

## **PSCI-3143-002: CURRENT AFFAIRS IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**

Date and Time – Tuesday, Thursday – 11 AM to 12:15 PM

Location – HUMN 1B80

Instructor: Dr. Mike Kanner

### **Contact information**

E-Mail: [michael.kanner@colorado.edu](mailto:michael.kanner@colorado.edu)

Office Location: Ketchum 114F

Office Hours – Monday, Tuesday, Friday 12:30 to 1:30 PM

Campus Box Office: 333 UCB

### **Communication Policies**

The best way to contact me is by e-mail. My normal response time is 8 to 12 hours (although it may 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 call me.

### **Instructor Biography**

I am hired as a lecturer which means that teaching is my primary focus. Although I am listed in the political science department, I have taught for the International Affairs, the GRAP program, and Farrand RAP for several years. Because of this, I have taught a variety of courses including international relations, security studies, developmental economics, and political theory.

Although my bachelor's degree is in engineering, I also have a master in managerial science from Troy State University, a Master of Arts in international relations from Salve Regina University and a Ph.D. from the University of Colorado, Boulder which focused on political psychology and its effect on foreign policy decision making. My classes are notable for the emphasis on critical thinking, making good arguments, and writing.

Academia, however, was not my first career. Prior to teaching, I served in the US military with assignments as an operations officer in the United States, Latin America, and Europe. My final assignment was as a senior plans and policy analyst at Headquarters, US Army Europe where I dealt with issues related to the end of the Cold War. I also served on several special study groups including the Defense Department's *Joint Low-Intensity Conflict Study Group*, the Army War College's *Living Expert System (Senior Leader Decision Support System) Concept Study Group*, and the *Military Forces in Preventive Diplomacy Study Group*.

### **Course Description** (from course 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 prereq., PSCI 2223. Approved for arts and sciences core curriculum: contemporary societies.

### **Overview of Class and Responsibilities**

Each of us has roles in the classrooms.

Instructor. I will be on time and prepared to lead the class. A normal class will start with an introduction to the subject. This is not a lecture and will highlight key features. Then, I will

introduce a case or discussion question. This will be the focus of the rest of the class either as a group or broken down into small groups.

Student. Your first responsibility is to show up to class and to be on time. Readings are only part of the class. I consider lateness is a sign of disrespect to the other students.

Second, do the readings in advance of attendance. The class is based on discussions, so being uninformed will decrease everybody's learning experience. You should analyze each reading for these elements.

1. Identify the assumptions or statements that frame the argument.
2. Examine the accuracy and validity of these assumptions or statements.
3. Analyze how these assumptions result in different perspectives about the world.
4. Compare the different policies that may come from different assumptions.

Finally, keep up with the news. We will be applying what we learn to current events. Unfortunately, the most common news sources (e.g., browser feeds) do not include international news except for disasters or crises. You should explore sites that will include these areas. If you are planning on focusing on a region (e.g., Europe or Asia), I recommend that you find a source that reports events in that area.

I recommend you consider a subscription to [The Economist Magazine](https://subscription.economist.com/DE/EngCore/Ecom/WelOvlay). It is a standard read for many people working in or studying international relations. They have a one-semester subscription special for students (<https://subscription.economist.com/DE/EngCore/Ecom/WelOvlay>).

### Required Texts

There are two textbooks required for this class.

CQ Researchers. 2018. *Global Issues: Selections from CQ Researcher*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage-CQ Press.

Hastedt, Glenn, Donna L. Lybecker, and Vaughn P. Shannon. 2015. *Cases in International Relations: Pathways to Conflict and Cooperation*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage-CQ Press.

Throughout the semester, I will send out additional readings. These are usually recent articles that are relevant to our discussions. They are not required although I strongly recommend that you read them.

### Grading

Final grades are based on a 100-point scale.

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

Your final grade will be a function of the points you achieve. Points are allocated on the following basis.

Critical Papers (3 at 30 points each)	90 points
Attendance	10 points
Total	100 points

Critical Papers. There will be three critical papers required for this class. These are scheduled at the end of each block of the class. Each paper will be between 1000 and 1500 words and consist of two possible questions. You will be required to answer one of the two questions. No research is required. Questions and administrative instructions will be posted approximately 10 to 14 days before they are due.

Attendance. Ten percent of winning is just showing up. Or in this case, ten percent of your grade is based on being in class and ready to participate. Absences will only be excused based on illness, incarceration, religious observation, work commitments or family emergencies. Documentation for the absence may be requested.

### Class Schedule

January	
15 – Syllabus; CIR 1	17 – CIR 3
22 – CQ: US-Iran Relations	24 – CIR 4
29 – CIR 6	31 – CQ: US-Russia Relations
February	
5 – CQ: China and the South China Sea	7 – CQ: North Korea Showdown
12 – CQ: Cyberwarfare Threat	14 – Critical Paper 1 Due
19 – CQ: Reforming the UN	21 – CQ: Democracies Under Stress
26 – CIR 8	28 – CIR 10
March	
5 – CQ: EU’s Future	7 – CIR 11
12 – CQ: Troubled Brazil	14 – CIR 9
19 – CQ: New Space Race	21 – Critical Paper 2 Due
26 – Spring Break	28 – Spring Break
April	
2 – CQ: Rethinking Foreign Aid	4 – CIR 12
9 – CIR 13	11 – CQ: Climate Change and National Security
16 – CIR 14	18 – CIR 16
23 – CQ: Pandemic	25 – CIR 15
30 – CQ: Anti-Semitism	
May	
	2 – Final Critical Paper Due
Legend	
CQ	<i>Global Issues: Selections from CQ Researcher.</i>
CIR	<i>Cases in International Relations: Pathways to Conflict and Cooperation</i>

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

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](http://www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices/students) ([www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices/students](http://www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices/students)). 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 or injury, see [Temporary Medical Conditions](#) under the Students tab on the Disability Services website and discuss your needs with your professor.

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, let me know in advance if you will be missing class and I will consider your individual case.

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

Classroom Behavior

Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. 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. Class rosters are provided to the instructor with the student's legal name. I will gladly honor your request to address you by an alternate name or gender pronoun. Please advise me of this preference early in the semester so that I may make appropriate changes to my records. For more information, see the policies on [classroom behavior](#) and the [Student Code of Conduct](#).

Sexual Misconduct, Discrimination, Harassment and/or Related Retaliation

Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. 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. Class rosters are provided to the instructor with the student's legal name. I will gladly honor your request to address you by an alternate name or gender pronoun. Please advise me of this preference early in the semester so that I may make appropriate changes to my records. For more information, see the policies on [classroom behavior](#) and the [Student Code of Conduct](#).

Honor Code

All students enrolled in a University of Colorado Boulder course are responsible for knowing and adhering to [the academic integrity policy](#). Violations of the policy may include plagiarism, cheating, fabrication, lying, bribery, threat, unauthorized access to academic materials, clicker fraud, resubmission, and aiding academic dishonesty. All incidents of academic misconduct will be reported to the Honor Code Council ([honor@colorado.edu](mailto:honor@colorado.edu); 303-735-2273). Students who are found responsible for violating the academic integrity policy will be subject to nonacademic sanctions from the Honor Code Council as well as academic sanctions from the faculty member. Additional information regarding the academic integrity policy can be found at the [Honor Code Office website](#).