

PO374-30 Politics of Globalization

26/27

Department

Politics & International Studies

Level

Undergraduate Level 3

Module leader

Iain Pirie

Credit value

30

Module duration

20 weeks

Assessment

100% coursework

Study location

University of Warwick main campus, Coventry

Description

Introductory description

Globalisation is the dominant theme in contemporary political and economic debates. Even a cursory glance at official publications emanating from the key ministries of state across the developed and underdeveloped world reveals the centrality of this concept to policy debates. Concerns about the need to 'adapt' to and meet the 'challenge' of globalisation inform the conduct not only of macroeconomic policy but every aspect of social and economic policy. Similarly a careful analysis of material produced by major corporations reveals the critical importance these organisations place on changes in the organisation of global markets and the need to become 'global firms'.

Despite the centrality of the concept of globalisation to debates across the social sciences there is little agreement as to what this concept actually means. This module seeks to explore the content of the processes that go under the rubric of globalisation and draw out their significance for our understanding of the theory and practice of governance and development. In order to do so we explore the history of globalisation and the attempts of leading theorists to conceptualise the process. Having done so we move on to analyse the key institutions (both public and private) that are shaping the contemporary world order. We shall also consider the impact of structural changes in the global political economy upon the organisation of work, gender relations, national welfare regimes and systems of democratic control.

This module explicitly adopts a post-disciplinary approach. As such no attempt will be made to

draw clear artificial distinctions between the social, political and economic. Major processes of change in systems of human organisation are simultaneously cultural, political and economic phenomena and we seek to study them as such. In practical terms this means we must be prepared to draw upon sources from throughout the social sciences and the reading list reflects the necessity of eclecticism.

Module aims

The module aims to:

- Explore the definitions, measurements and chronologies of globalisation
- Explore the main theoretical approaches to understanding globalisation
- Offer an understanding of the key institutions of supranational governance
- Analyse the key agents and logics driving contemporary processes of globalisation
- Assess the key changes that are taking place in the organisation of work and the role of structural change in the global economy in driving these changes
- Explore the political and cultural significance of consumption
- Consider the implications of globalisation for conceptions of citizenship

Outline syllabus

This is an indicative module outline only to give an indication of the sort of topics that may be covered. Actual sessions held may differ.

- Week 1: Introduction
- Week 2: Globalisation: Perspectives and Narratives
- Week 3: A Brief History of Globalisation(s)
- Week 4: Globalisation and Modernity I: Giddens and Beck
- Week 5: Globalisation as Late Capitalism
- Week 6: Reading Week
- Week 7: Transnational Corporations and Global Commodity Chains
- Week 8: Financial Globalisation
- Week 9: Things Fall Apart: The Contemporary Crisis
- Week 10: The Global Media, Communications and Cultures of Consumption
- Week 11: Globalisation and the Nation-State
- Week 12: The New Architecture of Global Governance I: The WTO
- Week 13: The New Architecture of Global Governance II: World Bank
- Week 14: Globalisation and Regionalisation
- Week 15: Globalisation and the Future of Democracy
- Week 16: Reading Week
- Week 17: Globalisation and Labour
- Week 18: Globalisation and Welfare
- Week 19: Globalisation and Gender
- Week 20: The Global Environmental Crisis

Learning outcomes

By the end of the module, students should be able to:

- Demonstrate an appreciation of key debates concerning how we define, measure, date and explain globalisation
- Critically discuss the characteristics of the key institutions of global governance
- Assess the gendered social and cultural impact of structural changes in the global political economy
- Critically analyse, both orally and in writing, the current issues facing social actors as the locus of economic organisation increasingly shifts to the supranational level
- To engage with debates on the impact of globalisation on the national states.
- To assess the impact of global processes of financialization on everyday life
- Analysis the impact of changes in systems of production and consumption

Indicative reading list

[Reading lists can be found in Talis](#)

Interdisciplinary

The module draws on debates from sociology (on the nature of consumption), heterodox economics (on financialization) and the business studies literature on global value chains.

Subject specific skills

- 1) To enhance students ability to draw links between processes of political, social, economic and cultural change.
- 2) To allow students to develop greater capacity to relate macro level global processes of political economic restructuring to changes in the structure of everyday life
- 3) To afford students with an enhanced understanding of the racialised and gendered nature of global markets
- 4) Critical analysis systems of global economic governance
- 5) To allow students to apply the theoretical literature on financialisation to contemporary social problems and new forms of cultural production

Transferable skills

1. To enhance written communication skills.
2. To apply abstract ideas and concepts to study of concrete everyday phenomena
3. To think beyond traditional disciplinary boundaries when analysing systems of human organisation

Study

Study time

Type	Required
Lectures	18 sessions of 1 hour (50%)
Seminars	18 sessions of 1 hour (50%)
Total	36 hours

Private study description

tbc

Costs

No further costs have been identified for this module.

Assessment

You do not need to pass all assessment components to pass the module.

Students can register for this module without taking any assessment.

