

IN110 Globalization and International Relations

Seminar Leader: Boris Vormann

Course Times: tba.

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 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, asymmetric warfare, and the challenges of the liberal order. In so doing, we consider the ways in which globalization challenges the traditional paradigms of the social sciences and prompts 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

Because Bard College Berlin has an intensive, student-centered and seminar-based educational model, attendance at all sessions of courses is mandatory. Students may be excused if circumstances outside of their control prevent their attendance. Two absences will not affect the participation grade or require documentation. Every unexcused additional absence from a 90-min session lowers the participation grade by one step (i.e., from B+ to

B). Bard College Berlin does not offer credit for any course in which a student has missed more than 30% of classes, regardless of the reasons for the absences, whether excused or unexcused. Students facing the unusual situation of long-term, serious medical or personal emergencies (generally lasting more than two weeks) can request a Leave of Absence, to be approved by the Dean, Associate Dean, Head of Student Life, or Director of Academic Services. The 30% rule applies even in these cases.

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR FALL 2021: Some students may need to begin the semester remotely due to travel restrictions caused by the pandemic. In addition, all students and instructors must refrain from in-person attendance if they are feeling ill. Instructors should make efforts to offer alternatives to in-person attendance where needed, including remote participation or asynchronous options.

Assignments, Grade Breakdown and Essay Deadlines

Oral

- **Classroom Participation (2*15%)** **30%** (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.
- **Workshop Lead** **10%**
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 in charge of a workshop are also expected to develop questions and a deeper-going expertise on the subject to be able and guide the ensuing discussion. Overall, the workshop is supposed to be **no longer than 30 minutes**.

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 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 **per email** by the beginning of the respective session. **Late submissions will not be accepted!**
 - Indicate your name, the number of the response paper, and the date of submission in the header of the document.

Schedule

Week Beginning	Session 1	Session 2	Assignments	
I. Debates and Historical Background <i>What is Globalization?</i>				
1 August 30	***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 6	...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 13	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>	3 response papers on sessions of your choice	
4 Sept 20	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 27	Marxism Cox, <i>Social Forces, States & World Orders</i>	Marxian Critiques of Empire Williams, <i>The Frontier Thesis</i> Bacevich, <i>American Empire</i>		
6 Oct 4	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 11	Feminist Perspectives Tickner, <i>Critique of Morgenthau</i> Stears, <i>Engaging from the Margins</i>	Postcolonial Critiques Tickner, <i>Core, periphery ... IR</i>		
Fall Break (Oct 18-25)				

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

Power Dispersion: New Actors Emerge

8
Oct 25

Post-Cold War Conflicts
Nye, *Soft Power / Get Smart*

Global City Networks
Curtis, *Cities and Global Governance*

9
Nov 1

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

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

Power Shift: Changes in the Balance of Power

10
Nov 8

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

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

11
Nov 15

End of Liberal Hegemony
Mearsheimer, *Bound to Fail*

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

The End of Globalization?

12
Nov 22

Radical Conservatism
Drolet/Williams, *Int'l Theory & New Right*

Critique and Post-truth
Schindler, *The Task of Critique*

13
Nov 29

International Disorder
McKeil, *On the Concept of International Disorder*

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

3 response papers on sessions of your choice

IV. Outlook

14
Dec 6

Rethinking Int'l Relations
Aggestam et al., *Theorising Feminist Foreign Policy*
Steger, *Globalization*, Chs. 6, 8

Concluding Session