Lecture Guidelines

International Relations

Spring Semester AY2025-2026

Contact details for the lecturers:
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Coordinating tutor:
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Timetable:
Time: Monday, 11:15 - 13:00
Location: Wijnhaven - 2.01

Course Outline

Week 1 (Wolff), February 2
Introduction: Old Debates in a New World

Week 2 (Denney), February 09
Power, Institutions, and Ideas: Traditional IR Theories

Week 3 (Denney), February 16
Security Dilemmas and Nuclear Proliferation

Week 4 (Denney), February 23
Non-Western IR Theory

Week 5 (Wolff), March 02
The Politics of International Relations Theory: Critical and Decentring Perspectives

Week 6 (Wolff), March 09
Global Migration: Mobility and Security

Week 7 (Wolff), March 30
War, Peace, and International Security

Week 8 (Wolff), April 13
Sovereignty, Liberalism, and 21st Century Conflict

Week 9 (Wolff), April 20
Global Governance and EU Regional Integration

Week 10 (Denney), May 04
Nation, Race, and Gender

Week 11 (Denney), May 11
Society in a Global Age

Week 12 (Denney), May 18
Conclusion: Global Politics and the Anthropocene

No classes on March 16, March 23, April 06, or April 27

Course Description

This course focuses on the study and practice of global politics and international relations in the post-Cold War era. Students will receive a critical introduction to a range of theoretical approaches and contemporary issues that help them to understand the diversity and complexity of our world across space and time. The course emphasizes the connections between the development of international relations today and the legacy of the Cold War on the conduct and nature of global politics and the rapidly transforming world order.

We live in a complex world where political, economic, security, and cultural issues and practices are interconnected. It is, therefore, imperative to study global developments at various levels of analysis, including regional and national. Power is changing in world politics. While the state remains a crucial actor in international affairs, power is also concentrated in global and regional institutions, and non-state actors increasingly influence global politics. In addition, this course encourages students to adopt a critical approach to global politics and international relations from a non-Western perspective. It is central to consider how people across the world perceive and shape global politics today.

Throughout the course, students will learn and apply key theories and concepts in studying international relations. By following this course, students will gain a solid and critical understanding of the history and dynamics of contemporary global politics, learn to distinguish and apply major theoretical approaches to international relations, and develop an appreciation for key changes and challenges in world politics today.

Course Objectives

This module aims to critically examine key theoretical approaches, issues, and processes related to international relations since the Cold War. By the end of the module, students will be able to do the following:

- Show an understanding of several theories, complex issues, and concepts in global politics since the Cold War.
- Apply complex conceptual tools to analyze and critique key events and processes in global politics.
- Demonstrate appropriate cognitive, communicative, and transferable skills, develop the capacity for independent learning, and critique academic texts and approaches in international relations and international studies.

Mode of Instruction

The course load is 5 ECs and requires students to do the following:
- Attend 12 x 2-hour lectures
- Attend and participate in four tutorials
- Complete readings, contribute to tutorial discussions and pass the assessed tutorial element
- Pass a Final Exam based on the material covered in the module

Lectures & Reading
This module is taught through 2-hour lectures and additional tutorial sessions. Students should be aware that most of their work must be done outside the lectures and tutorials, which should be an opportunity to exchange ideas about the subjects under study.

Each week, students are required to read two to three texts, which may include book chapters and/or articles totaling approximately 50 pages. Required readings for each lecture are clearly indicated. In addition to the required readings, recommended readings are provided. These offer supplementary material for tutorials and alternative perspectives on the topics discussed. Students are strongly encouraged to *at least* skim these recommended sources each week to deepen their understanding of the subject, in addition to keeping up-to-date on current affairs through various sources, including online media and academic sources.

Web lectures
It is the intention that all plenary lectures for this course will be made available in web lecture form no later than 10 days before the mid-term and final exams, respectively. Please note that these web lectures are intended as an additional aid in studying for the exams, not as a replacement for the lectures. Students should also not rely on the presence of web lectures for their study plans as they are an extra service, and their availability cannot be assured. In the past, technical problems have resulted in web lectures not being available.

