

IN110: Globalization and International Relations

Seminar Leader: Aaron Allen
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Office Hours: By Appointment

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. This course will explore new actor constellations and shifting power arrangements in more detail with regards to transnational environmental issues, asymmetric warfare, and humanitarian interventions. In so doing, this course will 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

Readings:

1. Course readings will be available online.
2. Steger, Manfred. 2017. *Globalization. A Very Short Introduction*. 4th Edition. Oxford University Press. (978-0-19-877955-1)
3. Wright, Robert. 2001. *Nonzero: The Logic of Human Destiny*. Vintage Books. (978-0679758945)
4. Taleb, Nassim Nicholas. *The Black Swan: The Impact of the Highly Improbable*. 2nd Edition. (978-0812973815)

Class Preparation:

For each class, please read the assigned texts thoroughly and come prepared to discuss:

- The main arguments put forth by the author(s);
- And how each reading relates to the larger themes of globalization, the respective international relations theories and contemporary world challenges.

Attendance:

Attendance is mandatory. Please know that there will be a sign-in sheet for each session. Up to two absences will not affect one's grade or require documentation. Every additional absence without approved leave will result in the subtraction of one point from the overall final grade. If you need a Leave of Absence, please contact the instructor as soon as possible to make the appropriate arrangements.

Bard College Berlin does not offer credits for any course if a student has missed more than 30% of classes, regardless of the reasons for the absences. Students facing a long-term, serious medical or personal emergency (generally lasting more than two weeks) may 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. The full Bard College Berlin attendance policy can be found in the Student Handbook in Section 2.8.

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR FALL 2022: Please contact the instructor if you will require remote participation due to travel restrictions caused by the pandemic or if you are feeling ill.

Academic Integrity:

Bard College Berlin maintains the highest standards of academic integrity and expects students to adhere to these standards at all times. Instances in which students fail to meet the expected standards of academic integrity will be dealt with under the Code of Student Conduct, Section 14.3 (Academic Misconduct) in the Student Handbook.

Assignments, Grade Breakdowns and Deadlines:

Written:

Course Paper	40%
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Students are required to analyze a contemporary area of interconnectedness between two countries that exemplifies globalization and then explore if this dynamic challenges or reinforces traditional paradigms in international relations.

Paper Length and Formatting Requirements: word length between 5000 - 6000 words, double-spaced, 1-inch margins, and Chicago style footnotes.

- Topic: Send an email to the instructor with 2-3 sentences describing your topic for approval. **Due September 11, 2022 at 12:00 CEST.**
- First Draft w/ Group Review: Students will be placed into small groups for a peer review. **Your first draft will be due to your peers by October 11th, 2022 at 12:00 CEST.**
- Second Draft: Send the instructor the second draft of your paper via email. **Due November 18, 2022 at 17:00 CEST.**
- Final Draft: Turn in your paper via email to the instructor on **December 13, 2022 at 12:00 CEST.**

Policy on Late Submission of Papers:

Papers that are up to 24 hours late will be downgraded up to one full grade (from B+ to C+, for example). The instructor will not accept any papers that are more than 24 hours late.

Oral:

Class Participation 30%

This seminar involves thoughtful and active participation in class discussions, reflections on current affairs, and working groups. The classroom is a protected space and you should feel free to voice your arguments and comments. Your class participation grade will be based on: (1) engagement in course discussions; (2) debates; (3) and working groups.

Group Presentations 10%

Students will participate in two group presentations on course topics assigned in class. For each presentation, groups must facilitate a class discussion on the topic that explores the phenomenon and its relationship to international relations theories. More detailed information will be provided in class.

Exams:

Midterm Exam 10%

Students will take an in-class midterm exam on October 13, 2022. More detailed information will be provided in class.

Final Exam 10%

Students will take an in-class final exam on December 8, 2021. More detailed information will be provided in class.

