The Political Governance of Globalization

Código 574418 · Curso 2026-2027 · Máster Universitario en Diplomacia y Organizaciones Internacionales

Ficha identificativa

Carácter	Obligatoria
Modalidad	Presencial
Período	First term
Horario	On Wednesdays from 11:45h to 13:45h. Except Weeks 6 and 8: 06/11/2026 from 09:30h to 11:30h; 16/11/2026 from 09:30h to 11:30h
Idioma(s)	English
Créditos ECTS	3.0

Coordinación

Natasa Rajkovic

Profesora colaboradora, Centro de Estudios Internacionales.

Profesorado

Natasa Rajkovic

Profesora colaboradora, Centro de Estudios Internacionales.

Dr. Didac Amat i Puigsech

Profesor de Derecho Internacional Público y director de investigación del CEI International Affairs (Barcelona), donde es coordinador ejecutivo del Máster Universitario en Diplomacia y Organizaciones Internacionales. Graduado en Derecho y Ciencias Políticas por la Universitat Pompeu Fabra, es investigador predoctoral en Derecho Internacional del Cambio Climático.

Profesores invitados

Dr. Pablo Pareja, Serra Hunter Fellow in International Relations, UPF

Objetivos del curso

Contemporary globalization has transformed the international society at a pace, with an intensity and a scope without historical precedent. International relations have ceased to be a sphere of inter-state relations to become a political space whose activities and challenges have acquired a global dimension, both in their material nature and in their geographic extension. The needs and forms of governance in this new emerging political space have given rise to global governance. The study of its actors, institutions, functions and implications is the objective of the course, which is structured in three parts.

The first part presents a conceptualization of globalization, analyzes the theoretical perspectives on global governance and focuses on the study of the transformation of the nature and capacities of the most important global actors and authorities in the management of the global public interest. The second part of the course is devoted to the main normative and institutional transformations of global governance. It assesses multistakeholderism, multilateralism and the broader role of international institutions. It analyzes in parallel the transformations experienced during the last decades by some of the most relevant ones, such as the United Nations or Bretton Woods. The third part of the course discusses some of the contemporary challenges that global governance must face in four major material areas: socioeconomic challenges, such as poverty and global economic inequalities; military challenges; environmental degradation; and some critical political challenges.

Resultados de aprendizaje de la titulación

K02 Identify the strengths and weaknesses of the system in which international organizations and diplomatic agents interact.

K03 Identify the governance mechanisms of international organizations.

K07 Identify the key players in international relations.

K08 Describe the main elements that characterize the current international community.

K09 Recognize the underlying conflicting political, economic, and legal interests in different given international scenarios.

K14 Detail the decision-making processes of different international organizations.

K15 Identify the challenges and opportunities presented by globalization.

K18 Identify the organizational structure of the different institutions of the United Nations system.

H03 Analyze the interests of the actors involved in each international context, including all their political, economic, and legal elements.

H04 Use information sources critically and responsibly in diplomacy and international organizations.

H07 Discuss the main challenges in the field of international relations and international law.

C02 Develop critical reasoning and a commitment to the plurality and diversity of realities in today's society, based on respect for fundamental rights, equality between women and men, and non-discrimination in international relations and law.

C04 Work efficiently and coordinately as a team, both in disciplinary and interdisciplinary teams, in design, management, and planning.

K – Knowledge or content

H – Skills or abilities

C – Competencies

Resultados de aprendizaje del módulo

K26 Identify the main actors in global governance and their roles in decision-making.

K27 Describe the structures and processes of governance in international organizations.

K28 Classify different approaches to political and economic governance in the context of globalization.

H22 Evaluate the impacti of globalization on the distribution of economic and political power at the global level.

H23 Analyze public policies that respond to the challenges of globalization.

H24 Interpret the main public policies and macroeconomic processes within global governance.

C11 Incorporate a critical perspective on political and economic governance mechanisms.

C12 Integrate dialogue and consensus as effective tools in governance perspectives.

K – Knowledge or content

H – Skills or abilities

C – Competencies

Programa y programación

Tema 1: Global governance before contemporary globalization?

Miércoles, 30 de septiembre de 2026 · Prof. Natasa Rajkovic

Introductory notions to global governance and global order. The importance of the nation-State and the Westphalian order. The post-Second World War international liberal order: basic norms and institutions. The post-1945 liberal order faces contemporary globalization: the 1960s and 1970s. Shifting patterns in the global order after the end of the Cold War.

Language: English

Lecturas:

- D. Deudney & G. J. Ikenberry, “The nature and sources of liberal international order”, Review of International Studies, vol. 25, no. 2, 1999, pp. 179-196.

Lecturas recomendadas:

- C. Duncombe & T. Dunne, “After liberal world order”, International Affairs, vol. 94, no. 1, 2018, pp. 25-42.
- G. J. Ikenberry, “Reflections on After Victory”, The British Journal of Politics and International Relations, vol. 21, no. 1, 2019, pp. 5-19.