Tutorial
Tutorials are held once every three weeks, with the exception of the midterm exam week. Attending all tutorial sessions is compulsory. If you cannot attend a session, please inform your Tutorial-lecturer in advance. Being absent at more than one of the tutorial sessions will result in a lowering of your tutorial grade (40% of the end grade), with one (1) point for each session missed after the first session. Please note that being absent at any tutorial session may have a negative impact on the grade of the assignment due for that particular tutorial session. This is at the discretion of the Tutorial-lecturer.

Assessment

Partial grade	Weighing	Period
Tutorials	40%	Block 1
Final Exam	60%	Block 2

The Final Exam is a written examination with short open questions and (up to) 50% multiple-choice questions. To successfully complete the course, please take note of the following:

- The end grade for the course is determined by the weighted average of the Tutorial grade and the Final Exam grade.
- The Final Exam grade needs to be 5.5 or higher. (A failing Exam grade cannot compensate for a high Tutorial grade.)

If the end grade is insufficient (lower than a 6.0), or the Final Exam is lower than 5.5, there is a possibility of retaking the full 60 percent of the exam material, replacing the earlier Final Exam grade. No resit for the tutorial is possible. Please note that if the Resit Exam grade is lower than 5.5, you will not pass the course, regardless of the tutorial grade.

For questions about retaking a course to achieve a passing grade, please consult the Course and Examination Regulations.

Registration

This course is only available for students in the BA International Studies program. A limited number of places are also available for exchange students. Please note: this course takes place in The Hague. Traveling between University buildings from Leiden to The Hague may take about 45 minutes.

Enrollment through My Studymap is mandatory. For exchange student registration, contact the Humanities International Office.

Reading List

For this course, the following textbook will be used in addition to other material:

- Whitham, B., & Heywood, A. (2023). *Global politics*. Bloomsbury Publishing.

Class Schedule

Week 1, Feb. 02 – Introduction: Old Debates in a New World (Wolff)

This session reviews broad geo-political trends from the 1990s to the 2020s and explores how to study them through approaches in International Relations (IR) and International Studies (IS). In addition to differentiating between IR and IS, this session lays a foundation for understanding the debates about the "end of history," the so-called clash of civilizations, and the return of great-power politics. We will reflect on three classical readings for what they (still) tell us, what they got (very) wrong, and what to think about next.

Questions to be considered:
- What are the important differences between IR and International Studies?
- How do Fukuyama, Huntington, and Kagan each define the trajectory of global politics, and where do their perspectives converge or diverge? To what extent are these frameworks still relevant, if they ever were, for understanding the world today?
- What is the role of non-Western powers in shaping the future of international politics in a post-Cold War, multi-polar world?

Required readings:

1. Fukuyama, F. (1989). The End of History? *The National Interest*, 16, 3–18.
2. Huntington, S. P. (1993). The Clash of Civilizations? *Foreign Affairs*, 72(3), 22–49. (*After reading, it is strongly recommended to at least skim Henderson (2005) and/or Said (2001) below.*)
3. Kagan, R. (2007). End of dreams, return of history. *Policy Review* (Washington, D.C.), 144, 17–44.

Recommended readings:
1. Heywood, A., & Whitham, B. (2023). Global politics (3rd ed., Chapter 2: The history of global politics). London: Red Globe Press, esp. pp. 55-61. (***strongly recommended***)
2. Said, E. W. (2001, October 4). *The Clash of Ignorance. The Nation*.
3. Henderson, E. (2005). Not letting evidence get in the way of assumptions: Testing the clash of civilizations thesis with more recent data. *International Politics*, 42(4), 458–469.
4. Ikenberry, G. J. (2019). Reflections on After Victory. *The British Journal of Politics and International Relations*, 21(1), 5-19.
5. Holslag, J. (2021). *World politics since 1989.* Cambridge: Polity Press. (*browse strategically*)
6. Jasmin, I.A., Hosen, I. Trump 2.0: redefining America's role in the global order. Discov glob soc 3, 140 (2025).

