

PSCI 3143-001, Current Affairs in International Relations

Date and Time – Monday, Wednesday, Friday 1:50 to 2:40 PM

Location – MUEN E432

Instructor: Dr. Michael D Kanner

Contact Information

E-mail – michael.kanner@colorado.edu

Communication Policies

I can only be contacted by e-mail. I usually respond with 8 to 12 hours, although it might just be an acknowledgment. If you do not hear from me within 24 hours, contact the political science office (303.492.7871) and ask them to contact me.

Instructor Biography

I have been a lecturer and instructor in political science and international affairs since 2001 and have taught most international relations subjects from security to economics. My bachelor's degree was in science from the US Military Academy with a concentration in engineering. I also have a master's in managerial science from Troy State University, international relations from Salve Regina University, and a Ph.D. from the University of Colorado, Boulder, where I focused on political psychology and its effect on foreign policy decision making.

Before joining academia, I served in the US Army, including assignments as operations officer and analyst from brigade to theater army level in the United States, Latin American and Europe. I also spent a short time as a contract employee for SAIC, a think tank working for the Defense Department. My activity as an analyst included studies on expert decision making, low-intensity conflict, and preventive diplomacy.

Course Description

From Catalog.

Analyzes the various theoretical and policy challenges facing the post-Cold War world, with an emphasis on examining alternative conceptions of and approaches to such challenges. Recommended prerequisite: PSCI 2223.

Instructor's view.

The course focuses on two levels. The theoretical and broad context will provide the tools for understanding recent and future changes in international politics. Most of this will be found in the readings from *The Global Studies Reader*. These ideas will be applied to the case studies in *Global Issues, 2021 Edition* and current international events.

Course Objectives

1. Describe the impact of groups on international relations.
2. Explain the changes in global economics and trade and their impact on politics.

3. Summarize the impact of belief sets (culture) on politics and economics.
4. Evaluate the impact of the physical world on international politics.

Overview of Class

There is a reading assigned for each day except when there is an exam. These should be read in advance of the class. The reading comes from either the textbook or an article you will need to access on Canvas. Articles on Canvas are linked to the day in which they will be discussed.

Classes will start with administrative announcements (if there are any) and some foreign policy-related news. There will then be a short discussion of the news. After that, I will give a short talk on the day's readings. These talks are not summaries. They will highlight sections of the readings and add historical and theoretical aspects to the readings. During these talks and after, you are expected to contribute with questions and comments. I will sometimes interrupt my talk to ask opinions or to prompt a discussion.

Student Responsibilities.

Your first responsibility is to show up.

Readings and course notes are only part of the course. Additional material will be presented in the lectures. The most benefit will come from participating in the class discussions.

Be prepared to participate.

Discussion and the exchange of ideas are part of an intellectual journey. You will be asked to offer and defend positions about the topics we are discussing. I believe that the only way to sharpen an argument is to grind away at it; you can expect me to criticize your position.

Because this is not typical in many classes, I am offering these warnings.

- Your defense should be based on theory or history. Arguments built on beliefs or a moral argument are subjective and assume a universality of views that may only result from cultural hegemony.
- If you are not prepared to question your fundamental beliefs about the world and people, this is not the class for you.
- Do NOT take it personally. I have been known to criticize positions with which I agreed.
- *Ad Hominem* attacks will not be tolerated. That means criticisms should be based on counter-arguments or counterfactuals and not the status of the individual making the argument. Violators will be warned. Persistent violators will be asked not to attend class.

Be on time.

Late arrivals disrupt the class. I also consider lateness a sign of disrespect to other students because it says that your convenience is more important than their desire to learn.

Keep up with international news.

To paraphrase Shakespeare, 'There are more things in heaven and earth than show up in your newsfeed.' Each of you will probably have a different area of interest (geographic or field), adding additional depth to our discussions. I recommend major international news services (*e.g.*, the BBC) for their credibility. Other services may be available (*e.g.*, Al Jazeera, RT, Sky News Australia); however, they report with a bias.

My recommendation is the Economist Magazine. They have a discounted student subscription ([Special student rate - Subscribe to The Economist](#)). As University students, you also have free access to The Wall Street Journal. You can go to <https://libguides.colorado.edu/databaseguide/wallstreetjournal/home> for information on how to access it.