Tema 2: Globalization and the need for global governance.

Miércoles, 7 de octubre de 2026 · Prof. Natasa Rajkovic

Globalization and structural changes in contemporary world politics. The transformation of the State and the emergence of a global public domain. Concept and patterns of global governance. Competence and legitimacy in global governance.

Language: English

Lecturas:

- John G. Ruggie, “Reconstituting the Global Public Domain – Issues, Actors, and Practices”, European Journal of International Relations, vol. 10, no. 4, 2004, pp. 499-531.

Lecturas recomendadas:

- Michael Zürn, “Introduction: Global Governance in Hard Times”, A Theory of Global Governance. Authority, Legitimacy, and Contestation, Oxford: OUP, 2018, pp. 1-21.

Tema 3: Agency and actors in global governance.

Miércoles, 14 de octubre de 2026 · Prof Natasa Rajkovic

The notion of international actor and its evolution: Globalization as a redefining vector for actorness. The State as a starting point and its ongoing changes. The notion of “global governors” as result. Agency, capacity and authority in global politics.

Language: English

Lecturas:

- Deborah D. Avant, Martha Finnemore & Susan K. SELL, “Who governs the globe”, in Deborah D. Avant; Martha Finnemore; Susan K. Sell (eds.), Who Governs the Globe?, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2010, pp. 1-31.

Lecturas recomendadas:

- Stuart Bruce, ‘Global Energy Governance and International Institutions’, in Walter Leal Filho and others (eds), Encyclopedia of the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Affordable and Clean Energy (Springer 2019).
- Ole Jacob Sending, “Competing for Authority Recognition and Field Dynamics in Global Governance”, The Politics of Expertise. Competing for Authority in Global Governance, University of Michigan, 2015, pp. 11-29.

Tema 4: Authority and authorities in global governance. (Seminario)

Miércoles, 21 de octubre de 2026 · Prof Natasa Rajkovic · **Hay evaluación en esta sesión**

Seminar session on the case study “Authority and authorities in the governance of the internet”.

Language: English

Lecturas:

- M. L. Mueller, “Introduction: The Problem of the Root” & “The Internet Name and Address Spaces”, Ruling the Root. Internet governance and the taming of cyberspace, Cambridge, Massachussetts: MIT Press, 2002, pp. 1-11 and 31-56.
- L. G. Kruger, The Future of Internet Governance: Should the United States Relinquish Its Authority over ICANN?, CRS Report R44022, September 1st, 2016

Tema 5: The transformation of international institutions: norms and institutions in global governance.

Miércoles, 28 de octubre de 2026 · Prof. Natasa Rajkovic

Theorizing about international norms and international regimes. The dimensions of legalization of global institutions. New legal techniques by sources of regulation and control mechanisms. Assessing and comparing international regimes.

Language: English

Lecturas:

- J. Pauwelyn; R. A. Wessel & J. Wouters, "When Structures Become Shackles: Stagnation and Dynamics in International Lawmaking", The European Journal of International Law, vol. 25, no. 3, 2014, pp. 733-763.

Lecturas recomendadas:

- K. W. Abbott; R. O. Keohane; A. Moravcsik; A. M. Slaughter y D. Snidal, “The Concept of Legalization”, International Organization, vol. 54, no. 3, 2000, pp. 401-419.

Tema 6: The transformation of the United Nations.

Viernes, 6 de noviembre de 2026 , 09:30-11:45 · Prof. Pablo Pareja

The evolution of the United Nations during the Cold War. Transformations after the end of the Cold War. Multiple crisis and reform proposals. The evolving nature of UN's mechanisms to global maintain peace and security.

Language: English

Lecturas:

- Edward C. Luck, “Reforming the United Nations: Lessons from a History of Progress”, in Paul F. Diehl & Brian Frederking (eds.), The Politics of Global Governance: International Organizations in an Interdependent World, Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner Publishers, 5ª ed., 2015, pp. 381-420.

Lecturas recomendadas:

- S. Bernhard Gareis & J. Varwick, “Reforms for the Twenty-first Century” & “Conclusions”, The United Nations. An Introduction, New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2005, pp. 213-254.

Tema 7: The transformation of international institutions: multilateralism and multistakeholderism.

Viernes, 13 de noviembre de 2026 , 09:30-11:30 · Prof. Natasa Rajkovic

The logics behind international institutions: liberal institutionalism. The evolution from multilateralism to multistakeholderism: What is happening/what is failing?. Transnational public governance and multistakeholderism.

Language: English

Lecturas:

- M. Raymond & L. Denardis, “Multi-stakeholderism: anatomy of an inchoate global institution”, International Theory, vol. 7, no. 3, 2015, pp. 572–616.

Lecturas recomendadas:

- K. W. Abbott & D. Snidal, “The Governance Triangle: Regulatory Standards Institutions and the Shadow of the State”, in Walter Mattli & Ngaire Woods (eds.), The Politics of Global Regulation, Princeton, New Jersey: Princeton University Press, 2009, pp. 44-88.

