

*Seminar : Change in Global Politics*

Franck Petiteville, Professor in Political Science and International Relations,  
Grenoble Institute for Political Studies

**After recalling the core hypothesis of mainstream international theories (realism, liberalism, transnationalism, constructivism), this course aims to underline the dynamics of *change* in contemporary global politics by raising the following questions: what is the nature of state power in an era of globalization? Is sovereignty an obsolete or a resilient norm? How has diplomacy evolved over time? What are the functions of the international organizations? How has war been transformed from the 20th century World Wars to contemporary armed conflicts? Can we judge the legitimacy of armed violence according to the “just war doctrine”? What is the record of half a century of UN peacekeeping? Are international sanctions a new way of managing conflicts? What is the specificity of global terrorism as a form of political violence? Is the danger of nuclear proliferation under control? Can the international community protect human rights? How does international criminal justice work? How are international migrations regulated? How are environmental challenges managed by the international community?**

The course is based on 9 sessions. Sessions last two hours and deal with major topics in International Relations (IR). Each student has to prepare **every session** by reading relevant chapters of the recommended textbook **in advance**. At each session, students devote 20 minutes maximum to writing down the answers to a number of key questions pertaining to the topic (without the help of books, personal notes, or internet) by mobilizing their knowledge about the topic. The professor then answers the questions while interacting with the students. He also collects some papers (6 or 7) for evaluation (with a mark given back to the students at the next session). The same exercise is done during the second hour of the session on the second topic. At the end of the course, each student must have three marks (evaluating her/his written answers) at least, these written exercises counting for 60% of the global mark, while 40% are based on the final test (2 hours). Presence is compulsory at every session. Oral participation is included in the overall evaluation of each student.

18 hours in-class and 36 hours out-of-class (textbook's chapters to read before each session) = 54 hours total

**Each student must possess the following textbook** in order to attend the course and to prepare all the sessions : John Baylis, Steve Smith, and Patricia Owens, *The Globalization of World Politics*, Seventh Edition, Oxford University Press, 2016 (£34.99).