

# **Political Economy of Globalization**

Undergraduate – Year 3, Semester 6  
5 ECTS – 20 Hours (10 × 2h Sessions)

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## **Course Syllabus and Overview**

September 25, 2025

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# Introduction

This course draws on comparative political economy (CPE) to examine the opportunities and challenges created by globalization. It introduces students to competing theoretical traditions — from Polanyi, dependency and world-system theory to varieties of capitalism and recent debates on backlash and populism — and explores how international economic integration interacts with domestic institutions, elite coalitions, and regime types. Students will leave the course with the analytical tools and empirical foundations needed to critically assess current debates on globalization, inequality, and legitimacy.

## 1 Course Requirements and Evaluation

### 1.1 Administrative Notes

No prerequisites. Familiarity with introductory economics is helpful but not required. Each session combines a lecture (1h) and a seminar-style discussion (1h).

### 1.2 Assessment

- **Participation (10%)**: Active engagement in discussions.
- **Response Papers (45%)**: Two short essays (1,000 words each), due Week 5 and Week 9.
- **Policy Memo / Simulation (45%)**: A 2–3 page memo written for a simulation exercise (e.g., WTO negotiation).

### 1.3 Grading Rubric

#### 16–20 (Excellent):

Strong, original argument; clear structure; excellent use of readings and evidence.

#### 13–15 (Good):

Solid understanding; mostly descriptive; limited originality.

#### 10–12 (Satisfactory):

Adequate but superficial engagement; weak structure.

**10 (Pass)**: Minimal engagement; poor use of readings.

**10 (Fail)**: Incomplete, plagiarized, or irrelevant.

## 2 Course Schedule

### Week 1 — Introduction: What is Globalization?

#### Big question:

What do we mean by globalization, and why does it matter?

#### Required:

Steger (2020), *Globalization: A Very Short Introduction*, Introduction.

**Recommended:**

Berger (2000), “Globalization and Politics,” *Annual Review of Political Science*.

**Guiding questions:**

Is globalization primarily economic, political, or cultural? Does it have winners and losers by design?

**Week 2 — States, Markets, and Dependency****Big question:**

Are global markets natural or politically constructed?

**Required:**

Polanyi (1944), *The Great Transformation*, Ch. 6–12.

**Recommended:**

Cardoso & Faletto (1979), *Dependency and Development in Latin America*, Introduction; Wallerstein (2011), *The Modern World-System I*, Introduction.

**Guiding questions:**

What is Polanyi’s “double movement”? How does dependency theory interpret global capitalism? Does the world-system reproduce inequality?

**Week 3 — Varieties of Capitalism****Big question:**

Does globalization erode national models of capitalism?

**Required:**

Hall & Soskice (2013), *Varieties of Capitalism*, Introduction.

**Recommended:**

Streeck (2014), *Buying Time*, Introduction.

**Guiding questions:**

Do liberal and coordinated economies converge under globalization? How do institutions mediate global pressures?

**Week 4 — International Regimes and Embedded Liberalism****Big question:**

Can global governance reconcile markets and sovereignty?

**Required:**

Ruggie (1982), “International Regimes, Transactions, and Change,” *International Organization*.

**Recommended:**

Helleiner (2006), “Reinterpreting Bretton Woods,” *Development and Change*.

**Guiding questions:**

What was “embedded liberalism”? How did Bretton Woods institutionalize it?  
Can it be revived today?

**Week 5 — Global Governance and Crisis****Big question:**

How do international organizations manage crises?

**Required:**

Broome, Clegg & Rethel (2012), “Global Governance and the Politics of Crisis,”  
*Global Society*.

**Recommended:**

Berten & Kranke (2022), “Anticipatory Global Governance,” *Global Society*.

**Guiding questions:**

Are IOs reactive or proactive? Do crises reinforce or undermine their authority?

**Week 6 — Globalization, Welfare, and Inequality****Big question:**

Does globalization increase inequality within or between countries?

**Required:**

Brady, Beckfield & Seeleib-Kaiser (2005), “Economic Globalization and the Welfare State,” *ASR*.

**Recommended:**

Burgoon & Schakel (2022), “Embedded Liberalism or Embedded Nationalism?”  
*West European Politics*.

**Guiding questions:**

Does economic globalization weaken welfare states? Or do welfare states shape political responses to globalization?

**Week 7 — Globalization and Authoritarian Regimes****Big question:**

Does globalization strengthen or weaken authoritarian rule?

**Required:**

Reilly (2014), “Globalization and Authoritarian Strategies,” *Seton Hall Journal of Diplomacy*.

**Recommended:**

Rahman, Islam & Gounjaria (2024), “State and Politics in the Transitional Era of Globalization,” *Politics & Policy*.

**Guiding questions:**

How do authoritarian elites use globalization to consolidate power? Can global markets promote democratization?

**Week 8 — Crises, Shocks, and Adjustment****Big question:**

Are crises moments of deglobalization?

**Required:**

Farrell & Newman (2010), “Making Global Markets,” *Review of International Political Economy*.

**Recommended:**

Colantone, Ottaviano & Stanig (2022), “The Backlash of Globalization,” in *Handbook of International Economics*.

**Guiding questions:**

How do crises reshape globalization? Are they inevitable under financial integration?

**Week 9 — Political Backlash: Populism and Nationalism****Big question:**

Why does globalization fuel populism?

**Required:**

Franzese (2019), “The Comparative and International Political Economy of Anti-Globalization Populism,” *ORE Politics*.

**Recommended:**

Teney, Lacewell & De Wilde (2014), “Winners and Losers of Globalization in Europe,” *EPSR*; Steiner, Mader & Schoen (2024), “Subjective Losers of Globalization,” *EJPR*.

**Guiding questions:**

Who perceives themselves as “losers of globalization”? How do populist parties mobilize these grievances?

**Week 10 — The Future of Globalization****Big question:**

Are we entering a post-globalization era?

**Required:**

Owen (2021), “Two Emerging International Orders? China and the United States,” *International Affairs*.

## Recommended:

Streeck (2014), *Buying Time*, Conclusion.

## Guiding questions:

Is globalization retreating, transforming, or fragmenting? What role for China, technology, and climate change?

## 3 Indicative Bibliography

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