Week 2, Feb. 09 – Power, Institutions, and Ideas: Traditional IR Theories (Denney)

This session reviews the core theories of International Relations, focusing on realism, liberalism, and constructivism. It examines how these paradigms conceptualize power, institutions, and ideas, and how they explain patterns of cooperation, conflict, and order in global politics.

Questions to be considered:
- What are the key assumptions underlying realism, liberalism, and constructivism in IR theory?
- How do traditional IR theories explain the role of power and institutions in international politics?
- To what extent do these theories explain major contemporary issues, such as the apparent decline of the Liberal International Order, Sino-U.S. competition, and Russia's invasion of Ukraine?

Required readings:
1. Heywood, A., & Whitham, B. (2023). *Global politics* (3rd ed., Chapter 3: Traditional theories of global politics). London: Red Globe Press.
2. Wendt, A. (1992). Anarchy is what states make of it: the social construction of power politics. *International organization*, 46(2), 391-425.
3. Mearsheimer, J. J. (2019). *Bound to fail: The rise and fall of the liberal international order*. *International security, 43*(4), 7–50.

Recommended readings:
1. World Economic Forum. (2026, January 20). *Davos 2026: Special address by Mark Carney, Prime Minister of Canada*. World Economic Forum. https://www.weforum.org/stories/2026/01/davos-2026-special-address-by-mark-carney-prime-minister-of-canada/ (short speech; you can also watch it at the link)
2. J. (2021). The inevitable rivalry: America, China, and the tragedy of great-power politics. *Foreign Affairs, 100*(6), 30–40.
3. Guilhot, N. (2008). "The Realist Gambit: Postwar American Political Science and the Birth of IR Theory." *International Political Sociology* 2(4), 281–304.
4. X'/Twitter thread from Prof. Paul Poast on the Ukraine War and (Offensive) Realism. https://twitter.com/ProfPaulPoast/status/1500097922788175879?lang=en.

Week 3, Feb. 16 – Security Dilemmas and Nuclear Proliferation (Denney)

This session examines the complexities of nuclear proliferation and its role in shaping global security dilemmas. We will explore why states pursue nuclear weapons, the factors that influence proliferation, and the challenges posed by efforts to prevent the spread of weapons of mass destruction. Special attention will be given to North Korea, a crucial case in the study of proliferation.

Questions to be considered:
- Why do states build nuclear weapons, and how do different theoretical models explain proliferation?
- What are the security dilemmas associated with nuclear proliferation, particularly in cases like North Korea?
- How do nuclear doctrines evolve in response to changing international conditions?
- What role do international frameworks, such as the NPT, play in preventing proliferation, and how effective are they?

Required reading:
1. Whitham, B., & Heywood, A. (2023). *Global politics* (3rd ed., Chapter 12: The global politics of weapons of mass destruction). London: Red Globe Press.
2. Sagan, S. D. (1996). Why do states build nuclear weapons? Three models in search of a bomb. *International Security, 21*(3), 54–86.

Recommended reading:
1. Greitens, S. C. (2022). Proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. In J. Baylis, S. Smith, & P. Owens (Eds.), *The globalization of world politics* (9th ed., Chapter 30). Oxford: Oxford University Press.
2. Choe, S.-H. (2021, October 1). North Korea's arsenal has grown rapidly. Here's what's in it. *The New York Times.* Retrieved from https://www.nytimes.com/article/north-korea-arsenal-nukes.html
3. Williams, H. (2024, September 27). Why is Russia changing its nuclear doctrine now. *Center for Strategic and International Studies.* Retrieved from https://www.csis.org/analysis/why-russia-changing-its-nuclear-doctrine-now

Week 4, Feb. 23 – Non-Western IR Theory (Denney)

This session explores the development of non-Western approaches to International Relations theory (NWIRT) and their implications for how global politics is conceptualized and explained. Rather than approaching non-Western IR as a critical or postcolonial intervention, the session focuses on theory-building efforts that emerge from different historical experiences and institutional trajectories outside the Euro-American world.

Furthermore, the session examines debates over whether IR theory can be genuinely universal or whether dominant theoretical frameworks reflect particular regional and historical conditions. Attention is given to how scholars working on Asia and other non-Western regions have sought to adapt, extend, or reformulate existing IR concepts, such as power, order, sovereignty, and institutions.

