

WORLD POLITICS

Professor: **Hélène THOLLET**

Session: **June 2024**

Language of instruction: **English**

Number of hours of class: **36h**



Objective of the Course

This course offers an interdisciplinary approach to World Politics, combining conceptual tools, historical insight, and empirical evidence. It introduces students to core notions, such as power, security, cooperation, sovereignty, and identity, as well as multilateralism from various disciplinary perspectives including global history, political science, comparative politics, political theory, international relations, international political economy, sociology and international public law. In order to account for the profound transformation of world politics wrought by globalization, the course explores a vast array of topics and issues ranging from empires, globalization, foreign policy, social movements, wars, terrorism, international organizations, the environment and migration. To do so, the course uses different levels of analysis – from the local to the global. Through major themes in international politics, students will develop analytical skills grounded in both theoretical and empirical knowledge.



Summary

The first set of sessions introduces and examines World Politics through historical examples including discussions on states, sovereignty, empire, globalization, international order, international systems, international society and power.

The second and third sets of sessions examine national and multilateral dynamics in the making of World Politics. We focus particularly on migration and environmental politics as key case studies.

The fourth and last sets of sessions explore war and peace, violence, crises and revolutions.

In each session, the instructor introduces the material and opens the discussion to class participation based on academic readings (a reading list is provided). At the end

of each thematic block, students present group assignments on specific case studies in a workshop format. The course will end with a final individual assignment.



Organization of the course

1. World Politics through History: introducing useful notions and (counter) intuitions

- Unsettling the discussion: Political History, the Politics of History
- Settling the discussion: Empires, World Orders, International Systems, Globalisation

2. States and World Politics

- Sovereignty
- Foreign policy
- International interventions, supranationality
- States and non-state actors in world politics

3. Multilateralism and World Politics

- What is multilateralism? National interests and cooperation
- International regimes
- International organisations and international public law
- International migration in World Politics

4. War and World Politics

- Conflicts, wars, security in 2019
- Old wars, new wars since 1991
- The causes of wars: a focus on identity and violence
- The geographies and logistics of wars
- Violence without war? Genocide; Terrorism
- War without violence? Back to discussing “interventions”
- The politics of making peace

5. Concluding Remarks: Revolutions and Changes in World Politics

Guest lectures

Pr Benoît Pelopidas political scientists

Dr Julien Seroussi, former analyst at the ICC.

Pr Chiara Ruffa, political scientist



Bibliography

To be defined



Requirements for validation

The course is designed for students with a background in at least one of the human and social sciences (sociology, history, political science, economics, anthropology, geography, psychology). The course combines theoretical and empirical contents to enable students to analyse world politics. It is composed of 36 hours of teaching including lecture-type courses, class discussions around readings and workshop sessions in which groups of students present their analysis of case studies connected to one of the topics of the course.

Students are required to attend all classes, including workshop sessions and to engage actively in class discussions.

The assignments for this course are:

- One “wiki” style analysis of a specific event or process relevant to the course’s themes or topics. The analysis is first presented as an oral assignment during the workshop sessions by a team of students. It is later turned as a wiki style written assignment (max. 3 pages).
- A final sit-in exam (individual)

A full description of both assignments will be provided before the beginning of the course.



Professor’s Biography



[H            ](#) is a CNRS tenured researcher at Sciences Po and teaches international relations, comparative politics and migration studies. Her research focuses on the politics of migration and asylum in the Global South, notably in the Middle East and Sub-Saharan Africa.

H             is co-leading the [DIMIG Discourses on Migration](#) project (2023-2025), led Sciences Po team for the H2020 project [MigrAtion](#)

[Governance and asYlum Crises MAGYC](#) (project number 822806) financed by the European Union (2018-2023). She is also Principal Investigator for the research project the [Politics of Asylum Crises in Europe \(PACE\)](#) financed by the French National Agency for Research (ANR) (2019-2024).

Recent publications (available [here](#))

Savatic, F., Thiollet, H., Mesnard, A., Senne, J.-N., & Jaulin, T. (2024). Borders Start With Numbers: How Migration Data Create “Fake Illegals”. *International Migration Review*, 0(0). <https://doi.org/10.1177/01979183231222169>

Katharina Natter & H             (eds) (2024) *Migration Politics across the World*, Routledge, ISBN 9781032601168, 166 p.

H             (2023) Immigration rentier states, *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/1369183X.2023.2269783>

C             & Antoine P            , & H             (2023) Migration as Crisis, *American Behavioral Scientist*, 0(0). DOI: 10.1177/00027642231182889

Michelle Reddy & Hélène Thiollet (2023) The Making of a Crisis: Migration and Polarization in the French Press. *American Behavioral Scientist*, 0(0). DOI: 10.1177/00027642231183274

Antoine Pécoud & Hélène Thiollet (2023) Research Handbook on The Institutions of Global Migration Governance (2023) edited with Antoine Pécoud (eds.), Edward Elgar, London. 480 p.

Hélène Thiollet, Ferruccio Pastore & Camille Schmoll (2023) "Is the forced/voluntary dichotomy really shaping migration governance?" in *Handbook of Human Mobilities and Migrations*, Ettore Recchi and Mirna Safi (eds.) Edward Elgar.