

Introduction to International and Global Studies

IGS 10a
SUMMER 2026

Instructor: Chandler Rosenberger

Office Hours: Wednesdays, 10 am -12 noon

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Course Description

This course provides a systematic introduction to the interdisciplinary program in International and Global Studies (IGS). Although IGS 10a serves as the foundation course for an IGS major or minor, it is intended to be a general liberal arts course—of interest to anyone seeking a better understanding of the processes and problems of the contemporary world.

Course Outcomes

After taking this course, each student will be able to:

- Recognize the historical roots of contemporary globalization, especially the role of European imperialism and nationalism;
- Identify the connection between culture and political and economic institutions;
- Explain the role of major international financial and economic institutions and practices.

Prerequisites

- There are no prerequisites for the class.

Required Texts

I have assigned two books this term, both of which are available for purchase on sites such as Amazon.com. I have also posted many of the key chapters on our Moodle page.

The books are:

Baylis, et al. *The Globalization of World Politics* (any edition after 5th is OK).

Lechner and Boli, *The Globalization Reader*. (5th edition or later)

You can use editions that are a little older than these, but some of the chapters may be numbered somewhat differently. Pay attention to chapter titles.

Other readings and videos will be on the course site.



Online Course Content

This course will be conducted partially online using Brandeis' Moodle site, available at <https://moodle2.brandeis.edu>. The site contains the course syllabus, assignments, discussion forums, and learning materials. Discussions and exercises will be held in person.

Grading Criteria

Component	Description	% of Final Grade
Four short tests	About every other week you will have two essays to write.	60
Moodle lessons	Credit given for completing all Moodle lessons. You may take each test up to five times; your highest score will be averaged into your grade.	20
Moodle Forums, attendance, and participation	Comments in class and online reflecting opinion and evaluations.	20

Grading Standards

All work will be graded based on Brandeis University's A-E scale. I will provide rubrics to help you understand how each assignment is evaluated.

- A High Distinction
- B Distinction
- C Satisfactory
- D Passing, but Unsatisfactory
- E Failure

Course Schedule

Week 1: June 1-5 What is Globalization?	
Objectives	Introduce students, professor, and material. Show the legacy of European imperialism in contemporary globalization.
Learning Materials	Friedman, Tom. <u>It's a Flat World After All</u> . Spiegel, pp. 155-169
Participation Activity	Before you do the reading of the week, please post a brief statement on the VoiceThread on Moodle telling us a little about yourself and a strong personal impression you have had of globalization.
Assignments	On the Forum page, please write a short statement about where you have seen the legacy of European imperialism in the modern world.

Week 2: June 8-12 Imperialism and Nationalism	
Objectives	Identify the difference between the way nationalism spread in the Western and Eastern hemispheres. Compare what nationalists in India and China hoped to achieve by transforming their ancient civilizations.
Learning Materials	Spiegel, pp. 178-197. Baylis, Ch. 25: "Nationalism, National Self-Determination, and International Relations" Sun Yat-Sen, "Three Principles of the People," (pp. 240-7) and Jawaharlal Nehru, "The Discovery of India," (pp. 248-255) in <i>The Nationalism Reader</i> , (Humanity Books, 1995).
Participation Activity	Discuss the difference between nationalism in Western Hemisphere and nationalism in Asia and Africa.
Assignments	Moodle Lesson on facts of imperialism (must pass with 80 percent).

Week 3: June 15-19 Liberal nationalism and the international order	
Objectives	<p>Explain the World War II origins of international institutions such as the United Nations.</p> <p>Contrast the assumptions of liberalism and the assumptions of European imperialism and revisionism.</p> <p>Identify changes in liberal assumptions since the end of the Cold War.</p>
Learning Materials	<p>Baylis, Ch. 3 ("International History"), Ch. 4 ("From the End of the Cold War to a New Global Era?") and Ch. 20 ("The United Nations")</p> <p>Micklethwait & Wooldridge, essay 1 ("The Hidden Promise") and Haidt, essay 76 ("Nationalism beats Globalism,") both in Lechner & Boli</p>
Participation Activity	Discussion of post-World War II liberal nationalism and the end of the Cold War.
Assignments	<p>Moodle Lesson on key facts of 20th century international history (must pass with 80 percent).</p> <p>Written test #1: answer two essay questions.</p>

Week 4: June 22-26 The Rise of China and India	
Objectives	<p>Compare theories of contemporary world order, such as "clash of civilizations" and "the return of nationalism."</p> <p>Assess ambitions of the current Chinese government.</p> <p>Assess changes in world order accompanying the rise of China and India.</p>
Learning Materials	<p>Baylis, Ch. 5 ("Rising Powers and the Emerging Global Order")</p> <p>Economist, "How The West Got China Wrong."</p>
Participation	Comment in VoiceThread on US-China competition.