Required Texts

There are two required texts.

CQ Researcher. 2020. *Global Issues 2021 Edition: Selections from CQ Researcher*. Thousand Oaks, CA.: Sage Press. (Do not use earlier edition.)

Steger, Manfred B. 2014. *The Global Studies Reader, 2nd Edition*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Information textbooks from the CU Bookstore.

To keep the cost of your course materials *as low as possible* and access to those materials *as convenient as possible*, we have collaborated with the CU Book Store and the publisher to deliver those materials through a program called “Day 1 Digital Access”, which will appear on your tuition and fee bill as “Day 1 Digital Access”.

What does this mean for you?

1. You will receive access to all your course materials, digitally, on the first day of classes, through the course Canvas page.
2. You will see a “Day 1 Digital Access” charge on your tuition and fee bill for \$24.71. This is a guaranteed lowest price, discounted by the publisher, and not available outside this course
3. **You have the option to opt out.** This means you won’t pay for anything, but you lose all access to the course materials, including homework managers like Connect or Mindtap.
 - a. You can opt out by: using a link in a reminder email you will receive with the subject heading “Day 1 Digital Access”.

- b. **You must opt out no later than September 8th**, otherwise you will be charged for the materials.
4. Please keep in mind that “opting out” means that your access to these materials will be turned **OFF**, and you will have no way to complete assignments.

Troubleshooting tips from VitalSource:

VitalSource Support: <https://support.vitalsource.com/hc/en-us>

Email: support@vitalsource.com

Call: 1-855-200-4146

VitalSource Support is available 24/7 and can troubleshoot most issues

If you have questions about **BILLING**, email: digital@cubookstore.com

Additional readings will be posted for downloading on Canvas. They will be linked to the day that the reading is assigned.

Grading

Your grade will be based on the following –

Critical Papers	
3 at 20 points each	60 points
Final Paper	25 points
Attendance	15 points
Total	100 points

Final grades will be based on your final total points and the distribution below.

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		

Critical Papers

There will be four critical papers assigned during the semester. You will have a choice of one of two questions. The questions and administrative instructions will be posted between ten days and two weeks before the due date. Each paper will be between 1000 and 1500 words. No outside research will be required. Papers will be turned in on Canvas. There is no class on the days the papers are due.

Attendance.

Attendance is required, and you should be prepared to participate when you do. This means you have read the assignment and can contribute to discussions about the subject of the reading. Absences will only be excused based on illness, approved religious observations (see policy section), work/sports/ROTC commitments, or family emergencies. Documentation for absences may be required.

Course Schedule.

Module 1. Politics and Societies.

Objective - Describe the impact of groups on international relations.

1. August 23
 - a. Objective
 - i. Identify course requirements and expectations.
 - ii. Recognize the multiple perspectives on globalization.
 - b. Reading Assignment
 - i. Syllabus on Canvas
 - ii. *Global Studies Reader*, Introduction.
2. August 25
 - a. Objective – discuss what is meant by global civil society.
 - b. Reading Assignment – *Global Studies Reader*, Chapter 1
3. August 27
 - a. Objective – outline the gaps in frameworks of understanding.
 - b. Reading Assignment – *Global Studies Reader*, Chapter 2
4. August 30
 - a. Objective – evaluate attempts to control the spread of nuclear weapons.
 - b. Reading Assignment – *Global Issues*, Chapter 3
5. September 1
 - a. Objective – assess the impact of ideology on globalization.
 - b. Reading Assignment – *Global Studies Reader*, Chapter 3
6. September 3
 - a. Objective – outline the issues between the United States and Iran.
 - b. Reading Assignment – *Global Issues*, Chapter 1
- September 6 – Labor Day**
7. September 8
 - a. Objective – predict the future direction of American foreign policy.
 - b. Reading Assignment – *Global Issues*, Chapter 7
8. September 10
 - a. Objective – describe the foundation of world social forums.
 - b. Reading Assignment – *Global Studies Reader*, Chapter 4
9. September 13
 - a. Objective – estimate the effect of BREXIT and populist movements on the future of the European Union.
 - b. Reading Assignment – *Global Issues*, Chapter 6
10. September 15
 - a. Objective – demonstrate the impact of international media on revolutionary movements.