Questions to be considered:
- In what sense has IR theory been shaped by Western historical experience?
- Can IR theory be universal if it is built primarily from Euro-American cases?
- What distinguishes non-Western theory-building from regional or area studies?
- How have scholars of Asia contributed to revising or reinforcing core IR theories?

Required readings:
1. Acharya, A. (2003). Will Asia's Past Be Its Future? *International Security*, *28*(3), 149–164. [*focus less on the specific empirical claims and more on the critiqu*e]
2. Acharya, A. (2014). Ch. 7. International relations theory and the "rise of Asia." In S. M. Pekkanen, J. Ravenhill, & R. Foot (Eds.), *The Oxford handbook of the international relations of Asia*. Oxford University Press. [*online access via the library*]

Recommended readings:
1. Seo, J. & Cho, Y.C., (2021). "The Emergence And Evolution of International Relations Studies in Postcolonial South Korea," *Review of International Studies*: 1-18.
2. Kang, D. C. (2003). Getting Asia wrong: The need for new analytical frameworks. *International Security, 27*(4), 57–85.
3. Kang, D. C. (2020). International order in historical East Asia: Tribute and hierarchy beyond Sinocentrism and Eurocentrism. *International Organization, 74*(1), 65–93.

Week 5, March 02 – The Politics of International Relations Theory: Critical and Decentring Perspectives (Wolff)

This session explores the relationship between knowledge and power in international relations. How do critical approaches challenge the claim that theory is scientific and objective? Historically, Stanley Hoffmann famously described IR as an "American Social Science," highlighting the Euro-American dominance in theory-making. However, thinkers like Edward Said and Sanjay Seth have contested these Western claims to universality, arguing that "ubiquity is not the same as universality." The session will focus on the distinctions between problem-solving and critical theory, examine the relationship between theory and policy-making, and situate IR theory within a broader global historical context.

Questions to be considered:
- How do critical theories challenge the dominant paradigms of international relations, such as realism and liberalism?
- In what ways does postcolonial theory highlight the limitations of traditional IR theories' claims to universality?
- What role does power play in the construction and dissemination of international relations knowledge?

Required readings:
1. Heywood, A., & Whitham, B. (2023). *Global politics* (3rd ed., Chapter 4: Critical theories of global politics). London: Red Globe Press.
2. Seth, S. (2011). Postcolonial theory and the critique of international relations. *Millennium: Journal of International Studies, 40*(1), 167–183.

Recommended readings:
1. Ashcroft, B., Griffiths, G., & Tiffin, H. (2007). *Post-colonial studies: The key concepts* (2nd ed.). London: Routledge.
   Fisher-Onar, N. and K. Nicolaïdis. "The Decentring Agenda: Europe as a Post-Colonial Power." *Cooperation and Conflict* 48, no. 2 (2013): 283–303. http://www.jstor.org/stable/45084725.
2. Ayoob, M. (2002). Inequality and theorizing in international relations: The case for subaltern realism. *International Studies Review*, 4(3), 27-48.
3. Gulsah Capan (2017) "Decolonising International Relations?" in *Third World Quarterly,* vol.38, no.1: 1-15.

Week 6, March 09 – Global Migration: Mobility and Security (Wolff)

This session explores global migration and its salience in international relations. It defines what counts as migration and examines why people migrate, before turning to how liberal states and international organizations respond to and govern mobility. The session analyzes migration governance through the lenses of mobility and security, with particular attention to securitization theory.

It also examines the global refugee regime and critically assesses its principles, practices, and limitations. Throughout, the session foregrounds migrants and asylum-seekers not only as objects of policy, but as political actors whose agency shapes international relations.

Questions to be considered:
- What drives international migration nowadays? Who counts as a migrant?
- What dilemmas are liberal states facing when it comes to migration?
- Why was the global refugee regime set up and what are its deficiencies?