Week 5: June 29- July 3 Culture and Society, Intro to Religion	
Objectives	<p>Explain the “social-construction” theory of politics.</p> <p>Learn foundations of Christian belief.</p> <p>Identify historical milestones in emergence of different Christian traditions (esp. Catholic and Protestant) and of European secularism.</p>
Learning Materials	<p>Samuel Huntington, essay 5 (“A Clash of Civilizations?”) in Lechner & Boli.</p> <p>Prothero, "Christianity," from <i>God Is Not One</i>.</p>
Participation Activity	VoiceThread discussion of cultural influences students identify in own societies.
Assignments	Written Test #2: answer two essay questions.

Week 6: July 6-10 Global Religions: Christianity and Islam, cont.	
Objectives	<p>Explore contemporary Christianity: explain the key tenets of Islam.</p> <p>Compare the impact of secular nationalism on both religious communities.</p> <p>Distinguish between religions and political use of the religions.</p>
Learning Materials	<p>Jenkins, essay 54 (“The Christian Revolution,”), and Casanova, essay 56 (“Globalizing Catholicism”) in Lechner, and Boli.</p> <p>Prothero, "Islam," from <i>God Is Not One</i>.</p> <p>Roy, essay 53 (“Globalized Islam”) in Lechner, and Boli.</p>
Assignments	Moodle Lesson on key points of Christian and Islamic doctrine. (must pass with 80 percent).

Week 7: July 13-17 Global Culture: Hollywood and Bollywood	
Objectives	Understand cultural hybridization though example of Indian political and popular culture.

Learning Materials	Cowen, essay 51 ("Why Hollywood Rules...") in Lechner and Boli. Tyrell, essay 50 ("Bollywood vs. Hollywood") in Lechner and Boli.
Participation Activity	Discussion: Hollywood and Bollywood.
Assignments	Watch Bollywood film <i>Lagaan</i> .

Week 8: July 20-24 Global Culture: East Asian Political and Popular Culture	
Objectives	Understand political and popular culture in the "Confucian" world.
Learning Materials	Prothero, "Confucianism," from <i>God Is Not One</i> . Neil A. Englehart, "Rights and Culture in the Asian Values Argument: The Rise and Fall of Confucian Ethics in Singapore." <i>Human Rights Quarterly</i> , Vol. 22, No. 2 (May, 2000), pp. 548-568. Shim, essay 48 ("The Rise of Korean Popular Culture") in Lechner & Boli.
Participation Activity	Watch film "Parasite" and comment in VoiceThread.
Assignments	Written test #3: write two essays.

Week 9: July 27-31 Global Trade	
Objectives	Evaluate the relative benefits of free trade for poor and wealthy countries. Compare examples of beneficial and exploitative foreign direct investment.
Learning Materials	Baylis, Ch. 27. "Global Trade and Global Finance."
Participation Activity	VoiceThread discussion of global labor standards vs. national sovereignty.

Week 10: Aug. 3-7 The End of Liberal Globalization?	
Objectives	Compare Tom Friedman's analysis of globalization to a view from the 2020s.
Learning Materials	Michael Kimmage, "The World Trump Wants."
Participation Activity	Reflect on changes in the dynamic between nationalism and globalization over the past twenty years.
Assignment	Written test #4. Answer two essay questions.

Course Policies and Procedures

Academic Integrity

Every member of the University community is expected to maintain the highest standards of academic integrity. A student shall not submit work that is falsified or is not the result of the student's own effort. Infringement of academic honesty by a student subjects that student to serious penalties, which may include failure on the assignment, failure in the course, suspension from the University or other sanctions (see section 20 of R&R). Please consult Brandeis University Rights and Responsibilities for all policies and procedures related to academic integrity. A student who is in doubt regarding standards of academic honesty as they apply to a specific course or assignment should consult the faculty member responsible for that course or assignment before submitting the work. Allegations of alleged academic dishonesty will be forwarded to the Department of Student Rights and Community Standards. Citation and research assistance can be found at [Brandeis Library Guides - Citing Sources](#).

Student Support

Accommodations

Brandeis seeks to welcome and include all students. If you are a student who needs accommodations as outlined in an accommodations letter, I want to support you. In order to provide test accommodations, I need the letter more than 48 hours in advance. I want to provide your accommodations, but cannot do so retroactively. If you have questions about documenting a disability of requesting accommodations, please contact [Student Accessibility Support \(SAS\)](#) at 781.736.3470 or access@brandeis.edu.

Financial Barriers

If you are having difficulty purchasing course materials, please make an appointment with your Student Financial Services or Academic Services advisor to discuss possible funding options and/or textbook alternatives.



Research and Software Help

[The Brandeis Library](#) collections and staff offer resources and services to support Brandeis students, faculty and staff. These include workshops, consultations, collaboration, materials and instruction on emerging trends in technologies such as machine learning, emerging trends in research such as data visualization, and emerging trends in scholarship such as open access. Librarians at the Circulation Desk, Research Help Desk, Archives & Special Collections, Sound & Image Media Studios, MakerLab, AutomationLab, and Digital Scholarship Lab are available to help you.