

IN 110
Globalization and International Relations
Bard College Berlin
Spring 2026

Course Description

One of the defining features of the international realm is its anarchic political structure. Anarchy is often assumed as a hinderence to state cooperation, suggesting violence and war as an inextricable features of the system. 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 examines International Relations' foundational concepts of anarchy, violence and power and provides an introduction to competing theories about the structure, functioning, and transformative potential of the internatl system. 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. Throughout the course students will familiarize themselves with important theoretical and conceptual disagreements in thinking about contemporary political problems, as well as, their application through case studies.

Grading and Requirements

There are four requirements for this class:

Attendance and Class Participation 25%
Group Presentation 15%
Midterm Exam 25%
Final Paper: 35%

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.

Plagiarism and Academic dishonesty

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.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

This class explores a variety of topics central to the study of international relations. Each of us will join these discussions and approach the course material from the vantage point of our own personal experiences, which have been shaped by our race, nationality, ethnicity, class, (dis)ability, gender, sexuality and a host of other factors. The diversity of perspective that we bring to the classroom is an asset: we will be able to engage the main questions of the course in a rich and more complex way. But, to achieve this breadth of understanding, we must cultivate a classroom environment where everyone feels capable of taking risks and learning to see and think in new ways. This kind of learning community is only possible if we listen to each other, and engage one another honestly and substantively with generosity, empathy and respect. If at any time, and for any reason, you feel unable to express your views or participate fully, please communicate with me right away. I will do everything I can to make full involvement possible for everyone in this class. If for any reason you do not feel comfortable raising concerns with me directly, do not hesitate to relate them to me confidentially through your class the Equal Opportunities, Participation and Nondiscrimination Office.

Accessibility at Bard

Bard College Berlin is committed to inclusion and providing equal access to all students; we uphold and maintain all aspects of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and the ADA Amendments Act of 2008, and Section 3 of the German Disability Equality Act of April 27, 2002 (Federal Law Gazette I p. 1468). If you have a disability, or think you may have a disability, please contact the Disability Accommodation Coordinator, Atticus Kleen, (accommodations@berlin.bard.edu) to request an official accommodation. Requests for longer-term accommodations should be made as early as possible to ensure adequate time for coordination and planning. Please note that accommodations are not retroactive and may require advance notice to implement. If you have already been approved for accommodations with the Disability Accommodation Coordinator, please arrange to meet with me outside of class so that we can develop an implementation plan. Students may face extenuating circumstances related to various personal or external factors, which impact their academic performance. While these circumstances often do not fall within the legal framework of Disability Accommodations, Bard College Berlin is committed to supporting students experiencing such circumstances. A student needing a short extension or a replacement assignment because of an extenuating circumstance is encouraged to make arrangements directly with instructors if possible. If further support is needed, please visit the Bard College Berlin Accessibility page. Questions about this process can be directed to James Harker (j.harker@berlin.bard.edu) or Maria Anderson-Long (m.andersonlong@berlin.bard.edu).

Email Communication and Office Hours

Email is the official mode of communication in this class. You should expect to receive emails from me regularly throughout the semester about upcoming class sessions,

assignments and with announcements for events that may be of interest to the class. It is essential that you **check your bard berlin email account** regularly. Please feel free to email me with any questions you have about the course, but before doing so check to be sure the answer to your question cannot be found on the syllabus. I will hold weekly office hours. You can see my availability and schedule an appointment at:

Course Readings and Google Classroom

The primary course site is on Google Classroom. You will be added automatically when you are registered in the course. All course readings and required assignments have been or will be loaded onto Google Classroom.

Course Schedule

Week 1

1a. Tuesday January 27th, 2025: Course Introduction

- *Introduction Meeting, optional reading:*
Steve Smith, "Introduction: Diversity and Disciplinarity in International Relations Theory," in *International Relations Theories: Discipline and Diversity*. 3rd ed.
- Tim Dunne, Milja Kurki and Steve Smith, eds. (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2010), 1-13.

1b. Thursday January 29th, 2025: Anarchy in International Political Thought

Required Reading:

- Hedley Bull, "Society and Anarchy in International Relations," in Herbert Butterfield and Martin Wight, eds., *Diplomatic Investigations: Essays in the Theory of International Politics* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1966): 25-50.

Week 2

2a. Tuesday February 3rd: Classical Realism

- Realism in Baylis et al., 132 – 146
- Morgenthau, Hans J., and Kenneth W. Thompson (2006). *Politics Among Nations: The Struggle for power and peace*, McGraw-Hill Education, 1-14.

2b. Thursday February 5th: Structural Realism II

- Kenneth Waltz, "Anarchic Orders and the Balance of Power", in *Theory of International Politics* (McGraw-Hill, 1979), 102 – 128.
- John J. Mearsheimer, "Anarchy and the Struggle for Power," *The Tragedy of Great Power Politics* (New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 2001), 29-54.

Week 3

3a. Tuesday February 10th: Neoliberal Institutionalism

- Jennifer Sterling-Folger, "Neoliberalism," in *International Relations Theories*, 114-131.

3b. Thursday February 12th: Constructivism

- Alexander Wendt, "Constructing International Politics," *International Security* 20, no. 1 (1995): 71-81.
- Tannewald, "The Nuclear Taboo: The United States and the Normative Basis of Nuclear Non-Use".