- b. Reading Assignment – *Global Studies Reader*, Chapter 5
- 11. September 17
 - a. Objective – identify the critical effects of cyber warfare on international and domestic politics.
 - b. Reading Assignment – *Global Issues*, Chapter 4

12. September 20 – Critical Paper 1 Due

Module 2. Economics and Technologies.

Objective - Explain the changes in global economics and trade and their impact on politics.

- 13. September 22
 - a. Objective – examine the effect of globalization on local economics.
 - b. Reading Assignment – *Global Studies Reader*, Chapter 6
- 14. September 24
 - a. Objective – outline China's investment strategy as a means of expanding its power.
 - b. Reading Assignment – *Global Issues*, Chapter 8
- 15. September 27
 - a. Objective – summarize the impact of gender on global economics.
 - b. Reading Assignment – *Global Studies Reader*, Chapter 7
- 16. September 29
 - a. Objective – discuss the connection between gendered traditions and conflicts.
 - b. Reading Assignment – Hudson and Matfess on Canvas
- 17. October 1
 - a. Objective – design a new version of capitalism
 - b. Reading Assignment – *Global Studies Reader*, Chapter 8.
- 18. October 4
 - a. Objective – recognize the effect of international commerce on domestic tax policy.
 - b. Reading Assignment – *Global Issues*, Chapter 9
- 19. October 6
 - a. Objective – identify the impact of outsourcing and globalization of resourcing on the production of goods.
 - b. Reading Assignment – *Global Issues*, Chapter 10
- 20. October 8
 - a. Objective – identify the impact of technology on global society.
 - b. Reading Assignment – *Global Studies Reader*, Chapter 9
- 21. October 11
 - a. Objective – criticize the rise of social media corporations.
 - b. Reading Assignment – *Global Studies Reader*, Chapter 10

22. October 13 – Critical Paper 2 Due

Module 3. Cultures and Histories.

Objective - Summarize the impact of belief sets (culture) on politics and economics.

23. October 15

- a. Objective – judge whether globalization a constant or repeated pattern of international behavior.
- b. Reading Assignment – *Global Studies Reader*, Chapter 11

24. October 18

- a. Objective – identify the effect of human migration.
- b. Reading Assignment – *Global Studies Reader*, Chapter 12

25. October 20

- a. Objective – summarize migration issues.
- b. Reading Assignment – *Global Issues*, Chapter 11

26. October 22

- a. Objective – assess the impact of migration on the spread of disease.
- b. Reading Assignment – *Global Issues*, Chapter 2

27. October 25

- a. Objective – identify the relationship between disease and conflict behavior.
- b. Reading Assignment – Elbe on Canvas

28. October 27

- a. Objective – evaluate the effect of globalization on local culture.
- b. Reading Assignment – *Global Studies Reader*, Chapter 13

29. October 29

- a. Objective – recognize the relationship between economic culture and terrorism.
- b. Reading Assignment – Mousseau on Canvas

30. November 1

- a. Objective – identify how the consumption of goods and services expands a state's influence.
- b. Reading Assignment – *Global Studies Reader*, Chapter 14

31. November 3

- a. Objective – examine the spread of religion as a form of economics (market).
- b. Reading Assignment – *Global Studies Reader*, Chapter 15

32. November 5

- a. Objective – recognize the problems with minor religions in the Mideast.
- b. Reading Assignment – *Global Issues*, Chapter 13

33. November 8 – Critical Paper 3 Due

Module 4. Spaces and Environments

Objective – Evaluate the impact of the physical world on international politics.

34. November 10
 - a. Objective – recognize the effect of urbanization.
 - b. Reading Assignment – *Global Studies Reader*, Chapter 16
35. November 12
 - a. Objective – identify the issue associated with climate change.
 - b. Reading Assignment – *Global Issues*, Chapter 14
36. November 15
 - a. Objective – summarize how and why cities grow.
 - b. Reading Assignment – *Global Studies Reader*, Chapter 17
37. November 17
 - a. Objective – relate climate change effects to health issues.
 - b. Reading Assignment – *Global Issues*, Chapter 15
38. November 19
 - a. Objective – evaluate the concept of global citizenship.
 - b. Reading Assignment – *Global Studies Reader*, Chapter 18

