

## **Introduction to World Politics (20 Credits)**

**Introduction:** The growing interdependence of the world's economies, culture, and populations is changing politics in profound ways. In this module, we will discuss the concept of globalization and examine how this process is transforming the nation state and shaping domestic politics. In the first part of the module, we will discuss how some of the most important issues that confront society today transcend national boundaries. In the second part of the module, we will examine the effects of globalization on inequality within countries and discuss its influence on public opinion and support for populist parties.

Some of the questions that we will be looking at include:

- What is the concept of globalization and why is it important for understanding politics today?
- What was the cause and consequences of the global financial crisis?
- What are the political consequences of the Covid pandemic?
- What are the effects of climate change and why is the problem so difficult to solve?
- How does globalisation influence inequality in society?
- What impact does globalisation have on support for populist parties?

### **Attendance and Engagement**

All students are expected to attend the weekly lectures (see your timetable) and to come to class prepared having read the assigned material for the week. Those who fail to attend classes often get lower marks than those who do attend, and actively participate. It is in class where students learn subject matter and skills that they will be assessed on and when writing references members of staff often comment on a student's performance in classes. If you miss classes due to unforeseen circumstances it is good practice to contact your Personal Tutor.

### **Readings**

Manfred B. Steger 2020. *Globalization: A Very Short Introduction (Very Short Introductions) 5th Edition*. Oxford University Press  
Available for purchase through Amazon for £6.95 and via the Brunel Library/

Along with the core text, there will be additional readings assigned each week which include magazine articles, book chapters, and articles published in academic journals. These are all listed on Talis which can be accessed through Brightspace.

### **Podcasts**

Selected podcasts on various topics can be accessed on Brightspace.

### **Films**

A selection of movies and documentaries on the topic of the week can be accessed through Netflix and Amazon Prime. If you don't have a subscription, ask a friend! These are all optional.

## Schedule

### **Week 1 (20 September): No Class**

### **Week 2 (27 September): Introduction**

Questions: What is world politics?

Reading: Steger, Chapter 1

### **Week 3 (4 October): What is Globalization?**

Questions: What is the concept of globalization? How can it be measured?

Reading: Steger, Chapter 2

Watch: The American Factory (2019)

### **Week 4 (11 October): The Economics of Globalization**

Questions: What are the advantages and disadvantages of economic interdependence? How did the Global Financial Crisis (GFC) occur? What impact did it have on domestic politics?

Reading: Steger, Chapter 3

Watch: The Big Short (2015)

### **Week 5 (18 October): Immigration**

Questions: What are the positive and negative effects of immigration? What shapes people's attitudes toward immigrants? Why are some people more tolerant than others?

Reading: Steger, Chapter 4

Watch: District 9 (2009)

### **Week 6 (25 October): Reading Week**

### **Week 7 (1 November): Information, Communication, and the Media**

Questions: How has the internet changed politics? What are the positive and negative effects of social media? Where do people get their information from and why does it matter?

Reading: Steger, Chapter 4

Watch: Social Dilemma (2020)

### **Week 8 (8 November): The Environment**

Questions: What are the effects of climate change and why is it a problem that is so difficult to solve?

Reading: Steger, Chapter 6

Watch: Don't Look Up (2021)

2 November: First Assignment Due.

### **Week 9 (15 November): The Covid Pandemic**

Questions: Was the Covid pandemic inevitable? How did people respond to policies that restricted civil liberties and freedom? What are the political consequences of the pandemic?

Reading: Selected readings on Talis

Watch: Contagion (2011)

### **Week 10 (22 November): Inequality**

Questions: How has globalization contributed to growing inequality within society? What impact does this have on domestic politics? How do people think about politics? What does it

mean to be a liberal or a conservative? How do ideas about equality and the role of government divide society?

Reading: Steger, Chapter 7 and Talis

Watch: Snowpiercer (2014)

### **Week 11: (29 November): Populism**

Questions: What is populism? Who supported Donald Trump? Why did voters support Brexit? Does populism represent a threat to democracy?

Reading: Steger, Chapter 8 and Talis

Watch: Brexit: The Uncivil War (2019)

### **Week 12 (6 December): Globalization and Electoral Accountability and Feedforward for Final Assignment**

Questions: Can governments be held accountable for global problems? What are the effects of globalization on voter turnout and elections?