Week 4:

4a. Tuesday February 17th: Marxism and Post-colonialism:

- Hobdenm Stephen and Hones, Richard W., Marxist theories of International Relations in Baylis et al., 116-131
- Bhabra, Gurinder K. (2020) Colonial global economy: towards a theoretical reorientation of political economy, *Review of International Political Economy*, 307 – 322.
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4b. Thursday February 19th: Man, the State and War

- J. Ann Ticker, "Man, the State and War: Gendered Perspectives on National Security," in *Gender in International Relations: Feminist Perspectives on Achieving National Security* (New York: Columbia University Press, 1993), 27 -66.

Week 5:

5a. Tuesday February 24th: Man: Leaders and War

- Elizabeth N. Saunders, "Transformative Choices: Leaders and the Origins of Intervention Strategy," *International Security* 34, no.2 (2009): 119-161.

5b. Thursday February 26th: The State: The Democratic Peace

- Michael W. Doyle, "Liberalism and World Politics," *American Political Science Review* 80, no.4 (1986): 1151-1169.

Week 6:

6a. Tuesday March 3rd: The Security Dilemma

- Robert Jervis, "Cooperation Under the Security Dilemma," *World Politics* 30, no. 2 (1978): 167-214.

- **6b. Thursday March 5th: The Purpose and Function of United Nations I**
Curtis, Devon E. A. and Taylor, Paul, The United Nations, in Baylis et al., 323-339

Week 7:

7a. Tuesday March 10th: The Purpose and Function of European Union European Union

- Blair, Alasdair. *The European Union: A Beginner's Guide*. London: Oneworld Publications, 2012, "The creation of the European Community" and "From European Community to European Union"
- McCormick, John. *Understanding the European Union: A Concise Introduction*. 8th ed. London: Red Globe Press, 2020. Chapter 4, "The European Institutions" and Chapter 6, "The EU Policy Process."

7b. Thursday March 12th: The Rise of China

- Rohan Mukherjee, "China's Status Anxiety: Beijing Fights to be Treated as America's Equal on the World Stage," *Foreign Affairs* (May 19, 2023).
- Verkhovets and Emrah Karaoğuz, "Inclusive globalization or old wine in a new bottle? China-led globalization in sub-Saharan Africa"

Week 8:

8a. Tuesday March 17th: Midterm – In class

8b. Thursday March 19: The Power Politics of International Trade

- Lloyd Gruber, "Power Politics and the Free Trade Bandwagon," *Comparative Political Studies* 34 no. 7 (2002): 703-741.
- Dani Rodrik, "Trading in Illusions," *Foreign Policy* 123 (March/April 2001): 54-62.

Week 9:

9a. Tuesday March 24th: The Discourse of Development

- Mark Mazower, "Development as World-Making, 1949-1973," in *Governing the World: The History of an Idea, 1815 to the Present* (New York: Penguin Press, 2012): 271-304.

9b. Thursday March 26th "What is Globalization? Pt I":

- Lawson, George, The rise of modern international order in Baylis et al., 39-54.
- Scott, Len, International history of the twentieth century in Baylis et al., 54-70.

Week XX: Semester Break, No classes!

Week 10:

10a. Tuesday April 7th "What is Globalization? Pt II- Economics and Markets"

- Phillips, Nicola, Global Political Economy in Baylis et al., 244- 259
- Watson, Matthew, Global Trade and Global Finance in Baylis et al., 441-455

10b. Thursday April 9th : The Globalization of Culture and Ideas

- Yunxiang Yan, "Of Hamburger and Social Space: Consuming McDonald's in Beijing," in *The Consumer Revolution in Urban China*, Deborah David, ed. (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2000), 201-25.

Week 11:

11a. Tuesday April 14th An American Empire? Part I:

- Paul Schroeder, "Is the US an Empire?" in *Paradoxes of Power: US Foreign Policy in a Changing World* (New York: Routledge, 2007), 72-74.
- Alexander Cooley and Daniel H. Nexon, "How Hegemony Ends: The Unraveling of American Power," *Foreign Affairs* 99, no. 4 (2020).
- Niall Ferguson, "Hegemony or Empire?" *Foreign Affairs* 82, no.5 (2003), 154-161.

11b. Thursday April 16th An American Empire? Part II:

- Conley, Richard S. Donald Trump and American Populism. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2020, Chapters 3 and 4.
- Dorrien, Gary. American Democratic Socialism: History, Politics, Religion, and Theory. Yale University Press, 2021, Chapter 8.

Week 12:

12a. Tuesday April 21st Anti- Globalization Populism in Europe

- Berman, Sheri. "Populism Is a Symptom Rather Than a Cause: Democratic Disconnect, the Decline of the Center-Left, and the Rise of Populism in Western Europe." Polity 51, no. 4 (2019): 654–667.
- Calhoun, Craig. "Populism, Nationalism and Brexit." In Brexit, edited by William Outhwaite, 57-76. London: Anthem Press, 2017.

12b. Tuesday April 23rd Climate Change

- Shue, "Basic Rights (Climate Change)"
- Vanderheiden, "Globalizing Responsibility for Climate Change"

Week 13:

13a. Tuesday 28th Distributive Justice

- Evans, Tony, Poverty, hunger, and development, in Baylis et al., 425-440
- Miller, "National Responsibility and Global Justice"

13b. Thursday 30th

Group Presentations

Week 14:

14a. Tuesday May 5th

Group Presentations

14b. Thursday May 7th

Wrap up-Course Paper Peer review

Completion Week – No classes.