Required readings:
1. Huysmans, J. "The European Union and the Securitization of Migration", *Journal of Common Market Studies* 38, no. 5 (2000): 751-777.
2. Hollifield, J. F. (2004). The Emerging Migration State. *The International Migration Review*, 38(3), 885–912. https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1747-7379.2004.tb00223.x

Recommended readings:
1. Adamson, F. B., & Greenhill, K. M. (2023). Deal-making, diplomacy and transactional forced migration. International Affairs, 99(2), 707-725.
2. Kainz, L., & Betts, A. (2021). Power and proliferation: Explaining the fragmentation of global migration governance. *Migration Studies*, *9*(1), 65-89.
3. Bonjour, S., Ripoll Servent, A., & Thielemann, E. (2018). Beyond venue shopping and liberal constraint: a new research agenda for EU migration policies and politics. *Journal of European Public Policy*, *25*(3), 409-421.
4. Qadim, N. E. (2014). Postcolonial challenges to migration control: French–Moroccan cooperation practices on forced returns. *Security dialogue*, *45*(3), 242-261.

Week 7, March 30 – War, Peace and International Security (Wolff)

This session explores the concepts of war, peace, and international security. It examines how traditional IR theories conceptualize war at both the domestic and international levels, while also questioning the Eurocentric assumptions embedded in these frameworks. The session introduces the concept of "small wars" to highlight forms of conflict that fall outside conventional understandings of interstate warfare.

It further explores the changing character of war, including the rise of hybrid actors, the expanding role of technology, and the implications of these developments for contemporary international security.

Questions to be considered:
- Is peace the continuation of war by other means?
- Is war always between sovereign citizens?
- How are international and domestic dimensions of war and peace intertwined?

Required readings:
1. Heywood, A., & Whitham, B. (2023). Global politics (3rd ed., Chapter 11: War and Peace). London: Red Globe Press.
2. Barkawi (2016). Decolonising war. European Journal of International security, 1(2), 199-214

Recommended readings:
1. Barkawi, T. (2004). On the pedagogy of 'small wars'. *International Affairs*, *80*(1), 19-37.
2. Kaldor, M. (2010). Inconclusive wars: is Clausewitz still relevant in these global times?. *Global Policy*, *1*(3), 271-281.
3. Hendl, T., Burlyuk, O., O'Sullivan, M., & Arystanbek, A. (2023). (En)Countering epistemic imperialism: A critique of "Westsplaining" and coloniality in dominant debates on Russia's invasion of Ukraine. *Contemporary Security Policy*, *45*(2), 171–209. https://doi.org/10.1080/13523260.2023.2288468
4. Grove, J. V. (2017). The geopolitics of extinction: From the Anthropocene to the Eurocene. In *Technology and World Politics* (pp. 204-223). Routledge.

Week 8, April 13 – Sovereignty, Liberalism, and World Ordering in the 21st Century Conflict (Wolff)

This session focuses on the debates surrounding the nature of the world order in the post-Cold War era, exploring various historical constructions of world orders and what is the added value of world orders for the study of international relations. The consideration of the nature of the world order will enable us to discuss the concept of hegemony, power, multipolarity and multiplexity. Focusing on contemporary debates, we will consider whether we are currently witnessing a post-American world order and to what extent the liberal world order is in crisis and why.

Questions to be considered:
- What does the notion of 'world orders' bring to the study of international relations?
- To what extent do contemporary developments; notably renewed imperial, transactional, and coercive practices; constitute a *crisis*, a *transformation*, a *reconfiguration* of the (liberal) international order?
- Does the current U.S. turn toward imperial and predatory practices reveal the illiberal foundations on which that order has always rested?

Required readings:
1. Heywood, A., & Whitham, B. (2023). Global politics (3rd ed., Chapter 10: Power and Twenty-First Century World Order + p83-94 Chapter 3 Traditional Theories of Global politics- Liberalism). London: Red Globe Press.
2. Acharya, Amitav (20232), 'Before the Nation-State: Civilizations, World Orders, and the Origins of Global International Relations' The Chinese Journal of International Politics, 2023, 16, 263–288, https://doi.org/10.1093/cjip/poad011

Recommended readings:
1. Acharya, A. (2017). After liberal hegemony: The advent of a multiplex world order. Ethics & international affairs, 31(3), 271-285.
2. Mearsheimer, J.J. (2019). Bound to fail: The rise and the fall of the liberal international order. International Security, 43(4), 7-50
3. Eilstrup-Sangiovanni, M., & Hofmann, S. C. (2019). Of the contemporary global order, crisis, and change. *Journal of European Public Policy*, *27*(7), 1077–1089.

