

*Seminar CMINT Change in Global Politics*  
(Mondays 15:15-17:15, Room 039)

Dr. Johanna Möhring, Associate Fellow, University of Bonn

How to make sense of the complex, globalised world we live in? What are some of the key forces driving change in global politics? The aim of this course is two-fold : on the one hand, to equip students with tools to analyse constantly evolving international relations. On the other, to put those theoretical lenses to use in practical exercises and discussions. At the end of the course, students can expect to have gained a grasp of the structures and processes, as well as of some of the issues shaping our current international system. They should also be equipped with practical tools pertaining to analysis and presentation.

Firstly recalling core hypotheses of mainstream international theories, this course aims to underline the dynamics of change in contemporary global politics. It will raise among others 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 war been transformed from the 20th century World Wars to contemporary armed conflicts? What are the functions of international organizations? How do international norms emerge and evolve? What economic and financial forces shape global politics? How are international migrations regulated? What are the ways the international community tries to manage global environmental challenges ?

**Classes:** The course is based on 10 sessions. 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 answers to a number of key session questions by mobilizing their knowledge on the subject (without the help of books, personal notes, or internet). The professor then answers the questions in her lecture while interacting with the students. She will also collect some papers (6 or 7) for evaluation (with a mark given back to the students at the next session). The second hour will be devoted to student presentations on topical news items, and to class topic discussions.

**Assessment:** At the end of the course, each student must have at least three marks (evaluating her/his written answers), these written exercises counting for 50% of the final grade. 10% of the final grade will be derived from a student's presentation, while the remaining 40% are based on the final exam (2 hours). Oral participation is included in the overall evaluation of each student. Presence is compulsory at every session, and the professor reserves herself the right to minor the final grade in case of repeated unexcused absences.

**Workload:** 20 hours in-class and 38 hours out-of-class (textbook's chapters to read before each session) = 58 hours total (additional time is needed for exam preparation).

**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*, 8th Edition, Oxford University Press, 2020.