

Kansai Gaikokugo Daigaku Asia Studies Program
Collaborative Online International Learning: Global External Environment
Course Syllabus: Spring 2020

Course Information:

Class Times: Tuesday & Thursday 1:15 PM – 2:45 PM and On Demand

Classroom: Online and Using Zoom

Required Textbook: Reading Packet from The PRS Group; *Llewellyn Howell, Editor*
Political Risk: How Businesses and Organizations Can Anticipate Global Insecurity;
Condoleezza Rice & Amy Zegart (KGU Only)

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Course Description:

This course will examine the impact of the non-business environment (country and political risk) on foreign direct investment and international trade decisions. Students will learn to assess the impact of ethnic tensions, terrorism, political instability, corruption, and other risk factors on business operations. An emphasis will be placed on understanding the relationship between socioeconomic factors and global business.

Business requires an understanding of both the internal (things under the control of the business organization) and external (things not under the control of the business organization) environment. Most undergraduate business programs offer many courses on the internal environment, but nothing on the external environment. Analysis of the external environment takes a particularly important role in international business because the diversity of political, socioeconomic, legal, and cultural environments. This course will introduce students to understanding the complexities of the world's external environments and its impact on businesses. Special attention will be paid to political and country risks, as well as designing methods to safeguard the people and assets of a business when operating overseas.

Collaborative Online International Learning:

This course is a pilot demonstration for collaborative online international learning (COIL) with the University of Hawaii – West Oahu. Students will interact with students in Hawaii to create a multicultural learning environment. The course will be managed through the University of Hawaii Laulima course management system (Laulima). All KGU students must adhere to the policies and procedures of Laulima as stipulated by the University of Hawaii.

Class will be run primarily through online interactive sessions using Zoom Video Conferencing (Zoom), on-demand video lectures posted to YouTube, and occasional in-person sessions with KGU faculty.

Course Objectives:

The course will be divided into two major components. The first component will focus on the definition and technical assessment of non-business risk. This component will include introductions to some of the major methods of measuring non-business risk, such as the International Country Risk Guide methodology, and the PRS Coplin-O'Leary Model.

The second component of the course will focus on weekly assessments of current non-business risk events. These assessments will be for specific countries, and will be presented in written and oral reports. This component will also introduce various methods of non-business risk management and other strategies to safeguard human and physical assets.

Student Learning Objectives:

1. Students will learn how to write short concise summary reports
2. Students will learn how to write short concise critical analysis reports
3. Students will learn how to present short concise oral reports
4. Students will learn how to design and present formal presentations
5. Students will learn the location of key geopolitical countries/economies/hotspots
6. Students will learn to evaluate and analyze current business and political events
7. Students will learn the differences between country risk, economic risk, financial risk and political risk.
8. Students will learn how to forecast and assess international external risk conditions
9. Students will learn how to quantify qualitative risk
10. Students will learn how to calculate weighted probability methods to quantify country risk
11. Students will learn the 1986 Economist Model from the Economist Intelligence Unit
12. Students will learn the International Country Risk Guide Model from the PRS Group
13. Students will learn the Coplin-O'Leary Risk Forecasting Methodology from the PRS Group
14. Students will learn various risk management strategies for business and personal safety
15. Students will learn the basics of political risk insurance and its availability to businesses

In addition to the above learning objectives, presentations on various topics related to political risk and country risk have been prepared. As a class, students may select which presentations best fit their interests and learning goals. These presentations include:

- A. Nuclear Proliferation
- B. North Korea Border Issues
- C. East Asian Maritime Border Disputes
- D. Food Security
- E. Emergency Planning for Organizations
- F. International Corruption & US Foreign Corrupt Practices Act
- G. Maritime Piracy

Attendance & Participation Policy:

All students are required to attend and actively participate in the live Zoom class sessions. Failure to attend a Zoom session is the equivalent of missing a class. During the Zoom sessions students are expected to conduct themselves in a professional and respectful manner. Zoom sessions will be recorded by the professors for their own records, but they will not be available to students for online viewing. Therefore, students should take diligent notes during the session.

