual orientation, or veteran status should contact the Office of Discrimination and Harassment (ODH) at 303-492-2127 or the Office of Judicial Affairs at 303-492-5550. Information about the ODH, the above referenced policies and the campus resources available to assist individuals regarding discrimination or harassment can be obtained at <http://www.colorado.edu/odh>