Assessment group A

	Weighting	Study time	Eligible for self-certification
Assessment component			
Mid Year 3000 word essay	50%		Yes (extension)
3000 word essay (To be submitted January at same time as assessment for 15 CAT modules).			

Reassessment component is the same

Assessment component

2nd 3000 Essay	50%	Yes (extension)
3000 Word Essay to be submitted in Term 3		

Reassessment component is the same

Feedback on assessment

tbc

Availability

Courses

This module is Optional for:

- Year 4 of UECA-4 Undergraduate Economics 4 Year Variants
- Year 3 of UECA-LM1D Undergraduate Economics, Politics and International Studies
- Year 3 of UPOA-M102 Undergraduate Global Politics (with Integrated Year Abroad at Brussels School of Governance, VUB)
- UHIA-VM14 Undergraduate History and Politics (with Year Abroad and a term in Venice)
 - Year 3 of VM14 History and Politics (with Year Abroad and a term in Venice)
 - Year 4 of VM14 History and Politics (with Year Abroad and a term in Venice)
- Year 3 of UHIA-VM13 Undergraduate History and Politics (with a term in Venice)
- Year 3 of UPHA-V7ML Undergraduate Philosophy, Politics and Economics
- Year 4 of UPHA-V7MM Undergraduate Philosophy, Politics and Economics (with Intercalated year)
- Year 3 of UPOA-M100 Undergraduate Politics
- Year 4 of UPOA-M101 Undergraduate Politics (with Intercalated Year)
- Year 4 of UPOA-M168 Undergraduate Politics and International Studies with Chinese
- Year 3 of UPOA-M169 Undergraduate Politics and International Studies with Chinese (3 year)
- Year 3 of UPOA-M164 Undergraduate Politics, International Studies and German
- Year 4 of UPOA-M165 Undergraduate Politics, International Studies and Italian
- Year 3 of UPOA-M162 Undergraduate Politics, International Studies and Quantitative Methods
- Year 4 of UPOA-M167 Undergraduate Politics, International Studies and Quantitative Methods (with Intercalated Year)
- Year 3 of UPHA-V7MW Undergraduate Politics, Philosophy and Law
- Year 4 of UPHA-V7MX Undergraduate Politics, Philosophy and Law (with Intercalated Year)

This module is Unusual option for:

- UPHA-V7ML Undergraduate Philosophy, Politics and Economics
 - Year 3 of V7MR Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Bipartite with Economics Major)
 - Year 3 of V7MP Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Bipartite)
- UPHA-V7MM Undergraduate Philosophy, Politics and Economics (with Intercalated year)
 - Year 4 of V7MS Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Bipartite with Economics Major) (with Intercalated Year)
 - Year 4 of V7MQ Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Bipartite) with Intercalated Year
 - Year 4 of V7MM Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Tripartite) (with Intercalated year)
- Year 3 of UPHA-V7MW Undergraduate Politics, Philosophy and Law
- Year 4 of UPHA-V7MX Undergraduate Politics, Philosophy and Law (with Intercalated Year)

This module is Option list A for:

- Year 3 of UPOA-M16A Undergraduate Politics and International Studies
- Year 4 of UPOA-M16B Undergraduate Politics and International Studies (with Intercalated Year)
- Year 3 of UPOA-ML13 Undergraduate Politics and Sociology
- Year 4 of UPOA-ML14 Undergraduate Politics and Sociology (with Intercalated year)
- Year 4 of UPOA-M163 Undergraduate Politics, International Studies and French
- Year 4 of UPOA-M164 Undergraduate Politics, International Studies and German
- Year 3 of UPOA-M16D Undergraduate Politics, International Studies and German (3 year degree)
- Year 4 of UPOA-M166 Undergraduate Politics, International Studies and Hispanic Studies
- Year 3 of UPOA-M16H Undergraduate Politics, International Studies and Hispanic Studies (3 year degree)

This module is Option list B for:

- Year 4 of UHIA-VM15 Undergraduate History and Politics (with Intercalated Year)
- Year 3 of UPHA-V5L2 Undergraduate Philosophy and Politics

This module is Option list C for:

- Year 3 of UHIA-VM11 Undergraduate History and Politics
- Year 4 of UHIA-VM12 Undergraduate History and Politics (with Year Abroad)
- UPHA-V7ML Undergraduate Philosophy, Politics and Economics
 - Year 3 of V7MP Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Bipartite)
 - Year 3 of V7ML Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Tripartite)
- UPHA-V7MM Undergraduate Philosophy, Politics and Economics (with Intercalated year)
 - Year 4 of V7MS Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Bipartite with Economics Major) (with Intercalated Year)
 - Year 4 of V7MQ Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Bipartite) with Intercalated Year
 - Year 4 of V7MM Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Tripartite) (with Intercalated year)

This module is Option list D for:

- Year 3 of UHIA-VM11 Undergraduate History and Politics
- Year 4 of UHIA-VM12 Undergraduate History and Politics (with Year Abroad)
- Year 3 of UPHA-V7ML Undergraduate Philosophy, Politics and Economics