

IN110 Globalization and International Relations

Seminar Leader: Boris Vormann

Course Times: Mon & Wed 17:30-19:00

Office Hours: By appointment

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Course Description

In the social sciences, globalization is often defined as an increase in the mobility of various factors and actors. This definition includes heightened flows of finance capital, the rise of global production networks in expanding divisions of labor as well as the movement of people and ideas. This course uses standard international relations theories as a starting point to examine how growing networks of exchange and circulation have altered political calculation, economic geographies, and governmental arrangements. A particular focus will be placed on the political processes that have facilitated and increased mobility over time, from the emergence of the interstate system in the late nineteenth century, to the globalization of trade and interdependence in our own historical moment. We will explore new actor constellations and shifting power arrangements in more detail with regards to transnational environmental issues, asymmetric warfare, and anti-globalist movements. In so doing, we consider the ways in which the phenomena and levels of globalization challenge the traditional paradigms of the social sciences and prompt a new formulation of the field of international relations.

Requirements

Reading material (you must have your own copy of the edition with this ISBN!)

1. Class Reader (available at the library)
2. Steger, Manfred. 2017. *Globalization. A Very Short Introduction*. 4th edition. Oxford University Press. (978-0-19-877955-1)

Recommended Reading

Baylis, John, Steve Smith and Patricia Owens (eds.). 2017. *The Globalization of World Politics. An Introduction to International Relations*. 7th Edition. Oxford University Press. (978-0-19-873985-2; 3 copies of this book are available at the library)

Class preparation

In preparation for class, read the texts thoughtfully and engage with their core argument. Take notes while reading and try to identify questions in advance: Why do the authors argue as they do? How do they raise and substantiate their claims? How does their line of argumentation relate to earlier readings and discussions in class?

Attendance

Attendance at ALL classes is expected, as regular attendance is essential to the success of this course. More than two absences (that is absences from two sessions of 90 minutes) in a semester will result in a reduction of the course grade by up to one grade step (e.g., B+ to B). There will be an attendance sheet for any session. Late arrival counts as an absence.

Assignments, Grade Breakdown and Essay Deadlines

Oral

- **Classroom Participation (2*10%)** **20%** (of overall grade)
This seminar involves thoughtful and active participation in class discussions, reflections on current themes, and working groups. The classroom is a protected space and you should feel free to voice your arguments and comments. Please do not hesitate to address the seminar leader if you feel that this is not the case.
- **Discussion Lead** **20%**
Each student will **present a case study** that highlights a particular aspect or compares a given idea or empirical phenomenon in a variety of (geographical and historical) contexts for one of the subjects in **weeks 3-13**. The short presentation should be **no longer than 10 minutes** and should be interactive, engaging, and analytically insightful. Students are also expected to develop questions and a deeper-going expertise on the subject to be able and guide the ensuing discussion.

Written

- **6 Response Papers (each ~850 word; 6*10%)** **60%**
Each student is required to write 6 response papers (1.5-spaced, 12 pt., Times New Roman): 3 on sessions of their choice in weeks 3-7, 3 in weeks 9-13. I expect a short abstract of the primary texts' main tenets, an analysis that embeds the reading in earlier class discussions, and the articulation of one central synthetic question that engages the issues and debates addressed in the reading as a starting point for broader discussion.
 - Response papers need to be **submitted in print by the beginning of the respective session**.

Policy on Late Submission of Papers (Student Handbook)

"Essays that are up to 24 hours late will be downgraded one full grade (from B+ to C+, for example). Instructors are not obliged to accept essays that are more than 24 hours late. Where an instructor agrees to accept a late essay, it must be submitted within four weeks of the deadline and cannot receive a grade of higher than C. Thereafter, the student will receive a failing grade for the assignment."

Schedule

Week Beginning	Monday	Wednesday	Assignments
I. Debates and Historical Background <i>What is Globalization?</i>			
1 Sept 2	***Selection of Discussion Leads*** Introduction and Overview Steger, <i>Globalization</i> , Chs. 1&2	Economic Globalization Ohmae, <i>End of the Nation-State</i> Steger, <i>Globalization</i> , Ch. 3	
2 Sept 9	...and the State Steger, <i>Globalization</i> , Ch. 4 Wallerstein, <i>World-Systems Analysis</i>	Are IR Theories Theories? Walt, <i>One World, Many Theories</i>	
II. Theory Traditions and Methods <i>Understanding International Relations</i>			
3 Sept 16	Realism: Anarchy and Power Hobbes, <i>Leviathan</i> Morgenthau, <i>Politics Among Nations</i> Waltz, <i>Anarchic Orders</i>	Neoclassical Realism Rose, <i>Neoclassical Realism</i> Mearsheimer & Walt, <i>Offshore Balancing</i>	
4 Sept 23	Liberalism: Trade and Democracy Kant, <i>Perpetual Peace</i> Wilson, <i>Community of Power</i> Doyle, <i>Liberalism and World Politics</i>	Liberal Internationalism Ikenberry, <i>Liberal Internationalism</i>	
5 Sept 30	Marxism Cox, <i>Social Forces, States & World Orders</i>	Marxian Critiques of Empire Williams, <i>The Frontier Thesis</i> Bacevich, <i>American Empire</i>	3 response papers on sessions of your choice
6 Oct 7	Social Constructivism Wendt, <i>Anarchy is what States make of it</i>	Power Deconstructed Barnett & Duvall, <i>Power in Int'l Politics</i>	
7 Oct 14	Feminist Perspectives Tickner, <i>Critique of Morgenthau</i> Stearns, <i>Engaging from the Margins</i>	Postcolonial Critiques Tickner, <i>Core, periphery ... IR</i>	

III. Actors, Contexts, and Processes
International Relations in Flux

Power Dispersion: New Actors Emerge

8
Oct 21

Post-Cold War Conflicts
Graham, *When Life Itself is War*

Guest Lecture Helmut Aust
Global City Networks
Curtis, *Cities and Global Governance*

Fall Break (Oct 28-Nov 3)

9
Nov 4

International Institutions
Brown, *The Promise and Record of Int'l Institutions*

NO SESSION

1 response
paper

10
Nov 11

International Institutions
Keohane et al., *Democracy-Enhancing Multilateralism*

Smart and Soft Power
Nye, *Soft Power / Get Smart*

Power Shift: Changes in the Balance of Power

11
Nov 18

Rise of the Other
Zarakol, *Rise of the Rest*

The Case of China
Allison, *Thucydides Trap*
Layne, *The US-Chinese Power Shift*

12
Nov 25

End of Liberal Hegemony
Mearsheimer, *Bound to Fail*

The End of Internationalism?
Ikenberry *The End of Liberal Int'l Order?*
Woeber, *A Post-Western Europe*

2 response
papers

13
Dec 2

Radical Conservatism
Drolet and Williams, *Int'l Theory and the New Right*

Reinventing Globalization
Curtis, *Global Cities and the Ends of Globalism*

IV. Outlook

14
Dec 9

Rethinking Int'l Relations
Baylis et al., *World Politics*, Introduction
Steger, *Globalization*, Chs. 6, 8

Concluding Session