Students are required to maintain a live video feed during the Zoom sessions, and professors will monitor the feed to ensure attendance. Although professors may occasionally block their own video feed, students should maintain their own video feeds throughout the course. Students are also required to mute their microphones when they are not speaking to ensure optimum sound quality for those who are speaking.

Attendance and Participation will also include online postings. Discussion Questions (DQs) will be uploaded to Lulima and administered through the Lulima DISCUSSION AND PRIVATE MESSAGES tool, CLASS DISCUSSIONS. The class will be divided into separate groups. Students should only post in the discussion group to which they have been assigned. Each student will be assigned to a group at the start of the semester, but the groups will change throughout the semester.

For DQs, students are required to make at least two posts. One must be before the Zoom session; the second post must be made before the end of the week. At least one post, typically the second post, must show evidence that you have read your group members' postings (reference or respond to a post). Each DQ is worth 3 points. One point for a post before the Zoom session, one point for a second post, and one point for showing evidence that you have read your group members' postings. Grading will be reflected in the Attendance & Participation grade.

Students will also be free to post questions or comments in the STUDENT LOUNGE area of the DISCUSSION AND PRIVATE MESSAGES tool. While the professor will monitor the STUDENT LOUNGE, he will not involve himself in discussions (unless needed to maintain a positive environment for learning).

The QUESTIONS area of the DISCUSSION AND PRIVATE MESSAGES tool should be used by students to post questions about the course or the course material that require a response from the professor. The professor will also post questions received via email to this area so other students can see the response. The QUESTIONS area will not be monitored on a daily basis, so questions that need an immediate response should be emailed directly to the professor.

Actions which detract from the learning process or which distract other students will not be tolerated. This includes any postings or comments during online discussions. Offending students will not receive warning of their misconduct and will receive a deduction from their Attendance/Participation score. Gross misconduct will result in an automatic "F" for the course. Such students will also be denied access to the course.

Peer Evaluation of Group Work:

The course requires a significant amount of group work. At the end of the semester, students will evaluate each person they worked with during the semester.

Exam:

There will be two exams during the course of the class. The first exam will be administered through Lulima TESTS & QUIZZES. The second exam, as required by university policy, will be in-person at the designated time and place. Exams may consist of multiple choice questions, short essays, case studies, variable matching, and other types of questions. Material for the exam will come from the readings and class lectures.

Country Report: Group Presentation

Students will research a pre-determined country from a political and non-business risk perspective to create video oral report. The recommended format for the presentation is a narrated PowerPoint presentation that has been uploaded to YouTube (upload as UNLISTED) to allow the class to view. The presentation should include information about the country's basic sociopolitical information, current events relevant to its economy and business environment, and the current status of foreign direct investment risks in the country. All students doing the same country must work together to present their report as a video presentation. Details will be provided in a separate handout.

Current Events Reports: Written Reports, Oral Reports, Peer Reports, and Peer Evaluations

The main feature of this course is the current event reports. This assignment is designed to have student learn about current international events and analyze their impact on the world of business specific to a country. Once a week students will find a news article about an incident or event that changes the political or non-business risk profile of a country. Specific details on the Current Event Reports are available on [Laulima RESOURCES](#).

Written Report: Students will be required to analyze and summarize an event in their country that impacts the risk profile of the country. They must summarize the event in one paragraph (100 words or less), and they must also explain in one paragraph (100 words or less) how the event will impact the risk profile of a country.

Video Report: Students will be required to provide a **3-5** minute video presentation of an event which impacts the risk profile of their country. The report will be presented during Zoom sessions. After presenting their report, students must field questions from the class related to the event.

Peer Written Report: In addition to the standard written reports, students will be required to submit written reports based on different countries. Students will be notified by email prior to being assigned a peer written report. These reports will follow the same format as the standard written report and must be turned into the professor. The professor will then present these reports to the students in the class to assess and evaluate.

Peer Written Evaluation: Students will grade and write an evaluation of each Peer Written Report submitted on their country. Each peer report must be given a grade and each report must be graded with comments. The written evaluation must be at least half-a-page in length. These evaluations are due 1 week from the day the peer reports are presented to the class. Each evaluation will be graded by the professor.