4. Mattern JB, Zarakol A. Hierarchies in World Politics. *International Organization*. 2016;70(3):623-654.
5. Tim Heinkelmann-Wild, (De)coding 'America First': Trump's contestation of international institutions and its consequences, *International Affairs*, Volume 102, Issue 1, January 2026, Pages 43–62, https://doi.org/10.1093/ia/iiaf231

Week 9, April 20 – Global governance, Regionalism and EU regional integration (Wolff)

This session focuses on regionalism and questions what role do regions play in international relations and global governance. We will discuss why and how states and non-states actors have fostered regionalism and how theories of IR explain regionalism, notably through the role of hegemons and the social construction of regions. We will focus on the European Union (EU) as a case of regional integration and discuss its role as an international relations actor, the concept of Normative Power Europe and how the 'return of geopolitics' and 'strategic autonomy' are pointing to questioning the age of maturity of the EU as a security actor, notably in relation to Russia's war on Ukraine.

Questions to be considered:
- Why has regionalism become such a prominent feature of global governance?
- What is specific to Europe's regional integration?
- Is the EU becoming a geopolitical actor; or merely adapting rhetorically to a harsher international environment?

Required readings:
1. Heywood, A., & Whitham, B. (2023). Global politics (3rd ed., Chapter 21: Regionalism and Global Politics). London: Red Globe Press.
2. Zwolski, K. (2025) 'Pan-Europe Revisited: Inter-War Debates and the EU's Pursuit of Geopolitical Power', *Journal of Common Market Studies,* https://doi.org/10.1111/jcms.70070

Recommended readings:
1. Manners, I. (2002). Normative power Europe: a contradiction in terms?. *JCMS: Journal of common market studies*, *40*(2), 235-258.
2. Acharya, A. (2016). Regionalism beyond EU-centrism. *The Oxford handbook of comparative regionalism*, 109-130.

3. Pose-Ferraro, Nicolás. "Between geopolitics and political economy: The European Union–Mercosur negotiation to form a trade agreement." *JCMS: Journal of Common Market Studies* 64.1 (2026): 248-267.
4. Riddervold, M., & Rieker, P. (2024). Finally coming of age? EU foreign and security policy after Ukraine. *European Security*, *33*(3), 497–516.

Week 10, May 04 – Nation, Race, and Gender (Denney)

This session introduces students to the concepts of nationalism and national identity. It examines the nation as a political, social, and symbolic construct, with particular attention to how ideas of race and gender have historically shaped, and continue to shape, *national* identity (who "we" are). Rather than treating race and gender as separate "add-ons" to nationalism, the session emphasizes how national projects have often relied upon racialized boundaries and gendered roles to define who belongs to the nation, who speaks for it, and who is protected, or excluded, by it, and where nationalist efforts have sought to flatten these traditionally exclusionary markers.

Furthermore, the session situates nationalism within broader debates in international relations about sovereignty, self-determination, and international order, while also highlighting how national identities are produced through narratives of ancestry, culture, reproduction, and moral or civic obligation.

Questions to be considered:
- How is the nation socially and politically constructed, rather than simply "given"?
- How have race and ethnicity historically shaped boundaries of national belonging?
- How do gendered expectations feature in national projects?
- Can nationalism be inclusive, or is exclusion central to how nations are imagined?
- How does IR account for the role of national identity in politics?

Required readings:
1. Heywood, A., & Whitham, B. (2023). *Global politics* (3rd ed., Chapter 8: Nations and nationalisms in a global age; and Chapter 9: The global politics of identity, difference, and culture). London: Red Globe Press.
2. Nagel, J. (2022). Masculinity and Nationalism - Gender and Sexuality in the Making of Nations. In *Nations and Nationalism* (pp. 110–130). Edinburgh University Press.

