

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 available at the library.
2. Baylis, John, Steve Smith and Patricia Owens. 2023. *The Globalization of World Politics. An Introduction to International Relations*. 9th Edition. Oxford University Press. (978-0192898142)
3. Wright, Robert. 2001. *Nonzero: The Logic of Human Destiny*. Vintage Books. (978-0679758945)

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.

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.

Accessibility:

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).

Assignments, Grade Breakdowns and Deadlines:

Written:

Course Paper	45%
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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 3600 - 4600 words, double-spaced, 1-inch margins, and Chicago style footnotes (no work cited page required).

- Topic: Submit via Google Classroom 2-3 sentences describing your topic for approval. **Due September 18, 2026 at 23:59 CEST.**
- First Draft: Submit the first draft of your memo via Google Classroom. **Your first draft will be due by November 13, 2026 at 23:59 CEST. (10% of total grade)**
- Second Draft w/ Group Review: Your second draft will be due via Google Classroom by **December 9, 2026 at 12:00 CEST (noon). (10% of total grade)**
- Final Draft: Submit via Google Classroom on **December 16, 2026 at 23:59 CEST. (20% of total grade)**
- Presentation: You will deliver a 10–15 minute presentation on your course paper during completion week on **December 17, 2026** at our regular class time. **(5% of total grade)**

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	25%
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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.

Nonzero: The Logic of Human Destiny Reading Questionnaire and Class Discussion (5% of total grade)

Group Presentations	15%
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Students will participate in one group presentation on a course topic 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	15%
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Students will take an in-class midterm exam on October 15, 2026. More detailed information will be provided in class.

Schedule

Week/ Beginning	Tuesday	Thursday
Week 1 August 30	Course Introduction: • Bull, "Society and Anarchy in International Relations" • Overy, "The Origins of the Second World War"	Classical Realism: • Realism in Baylis et al., 132 – 146 • Morgenthau, "Politics Among Nations: The Struggle for power and peace"
Week 2 September 6	Structural Realism and the Security Dilemma: • Waltz, "Anarchic Orders and the Balance of Power" • Mearsheimer, "Anarchy and the Struggle for Power" • Jervis, "Cooperation Under the Security Dilemma"	Liberal Internationalism: • Liberal Internationalism in Baylis et al., 103-115 • Lee Ray, "Does Democracy Cause Peace?"
Week 3 September 13	Constructivism: • Social Constructivism in Baylis et al., 194-213 • Wendt, "Constructing International Politics," • Tannenwald, "The Nuclear Taboo: The United States and the Normative Basis of Nuclear Non-Use"	Marxism and Postcolonialism: • Marxist Theories of International Relations in Baylis et al., 116-131 • Bhambra, "Colonial Global Economy: Towards a Theoretical Reorientation of Political Economy"
Week 4 September 20	World Orders Part I: American Empire and the Unipolar Moment • Ferguson, "Hegemony or Empire?" • Jervis, "Unipolarity: A Structural Perspective"	World Orders Part II: The Rise of China as a Revisionist Power • Friedberg, "The Future of U.S.-China Relations: Is Conflict Inevitable?" • Verkhovets and Emrah Karaoğuz, "Inclusive globalization or old wine in a new bottle? China-led globalization in sub-Saharan Africa"

Week 5 September 27	World Orders Part III: A Return to a Multipolar Order? • Rising Powers and the Emerging Global Order in Baylis et al., 85-103 • Deutsch and Singer, "Multipolar Power Systems and International Stability" • Cooley and Nexon, "How Hegemony Ends: The Unraveling of American Power"	World Orders Part IV: European Integration • Blair, "The European Union: A Beginner's Guide" • McCormick, "Understanding the European Union: A Concise Introduction" • Video: Europe: From WWII to Today's European Union
Week 6 October 4	Group Presentation I	Group Presentation II
Week 7 October 11	Group Presentation III	***Midterm***
October 18- 24	*****Fall Break*****	*****Fall Break*****
Week 8 October 25	Globalization and the Logic of Human History • Wright, "Nonzero: The Logic of Human Destiny (Ch. 1-16)"	What is Globalization? Pt I- Economics and Markets: • Phillips, "Global Political Economy" in Baylis et al., 244-259 • Watson, "Global Trade and Global Finance" in Baylis et al., 441-455 • Wheelan, "Trade and Globalization: The Good News About Asian Sweatshops"

**Week 9
November 1**

**What is Globalization? Pt II -
Identity, Culture and Ideas:**

- Steger, "Globalization: A Very Short Introduction (Ch. 5)"
- Yan, "Of Hamburger and Social Space: Consuming McDonald's in Beijing"

**What is Globalization? Pt III - Politics
and International Institutions:**

- Coglianese, "Globalization and the Design of International Institutions"
- Steger, "Globalization: A Very Short Introduction (Ch. 4)"
- Curtis, and Taylor, "The United Nations", in Baylis et al., 323-339

**Week 10
November 8**

**Contestation of Globalization
Part I: Film Screening**

**Contestation of Globalization Part II:
Populism and Nationalism**

- Ganesha, "Understanding Right and Left Populism"
- Wimmer, "Why Nationalism Works and Why It Isn't Going Away"

**Week 11
November 15**

**Contestation of Globalization Part
III: Populism in the United States**

- Stiglitz, "Globalization and Its Discontents Revisited: Anti-Globalization in the Era of Trump (Ch. 1-4)"

**Contestation of Globalization Part IV:
Populism in Western Europe**

- Berman, "Populism is a Symptom Rather than a Cause"
- Calhoun, "Populism, Nationalism and Brexit"
- Umansky, K., Sened, I., & Kohler, U., "Business as Usual in the Face of the Populist Challenge? The AfD's Entry Strategy and Mainstream Parties' Responses to It"

**Week 12
November 22**

**Contestation of Globalization Part
V: Populism in Latin America**

- Castañeda, "Latin America's Left Turn"
- Grigera, "Populism in Latin America: Old and new populisms in Argentina and Brazil"
- Cannon, "Hugo Chávez and the Bolivarian Revolution: Populism and democracy in a globalised age (Ch. 4)"

**Ethics and Justice in IR Part I: Just
War Theory**

- Barkawi, "War and World Politics," in Baylis et al., 213-228
- Luban, "Just War and Human Rights"

Week 13 November 29	Ethics and Justice in IR Part II: Development and Distributive Justice • Pogge, "Severe Poverty as a Violation of Negative Duties" • Sen, "Development as Freedom" • Singer, "The Singer Solution to World Poverty"	Ethics and Justice in IR Part III: Climate Change • Shue, "Basic Rights (Climate Change)" • Vanderheiden, "Globalizing Responsibility for Climate Change"
Week 14 December 6	Ethics and Justice in IR Part IV: Israel-Gaza Conflict • Reus Smit, Christian, International Law, in Baylis et al., 293-307 • International Court of Justice, "Application of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide in the Gaza Strip" • Sebutinde, "Dissenting Opinion"	Course Paper Peer Review