Business Risk Presentation:

Students will report on a political or non-business risk/threat in a specific country. The report should provide background information about the country and risk, an estimation of the threat potential of the risk, and a risk management strategy to reduce exposure to the risk. All students doing the same country must work together to present their country report during a Zoom session. More details will be provided in a separate handout.

Risk in Asia Report:

Students will report on a key driver of risk in Asia. The risk can be specific to a country, region, issue, or other pre-approved category. The report must provide background information of the

risk, an assessment of its impact on Asia (or specific countries), an analysis of its economic or business impact, and a risk management strategy. More details will be provided in a separate handout.

Weighted Probability Table:

An optional assignment has been designed to help students understand the basic nature of probability forecasting. Students who complete the assignment will receive bonus points towards their final grade. More details will be provided in a separate handout.

Laulima DROP BOX:

All materials must be submitted via Laulima Drop Box as either an MS-Word or PDF format with the appropriate file name. Failure to submit in an appropriate format or file name will result in a grade deduction. See Laulima RESOURCES for more details.

Grading Policies:

Attendance & Participation	15%
Peer Evaluation of Group Work	5%
Country Report Video Presentation	5%
Current Event Assignments	
Written, Oral, Peer	25%
Peer Evaluation	5%
Total	30%
Exam #1 & Final Exam	30%
<i>Weighted Probability Table (BONUS)</i>	2.5%
Business Risk Presentation	5%
<u>Risk in Asia Report:</u>	10%
TOTAL	100%
With Bonus	102.5%

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

Students will be required to provide a four (4) character personal identification code (PIC). The code will be used when posting point totals for students’ review. Students are strongly encouraged to check their scores against the posted information. Any discrepancies should be reported immediately to the instructor. It is strongly recommended that students DO NOT use their KGU student ID#, SSN, or other confidential information for their PIC. It is also recommended that students do not share their PIC with other students.

Academic Integrity:

Cheating, plagiarism, failure to properly cite sources, and/or other actions which constitute academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Punishment for violators may include a grade of “F” for the course. The instructor also reserves the right to implement measures to deter and/or detect academic dishonesty.

Use of Turnitin:

UH West Oahu has a license agreement with iParadigms, LLC for the use of their plagiarism prevention and detection service popularly known as Turnitin. The instructor may use Turnitin when reading and grading assignments. By taking a course where Turnitin is used, you agree that your assigned work may be submitted to and screened by Turnitin. Turnitin rates work on originality based on exhaustive searches of billions of pages from both current and archived instances of the internet, millions of student papers previously submitted to Turnitin, and

commercial databases of journal articles and periodicals. Turnitin does not make a determination if plagiarism has taken place. It makes an assessment of the submission's originality and reports that to the course instructor. These Originality Reports are tools to help the instructor locate potential sources of plagiarism in submitted papers.

All papers submitted to Turnitin become part of Turnitin's reference database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. Use of Turnitin is subject to the Usage Policy as posted on the Turnitin.com web site.

Tentative Course Syllabus and Schedule:

This syllabus and following course schedule are tentative drafts. After students have had an opportunity to provide feedback, a final syllabus and set schedule will be posted on the course website. Once a final syllabus and set schedule have been posted, this syllabus and schedule will be out of date.

Work outside of classroom: This is an online course so will require classwork to be done outside of the classroom. Refer to the course schedule for more information on what will be done in class and outside of class.

Tentative Course Schedule
Online MGT 370: Global External Environment

Week	Sunday - Saturday	UHWO Class Description	KGU Class Description
1	UHWO Zoom Session: January 15th Reading: Syllabus <i>Introduction to Political Risk</i>	Zoom: Introduction to the Class Laulima Walkthrough Current Event Reports Overview Video: What is External Risk Homework: Sample Current Event Reports Syllabus Quiz Due January 18th	None
2	UHWO Zoom Session: January 22nd Reading:	Video: Introduction to Political Risk Risk Assessment, Forecasting, &	Homework: Video: Introduction to the Class Video: Laulima Walkthrough