November 22-26, Fall Break/Thanksgiving

39. November 29
 - a. Objective – examine global mobilization of issues.
 - b. Reading Assignment – *Global Issues*, Chapter 12
40. December 1
 - a. Objective – compare the costs and impact of global climate change.
 - b. Reading Assignment – *Global Studies Reader*, Chapter 19
41. December 3
 - a. Objective – evaluate the policy solutions to global climate change.
 - b. Reading Assignment – *Global Studies Reader*, Chapter 20
42. December 6
 - a. Objective – explain the difficulties in developing fuel standards.
 - b. Reading Assignment – *Global Issues*, Chapter 16

43. December 8 – Final Critical Paper due

Policies – (as established by the Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education)

SYLLABUS STATEMENTS

CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR

Both students and faculty are responsible for maintaining an appropriate learning environment in all instructional settings, whether in person, remote or online. Those who fail 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, political affiliation or political philosophy. For more information, see the policies on [classroom behavior](#) and the [Student Conduct & Conflict Resolution policies](#).

REQUIREMENTS FOR COVID-19

As a matter of public health and safety due to the pandemic, all members of the CU Boulder community and all visitors to campus must follow university, department and building requirements and all public health orders in place to reduce the risk of spreading infectious disease. Students who fail to adhere to these requirements will be asked to leave class, and students who do not leave class when asked or who refuse to comply with these requirements will be referred to [Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution](#). For more information, see the policy on [classroom behavior](#) and the [Student Code of Conduct](#). If you require accommodation because a disability prevents you from fulfilling these safety measures, please follow the steps in the “Accommodation for Disabilities” statement on this syllabus.

As of Aug. 13, 2021, CU Boulder has returned to requiring masks in classrooms and laboratories regardless of vaccination status. This requirement is a temporary precaution during the delta surge to supplement CU Boulder’s COVID-19 vaccine requirement. Exemptions include individuals who cannot medically tolerate a face covering, as well as those who are hearing-impaired or otherwise disabled or who are communicating with someone who is hearing-impaired or otherwise disabled and where the ability to see the mouth is essential to communication. If you qualify for a mask-related accommodation, please follow the steps in the “Accommodation for Disabilities” statement on this syllabus. In addition, vaccinated instructional faculty who are engaged in an indoor instructional activity and are separated by at least 6 feet from the nearest person are exempt from wearing masks if they so choose.

Students who have tested positive for COVID-19, have symptoms of COVID-19, or have had close contact with someone who has tested positive for or had symptoms of COVID-19 must stay home. In this class, if you are sick or quarantined, e-mail me at michael.kanner@colorado.edu that you are unable to attend classes and for how long you believe you will be absent.

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.

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 academic integrity policy. Violations of the Honor Code may include, but are not limited to: plagiarism, 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. All incidents of academic misconduct will be reported to the Honor Code (honor@colorado.edu); 303-492-5550). Students found responsible for violating the academic integrity policy will be subject to nonacademic sanctions from the Honor Code as well as academic sanctions from the faculty member. Additional information regarding the Honor Code academic integrity policy can be found on the [Honor Code website](#).

SEXUAL MISCONDUCT, DISCRIMINATION, HARASSMENT AND/OR RELATED RETALIATION

The University of Colorado Boulder (CU Boulder) is committed to fostering an inclusive and welcoming learning, working, and living environment. CU Boulder will not tolerate acts of sexual misconduct (harassment, exploitation, and assault), intimate partner violence (dating or domestic violence), stalking, or protected-class discrimination or harassment by or against members of our community. Individuals who believe they have been subject to misconduct or retaliatory actions for reporting a concern should contact the Office of Institutional Equity and Compliance (OIEC) at 303-492-2127 or email cureport@colorado.edu. Information about OIEC, university policies, [reporting options](#), and the campus resources can be found on the [OIEC website](#).

Please know that faculty and graduate instructors have a responsibility to inform OIEC when made aware of incidents of sexual misconduct, dating and domestic violence, stalking, discrimination, harassment and/or related retaliation, to ensure that individuals impacted receive information about their rights, support resources, and reporting options.

RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS

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, e-mail me at michael.kanner@colorado.edu and tell me what classes you will be missing.

See the [campus policy regarding religious observances](#) for full details.