Kanner

PSCI 2223-581, INTRODUCTION TO INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
January 23 to May 3, 2012
On Line Course

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

Introduces the field of international relations, with general survey of the theories, histories, and problems of historical and contemporary relations among state and non-state actors.

Approved for arts and sciences core curriculum: contemporary societies

COURSE OBJECTIVES

At the end of the semester, students are expected to

1. Know the tenets of realism, constructivism and the critiques of these theories;
2. Be able to identify the major international actors and how they affect international politics and relations;
3. Understand the roots of conflict at the international and national level;
4. Be able to discuss the relationship of international law and organizations to the idea of an anarchic system;
5. Understand the basics of international trade and its influence on the developed, developing and undeveloped world;
6. Discuss the effect of changes in the physical environment on international politics.

GRADES

Your grades are based on a 100 point scale. Grades will be assigned based on the number of points you earn.

A	94-100	B+	87-89	C+	77-79	D+	67-69	F	0-59
A-	90-93	B	83-86	C	73-76	D	63-66		
		B-	80-82	C-	70-72	D-	60-62		

Points will be awarded based on these assessments:

Exam 1 (Parts 1 and 2)	25 points
Exam 2 (Part 3)	25 points
Exam 3 (Part 4)	25 points
Participation in Blog discussions	25 points
Total	100 points

Exams

There is an exam at the end of each part (1 and 2 are combined). You will have only one opportunity to take these assessments. Make sure that you have a good internet connection and that you regularly save your work.

Each assessment consists of a mix of five (5) multiple choice and four (4) short paragraph questions. Multiple-choice questions usually involve definitions or key concepts from the text website. Short paragraph will usually be variants of discussion questions.

Syllabus quiz
In addition to these graded submissions, you must take and pass the syllabus quiz as well. The syllabus ensures that you understand key points. It is not for grade and you may take it as many times as necessary. The syllabus quiz must be done no later than 13 February 2012.

Discussion/Participation
Comments on the DISCUSSION board are in lieu of classroom discussions. You should post your thoughts on the questions and comments of other students. If I respond to your posting with a question, you should answer the question.

Just as you need to be on time for classes, you should participate in the discussions in a timely manner. That is why grades for each post will only be given full credit (2 points) if they are prior to the suggested completion date. They will be given partial credit (1 point) for a week after that. Postings after that week will not be given any credit.

COURSE MATERIAL

There is only one required textbook for this course.

Kegley, Charles W. Jr. and Shannon L. Blanton. 2012. *World Politics: Trends and Transformations. 2011-2012 Edition.* Boston, MA: Wadsworth Cengage Learning.

- This textbook also has a website that provides practice tests as well as additional material. Instructions for how to get access are in your textbook.
- An e-version and rental copy of the text is available from the publisher. Check the publishers website at www.cengage.com

COURSE CONDUCT

How To Study.
CULEARN organizes classes by Modules. These correspond to parts of your textbook. Each module has a set of pages or lesson guides to help you study. A typical guide contains

- *Learning Objectives* designed to direct your readings;
- *Additional Activities* which may be video or outside readings; and will also include the discussion question you need to comment on.
- *Study questions* that you need to be able to answer.

Preparing and Taking exams
The best way to prepare for the exams is to review the study questions and take the sample quizzes from the textbook website.

My experience is that students that take all the assessments at the last moment tend to do poorly or miss the deadline entirely. You are also at danger in running out of time due to internet access problems and unplanned shut downs of the CULEARN website.

Planning

Although the course is self-paced, you need to develop a routine and a discipline towards the course. I have included suggested completion times to help you. To stay on track, you should plan to spend between 50 to 60 minutes a day on the course.

COURSE OUTLINE

Lesson Guides

Learning Objectives, activities and study questions are listed in the lesson guides for each lesson. These are found in the MODULE section of CULEARN.

Suggested Completion Date

This is provided in order to keep you on track for the semester. Plan to take one week per chapter (with exception of first chapter) and a day for the assessment (around 50-60 minutes a day). Although the course is self-paced, all work must be completed no later than 3 May 2012.

Reading (Chapter in Textbook)	Suggested Completion Date
Part 1. Trends and Transformation	
1. Interpreting World Politics	Jan. 27
2. Theories of World Politics	Jan. 27
Part 2. The Globe's Actors and Their Relations	
3. Great Power Rivalries and Relations	Feb. 3
4. The Global South in a World of Powers	Feb. 10
5. Non state Actors and the Quest for Global Community	Feb. 17
6. International Decision Making	Feb. 24
Part 3. Confronting Armed Aggression	
7. Threat of Armed Aggression to the World	Mar. 2
8. Military Pursuit of Power through Arms and Military Strategy	Mar. 9
9. Alliances and the Balance of Power	Mar. 16
10. Negotiated Conflict Resolution and International Law	Mar. 23
11. Institutional and Normative Approached to Collective Security	Mar. 30
Part 4. Human Security, Prosperity, and Responsibility	
12. Globalization of International Finance	Apr. 6
13. International Trade in the Global Marketplace	Apr. 13
14. Demographic and Cultural Dimensions of Globalization	Apr. 20
15. Promotion of Human Development and Human Rights	Apr. 27
16. Global Responsibility for the Preservation of the Environment	May 3

All work MUST be completed no later than 11:59 PM on 3 May 2012

POLICIES

With the exception of the policy on incompletes, the University establishes these policies. The language here is that recommended by various parts of the University administration.

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.

A comprehensive calendar of the religious holidays most commonly observed by CU-Boulder students is at http://www.interfaithcalendar.org/

On-line 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.

In addition to participating in the conversations, I will be monitoring all postings for ad hominem attacks and cyber-bullying. First time violators will be warned about postings and on-line behavior. Second time by the same offender will result in removal of posting access. You will still be required to take the exams, but will be penalized by not being able to earn a score for participation. Any student that feels that on-line postings are offensive or feel that they are the victim of cyber-bullying through the course should contact Dr. Kanner (Michael.Kanner@colorado.edu).

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, 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/

Sexual Harassment
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

Incompletes.
Incompletes are not a substitute for poor performance or the inability to schedule your own workload. Their purpose is to provide a means for students that have personal problems to complete the work without damaging their grade point average. I will consider incompletes will on a case-by-case basis only. If you do not think you can handle the course load outlined in the syllabus, drop the course.

However, I also understand that conditions change. If changes do occur, see me as soon as possible. The earlier you inform me of your problems, the sooner we can come to a settlement. If at any time during the course, you think you are having problems, LET ME KNOW!

CONTACT INFORMATION

Office visits
Office – Ketchum 4B
Hours – Monday, Wednesday, Friday 10 to 11 AM (or by appointment)(not on campus Tuesday or Thursday)

Discussion Board
General questions should be posted to CULEARN's Discussion section on the Questions board.

E-mail within the course
Course e-mail lets me know that you are contacting me related to this course. It also means that if we agree that this is an issue for the entire course, it can be forwarded to the class.

E-mail to my University Account
michael.kanner@colorado.edu. Use this account if it is specific to you (e.g., problems) or you are not getting a response to the course e-mail. I generally answer any e-mails within 5-6 hours.

IM

You are also free to IM me if I am on-line by sending an invitation from the 'Who's Online' tool. Because I may be working on other projects/classes, I maintain the right to not answer (or to do so only briefly).