	<i>Economist: Countries in Trouble</i>	Quantification Zoom: Sample Current Event Oral Presentations DQ: Sample DQ	Video: What is External Risk
3 (1)	COIL Zoom Session: January 29th <i>International Country Risk Guide</i>	Video: Sample Country Report Zoom: Introduction to COIL Economist Model Country Selection in Class	Session #1: Zoom Introduction to the Class Quantifying Political Risk Session #2: Zoom Introduction to COIL Economist Model Country Selection in Class
4 (2)	COIL Zoom Session: February 5th	Video: Geography Zoom: PRS Group ICRG Model Country Reports Due XX	Video: Sample Country Report Geography Zoom: PRS Group ICRG Model Country Reports Due XX
5 (3)	COIL Zoom Session: February 12th <i>Transparency International</i>	Video: Country Reports Zoom: Current Event #1 (ICRG Mode Variables) Geography Quiz Due XXX	Video: Country Reports Zoom: Current Event #1 (ICRG Mode Variables)
6 (4)	COIL Zoom Session: February 19th <i>Control Risks</i>	Video: Corruption and USFCPA Zoom:	Video: Corruption and USFCPA Zoom:

		Current Event #2 (ICRG Mode Variables)	Current Event #2 (ICRG Mode Variables)
7 (5)	COIL Zoom Session: February 26th	Video: Control Risks Group Travel Risks Zoom: Current Event #3 (ICRG Mode Variables)	Video: Control Risks Group Travel Risks Zoom: Current Event #3 (ICRG Mode Variables)
8 (6)	COIL Zoom Session: March 4th <i>Political Risk Services</i>	Zoom: Review Session (Optional) Current Event #4 (ICRG Mode Variables) Exam #1 Due XXX	Session #1: Review Day Session #2: Current Event #4 (ICRG Mode Variables) Exam #1 Due XXX
9 (7)	COIL Zoom Session: March 11th <i>A Political Risk Manager's Toolkit; Political Risk Insurance</i>	Video: PRS Group Coplin-O'Leary Model Emergency Planning Zoom: Video Related Discussions	Video: PRS Group Coplin-O'Leary Model Emergency Planning Zoom: Video Related Discussions
*	SPRING BREAK		
10 (8)	COIL Zoom Session: March 25th <i>Sea Piracy as Political Risk</i>	Video: Managing Political Risk Political Risk Insurance Business Risk Presentation Overview Zoom: Current Event #5 (ICRG Mode Variable) Probability Table Assignment Due	Video: Managing Political Risk Political Risk Insurance Business Risk Presentation Overview Zoom: Current Event #5 (ICRG Mode Variable) Probability Table Assignment Due
11	COIL Zoom Session: April 1st	Video: Sea Piracy	Video: Sea Piracy

(9)		Nuclear Proliferation Zoom: Current Event #6 (ICRG Mode Variable)	Nuclear Proliferation Zoom: Current Event #6 (ICRG Mode Variable)
12 (10)	COIL Zoom Session: April 8th	Video: Island Disputes in Asia Zoom: Current Event #7 (ICRG Mode Variable) Meetings with Professor	Video: Island Disputes in Asia Zoom: Current Event #7 (ICRG Mode Variable) Meetings with Professor
13 (11)	COIL Zoom Session: April 15th	Video: Food Security Zoom: Current Event #8 (ICRG Mode Variable) Meetings with Professor	Video: Food Security Zoom: Current Event #8 (ICRG Mode Variable) Meetings with Professor
14 (12)	COIL Zoom Session: April 22nd	Video: Hawaii Political Risk Zoom: Current Event #9 (ICRG Mode Variable)	Video: Hawaii Political Risk Zoom: Current Event #9 (ICRG Mode Variable)
15 (13)	COIL Zoom Session: April 29th	Video: Business Description Videos Business Risk Presentation	Video: Business Description Videos Business Risk Presentation
16	KGU Zoom Session: May 6th	Exam #2	Video: Political Risk – Rice & Zegart Zoom: Political Risk – Rice & Zegart
17	KGU Zoom Session: May 13th	No Class	Session #1: Asia Future Risk Presentations

			Session #2: Asia Future Risk Presentations
18	KGU Zoom Session: May 20th	No Class	Session #1: TBD Session #2: Review Day
19	KGU Zoom Session: May 27th	No Class	Final Exam