

## Politics and Society in a Global World (K001370)

**Course size** *(nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)*

**Credits 6.0**

**Study time 150 h**

### Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2024-2025

A (semester 2)

English

Gent

lecture

peer teaching

### Lecturers in academic year 2024-2025

Parker, Christopher

PS05

lecturer-in-charge

### Offered in the following programmes in 2024-2025

[Bachelor of Science in Political Science](#)

6

A

[Exchange Programme in Political and Social Sciences](#)

6

A

[Preparatory Course Master of Science in Conflict and Development Studies](#)

6

A

[Elective Set Political Sciences](#)

6

A

### Teaching languages

English

### Keywords

Globalization, Alter-globalization, Global Studies, Global Practice, Capitalism, Research Methods, Global Ethnography, Knowledge-Power, Middle East and North Africa

### Position of the course

It is an elective course that builds upon the course Structure and Conflict in the Global South, and elaborates on the global dimension of issues and themes discussed in other courses taught at a similar level. Students will engage with the work of leading scholars in the field of global studies, reading not only for content, but also with the aim of understanding how research is designed, and how knowledge gets produced. The course thus contributes to the development of research skills as well as the transfer of knowledge.

### Contents

This course is designed to familiarize students with the most important themes, issues and approaches in contemporary global studies. While starting from a review of the most prominent theories of globalization, the ultimate aim is to bring globalization "down to Earth," and to encourage critical, research-based engagement with the assumptions, projects, and practices of contemporary globe making. As such, the course suggests how students might apply ethnographic and qualitative sociological research methods to the study of "global" phenomena. Emphasis will be placed on the genealogy and articulation of contemporary global practice, the production of global knowledge, and the relationship of both to power. (Global practice refers to practice that presents itself as applicable anywhere in the world, or that articulates/makes the globe as an object or scale of contemporary political and economic life. Similarly, global knowledge refers to knowledge that presents itself as universally applicable, or that produces/objectifies the globe as a coherent and encompassing scale.)

Besides responsibility for the material presented in lectures and assigned readings, students will be expected to draft and present a brief essay elaborating on a theme or issues of global concern, and suggesting possible strategies for researching it further.

\*What is Globalization? Processes, projects and practices

(Approved)

- \*Review of major theories and paradigms of globalization
- \*From Imperialism to Global Studies: Knowledge and Power
- \*Can one speak of multiple globalizations across time and space? What is unique about our contemporary global situation?
- \*Modernization and Globalization: What's in a paradigm?
- \*Capitalism (neoliberalism) and contemporary globalization
- \*Themes in contemporary global practice

Each year, the course will be oriented towards the ultimate elaboration of a salient theme of global concern. Themes will vary from year to year depending on the current research focus of the instructor and colleagues within the Center of Conflict and Development Studies and the Ghent Center for Global Studies.

(Possible themes include: globalization and inequality; capitalism and crisis; place making and power; the right to the city; the changing political life of community; etc.) Teaching methods will consist of a mix of classical lectures, PBL Tutorials and Microteaching.

### **Initial competences**

This course can be followed by students in the third Bachelor Political Science, Major "European and World Politics." The student must be able to understand English-language academic literature, follow lectures in English, and communicate in English with the instructor and fellow students.

### **Final competences**

- \*Situate contemporary globalization historically
- \*Engage critically with theories and paradigms of contemporary globalization
- \*Link globalization to practice, and situate the production of global knowledge in relation to power
- \*Familiarity with fieldwork-based approaches to the study of "global" phenomena
- \*Notions of how to design a research project based on insights gained through the course

### **Conditions for credit contract**

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is determined after successful competences assessment

### **Conditions for exam contract**

This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract

### **Teaching methods**

Lecture, Peer teaching

### **Extra information on the teaching methods**

Lectures and interactive teaching will be used to confront students with key themes, issues and ideas. As the course moves towards deeper exploration of specific sites and cases through and within which these might be investigated, students will be expected to break up into smaller groups and work together (with tutorial from the instructor) toward the design of a research proposal. Students will be expected to share the results of this exercise through presentations to fellow students, with specific and in-depth feedback from the instructor.

### **Study material**

None

### **References**

### **Course content-related study coaching**

The instructor will be available by appointment on a weekly basis for discussion and follow-up related to the course. Further support will be offered via Minerva.

### **Assessment moments**

end-of-term and continuous assessment

### **Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the first examination period**

Written assessment

### **Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the second examination period**

Written assessment

### **Examination methods in case of permanent assessment**

Assignment

**Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment**

examination during the second examination period is possible

**Extra information on the examination methods**

Written exam: determines the extent to which the student has learned and understood the course materials and discussions, and his/her ability to formulate clear responses.

Group assignment: determines the extent to which students are able to independently identify and analyze a research problem, and apply research skills.

**Calculation of the examination mark**

Written Exam (15 pts)

Group assignment (5 pts)