Recommended readings:
1. Griffiths, M., & Sullivan, M. (1997). Nationalism and international relations theory. *Australian Journal of Politics and History, 43*(1), 53–66.

2. Ko, J. (2023). *Popular nationalism and war*. Oxford University Press. (*browse Chs. 1-2*)
3. Smith, A. D. (2010). *Nationalism: Theory, ideology, history* (2nd ed.). Cambridge: Polity Press. *(A foundational text for understanding key concepts and debates in nationalism studies.)*
4. Hutchinson, J. (2017). *Nationalism and war.* Oxford: Oxford University Press. (*browse strategically*)

Week 11, May 11 – Society in a Global Age (Denney)

This session examines how globalization has reshaped social life, identity, and political conflict in the contemporary world. It asks what it means to live in an era of dense global interconnectedness, where communication technologies, markets, and cultural flows increasingly transcend national boundaries while experiences of belonging remain deeply uneven. Rather than assuming globalization produces convergence, the session critically assesses whether these processes have intensified social fragmentation, inequality, and perceived loss of control. Particular attention is given to how declining sources of stable belonging, combined with heightened exposure to risk and uncertainty, contribute to political discontent, anger, and the resurgence of populism across different societies.

Questions to be considered:
- How has the rise of digital communication transformed our understanding of community and social belonging in a globalized world?
- To what extent does globalization challenge traditional notions of identity and solidarity?
- How do economic and cultural aspects of globalization interact to shape political discontent and the rise of populism?

Required reading:
1. Heywood, A. (2014). *Global politics* (2nd ed., Chapter 7: Society in a global age). London: Palgrave Macmillan.
2. Rodrik, D. (2018). Populism and the economics of globalization. *Journal of International Business Policy, 1*(1), 12–33.

Recommended reading:
1. Beck, U. (2006). Living in the world risk society. *Economy and Society, 35*(3), 329–345.
2. Mishra, P. (2018). *The age of anger: A history of the present.* Macmillan. (*browse introduction)*
3. Norris, P., & Inglehart, R. (2019). *Cultural backlash: Trump, Brexit, and authoritarian populism.* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. (*browse introduction)*

Week 12, May 18 – Conclusion: Global Politics and the Anthropocene (Denney)

This concluding session will wrap up what has been seen in class, and reflect upon the future challenges in global politics and IR theory. The lecture will cover how the future has impacted theories of IR and how devising the future in present times also empowers certain actors, can enable (or disable) change and therefore 'present futures' of IR matter importantly. We will discuss in this session how technologies, artificial intelligence, the space conquest, ecological and migration future challenges are used to shape our imagination of the future.

Questions to be considered:
- What role does the future play in shaping IR theory and global political action?
- Whose futures are prioritized, secured, or sacrificed in global politics?
- How do dominant IR frameworks enable or constrain the imagining of alternative futures?

Required Readings:
1. Whitham, B., & Heywood, A. (2023). *Global politics* (3rd ed., Chapter 21: Images of Global Futures). London: Red Globe Press.
2. Mitchell, A. (2017). Is IR going extinct? *European Journal of International Relations*, 23(1), 3-25.

Recommended reading:
1. Coward, M., Paterson, M., Devetak, R., Moulin, C., Shah, N., Zehfuss, M., & Zevnik, A. (2024). On the horizon: The futures of IR. *Review of International Studies*, 50(3), 415-424.
2. Mitchel, A. and A. Chaudhury (2020) Worlding beyond 'the' 'end' of 'the world': white apocalyptic visions and BIPOC futurisms, *International Relations 2020*, Vol. 34(3) 309–332
3. Lacy M. (2024). The future of control/The control of the future: Global (dis)order and the weaponisation of everywhere in 2074. *Review of International Studies*, 50(3):560-578.
4. Grove, J. (2018). 'The Geopolitics of Extinction. From the Anthropocene to the Eurocene' Chapter 11 in McCarthy, Daniel R ; McCarthy, Daniel R. *Technology and World Politics: An Introduction*.