Reading: Selected readings on Talis

Watch: All In: The Fight for Democracy (2020)

### **Assessment**

<b>Weighting</b>	<b>Submission Deadline</b>	<b>Assignment</b>
Essay of 800 words (25%)	2 November, 2022 at 12:00 via Wiseflow	Write a short essay where you identify at least three advantages and three disadvantages of globalization. Your discussion should refer to at least two of the required readings from the module and one outside source.
Essay of 2500 words (75%)	14 December, 2022 at 12:00 via Wiseflow	Some would argue that globalization has made the nation state irrelevant. Write an essay where you argue for or against this claim. Your essay must address how much influence national governments have over three different issues (ie. the economy, environment, etc.). What can governments do to address these issues? How does globalization influence the extent to which governments can be held accountable for solving these problems?

All essays must properly cite references and include a bibliography. For more information on coursework, exams and referencing please see the Politics and History webpage and the Chicago Manual of Style.

### **Note on Academic Misconduct**

Academic misconduct is any action that may give a student an unpermitted advantage and is governed by Senate Regulation 6. These actions include plagiarism, collusion, and the recycling of work. Plagiarism is defined by the University (SR 6.21) as: the knowing or reckless presentation of another person's work or ideas as one's own, and includes the use of published or unpublished work without acknowledging the source. It is important you understand the rules and regulations with regards to plagiarism and that you reference your coursework appropriately.

The following are some ways to avoid plagiarism:

- Always use your own words to summarise an argument made by others. Everyone has their own style.
- Work on developing better writing skills. Writing is not easy and takes a lot of practice!
- Remember, we do not expect you to produce work that is of publishable quality. If we see it we will suspect something!
- Use multiple sources and learn how to use literature to develop and support an argument.
- Take the [Academic Misconduct Short Course](#) which is online (via Brightspace).

Collusion and Recycling of Work:

- Do not share your work with anyone. You could be subject to misconduct procedures even if someone else submits your work for assessment.
- Do not submit anything that you have previously submitted for assessment for any module.

The Wiseflow system will match published and unpublished material on the internet and produce a similarity score. These scores will flag your essay. The range of penalties includes temporary or permanent suspension and/or exclusion from the University or from specific University facilities or activities, and permanent expulsion from the University, including Residences. At a minimum (ie. first offence), it will result in a capped resit counting for 0 for your GPA but repeated instances could be far more severe. The academic misconduct procedure is a lengthy process which could easily take 6 months or even a year to resolve.

### **Submitting coursework**

As per the [College Student Handbook](#) and [College Coursework Submission Procedure](#), formal coursework submissions must be made via WiseFlow *only*. On no account will we accept any coursework via any other means. So, if you attempt to, or actually submit it to, a lecturer, the Taught Programmes Office (TPO) or to anyone else, either in person or via email, we will not accept it, and we will not look at it or mark it. This is the case for those with extenuating circumstances and for those without extenuating circumstances. Any coursework not submitted via WiseFlow will be deemed to have not been submitted.

While submitting your coursework online, you must use the e-coversheet available on Blackboard Learn in the folder called '*How to submit*' available on the main page of each module. In this folder you will also find a video and a written description of the coursework submission process.

Please note that we will not accept coursework submitted in any other file format than this/those prescribed on the coursework brief's submission instructions section. We do not accept any document ending in '.pages', and if you choose to use a Mac, you should be aware that this is not supported by the University and there are sometimes technical 'issues' caused when you choose to do so. What 'technical issues'? It might be that the document is not open-able (the most likely) or that something is deleted. After submitting your coursework to WiseFlow, please check that it is actually there. Do not rely on simply pressing the 'submit' button *hoping* that it has been submitted and it is on WiseFlow. Go back in, and check, that it is actually there.

Because, if you discover, later, that it is not then this will be an error on your part for which the university cannot be held accountable.

### **Late submissions of coursework**

The late submission policy has changed as of September 2016. How 'late coursework' is handled and who to get in contact with is detailed in the College Student Handbook in the 'Late Submission Policy' and 'Extenuating Circumstances' sections: [College Student Handbook](#)

### **Academic support**

It is useful to note that Brunel staff email addresses usually use the format of: [Firstname.Surname@brunel.ac.uk](#). Academic staff will normally respond to student emails within 2 working days.

During term 1 and 2, all academic staff have feedback and consultation hours for personal tutees and for students taking their modules. These will normally be posted on the academic member of staff's door and published on the TPO page on Brightspace. Students may use these hours to follow up aspects of the modular/study or assessment block or to discuss their studies. You can go to an office hour on your own or in a small group.

Out of term time, academic staff are still available for discussions and meetings (for personal tutees and for Dissertation tutees), but often work from home or are on annual leave. Therefore, it is advisable to contact them by email to arrange an appointment.

More information on academic support can be found in the student well-being handbook available on this module's Brightspace page.