Schedule

Week/ Beginning	Tuesday	Thursday
Week 1 August 29	<p>Course Introduction:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Wheelan, "Trade and Globalization: The Good News About Asian Sweatshops" 	<p>Globalization and the Logic of Human History Part I:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Wright, "Nonzero: The Logic of Human Destiny" (pp. 3-106)
Week 2 September 5	<p>Globalization and the Logic of Human History Part II:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Wright, "Nonzero: The Logic of Human Destiny" (pp. 107-239) 	<p>What is Globalization? Pt I- Economics and Markets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Friedman, "The Lexus and the Olive Tree (Ch. 3)" ● Steger, "Globalization: A Very Short Introduction (Ch. 3)"

Week 3 September 12	What is Globalization? Pt II - Identity, Culture and Ideas: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lieber and Weisberg, "Globalization, Culture, and Identities in Crisis"• Steger, "Globalization: A Very Short Introduction (Ch. 5)"	What is Globalization? Pt III - Politics and International Institutions: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Coglianese, "Globalization and the Design of International Institutions"• Steger, "Globalization: A Very Short Introduction (Ch. 4)"• <i>List of International Institutions</i>
Week 4 September 19	Realism and Neorealism: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Morgenthau, "Politics Among Nations"• Waltz, "Anarchic Orders"• Rose, "Neoclassical Realism"	Liberal Internationalism: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Doyle, "Liberalism and World Politics"• Ikenberry, "Liberal Internationalism"
Week 5 September 26	Constructivism: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Wendt, "Anarchy is What States Make of It"• Martinsson, "Global Norms : Creation, Diffusion, and Limits"	Case Study I: China: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Kim, "China and Globalization: Confronting Myriad Challenges and Opportunities"
Week 6 October 3	Case Study II: Terrorism and Non-State Actors: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cooper, "Terrorism and Globalization"	Case Study III: Genocide in Rwanda: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Powers, "Bystanders to Genocide"
Week 7 October 10	Case Study IV: 2008 Global Financial Crisis: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Altman, "Globalization in Retreat: Further Geopolitical Consequences of the Financial Crisis"	Writing Workshop and Midterm Preparation

Week 8
October 17

Midterm

Contestation of Globalization: The Black Swan Part I:

- Taleb, “The Black Swan: The Impact of the Highly Improbable“ (pp. 1-136)

October 24-30

*****Fall Break*****

*****Fall Break*****

Week 9
October 31

Contestation of Globalization: The Black Swan Part II

- Taleb, “The Black Swan: The Impact of the Highly Improbable “ (skim Part 3; read pp. 307-379)

Critiques of the Neoliberal World Order :

- Wimmer, “Why Nationalism Works And Why It Isn’t Going Away”
- Barber, “Shrunken Sovereign: Consumerism, Globalization, and American Emptiness”
- Judis, “The Populist Explosion, (Ch. 2)”

Week 10
November 7

The Populist Backlash Pt I - Brexit:

- Calhoun, “Populism, Nationalism and Brexit”

The Populist Backlash Pt II - US 2016 Election- The Trump Phenomenon:

- Conley, “Donald Trump and American Populism (Ch. 3 and 4)”

Week 11
November 14

The Populist Backlash Pt III - The New US Left: Bernie Sanders 2016 Campaign

- Dorrien, “American Democratic Socialism: History, Politics, Religion, and Theory (Ch. 8)”

The Populist Backlash Pt IV - Alternative for Deutschland:

- Alternative for Germany, “[2017 Party Platform](#)”

Week 12
November 21

Great Debate: Alternatives to Globalization:

- Curtis, "Global Cities and the Ends of Globalism"
- Bremmer, "State Capitalism Comes of Age"

Revisit: Globalization and Realism:

- Waltz, "Structural Realism after the Cold War"
- Mearsheimer, "Bound to Fail"

Week 13
November 28

Revisit: Globalization and Liberal Institutionalism:

- Ikenberry, "The End of Liberal International Order?"
- Brown, "The Promise and Record of International Institutions"

Revisit: Globalization and Constructivism:

- Palan, "Constructivism and Globalisation: From Units to Encounters in International Affairs"

Week 14
December 5,
2022

Great Debate: Does Globalization Challenge Prevailing IR Theories and Notions of Progress?

*****Final Exam*****

Completion
Week
December 12-16

*****Final Paper Due*****