Tema 8: The transformation of international economic institutions.

Lunes, 16 de noviembre de 2026 , 09:30-11:45 · Prof. Natasa Rajkovic

The world economic and financial governance architecture: the Bretton Woods' system as a basic framework. The evolution of global governance since 1945: The World Bank Group & the International Monetary Fund. Critical voices in the 1990s. New trends & changes in global markets and its governance.

Language: English

Lecturas:

- Ngaire Woods, “Making the IMF and the World Bank More Accountable”, International Affairs, vol. 77, no. 1, 2001, pp. 83-100.
- ICSID, "Introducing ICSID" (2021) available at: https://icsid.worldbank.org/resources/publications/introducing-icsid.

Lecturas recomendadas:

- P. Simons & A. Macklin, "Introduction", The Governance Gap: Extractive Industries, Human Rights, and the Home State Advantage, London: Routledge, 2014, pp. 1-21.

Tema 9: Socio-economic challenges of global governance.

Miércoles, 25 de noviembre de 2026 · Prof. Didac Amat

Beyond the North–South divide: the fragmentation of the periphery and global socioeconomic polarization. Poverty in the world and global socioeconomic inequalities. International strategies for reducing poverty and inequality. The Sustainable Development Goals and the 2030 Agenda.

Language: English

Lecturas:

- J. P. Thérien, “Beyond the North-South Divide: The Two Tales of World Poverty”, in Rorden Wilkinson (ed.), The Global Governance Reader, London: Routledge, 2005, pp. 218-238.

Lecturas recomendadas:

- Jason Hickel, “The Necessary Madness of Imagination”, The Divide. A Brief Guide to Global Inequalities and its solutions, London: William Heinemann, 2017, pp. 225-246.

Tema 10: Military challenges of global governance. (Seminario)

Miércoles, 2 de diciembre de 2026 · Prof. Didac Amat

Seminar session on the case study “Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (LAWS), Artificial Intelligence (AI) & Killer Robots.

Language: English

Tema 11: Environmental challenges of global governance.

Miércoles, 9 de diciembre de 2026 · Prof. Didac Amat

Contemporary environmental challenges affecting the international community and their main features. Evolution of the global governance mechanism for fighting against climate change. Confronting the state-of-the-art of the political and social discussions. Post-Paris: Main challenges and new forms of global civil society in action.

Language: English

Lecturas:

- Didac Amat, “The Paris Agreement's Temperature Goal: An Obligation of Due Diligence to Protect the 1.5°C Threshold”, Leiden Journal of International Law, vol. 39, no. 2, 2026, pp. 426-449.

Lecturas recomendadas:

- EXTINCTION REBELLION, 2020 XR Global Support Annual Report, 2021. Available online at: https://cloud2.organise.earth/s/sJoQg2Bti5HXmdK#pdfviewer

Tema 12: Political challenges of global governance.

Miércoles, 16 de diciembre de 2026 · Prof. Didac Amat

Globalization and the universalization of Human Rights. Lack of basic freedoms and rights as a global challenge. The universalization of democracy?: Narrative constructions around the “clash between democracies and the rest”. Cotemporary ideological challenges to the international community.

Language: English

Lecturas:

- J. Aart Scholte, “Reinventing global democracy”, European Journal of International Relations, vol. 20, no. 1, 2012, pp. 3-28.

Lecturas recomendadas:

- Acharya, A. Esteva de Ordal & L. W. Goodman, “Reshaping Global Order in the 21st Century: G-Plus Leadership in a Multiplex World”, China and World Economy, vol. 27, no. 5, 2019, pp. 63-78.
- Xuechen Chen & Yifan Yang, “Contesting Western and Non-Western Approaches to Global Cyber Governance beyond Westlessness”, The International Spectator, vol. 57, no. 3, 2022, 1-14.

Conocimientos previos / requisitos

RELATION TO OTHER MASTER'S COURSES

No enrollment restrictions. This course is part of the Master's module "International Politics and Economics", together with "The Economic Governance of Globalization".

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

Those students from alternative undergraduate studies than those specified in the foundational report of the Master's must have been enrolled in the following "Pre-Program Training Courses":

- Introduction to International Law and International Organizations (1 ECTS).
- Introduction to International Relations and International Politics (1 ECTS).
- Introduction to Global Economy and Trade (1 ETCS).

Metodología docente

This course is mainly structured through in-class activities organized around theoretical sessions and two seminars. The theoretical sessions are taught through the teacher's explanation of the modules of the weekly plan above, and also offering methodological guidelines for the independent development of the contents by the students.

The seminar sessions will serve to deepen specific aspects of the topics covered through discussion and resolution of issues raised by the materials indicated in the program, according to the instructions previously provided by the instructors.

Both lectures and seminars require prior preparation by the students, and all the basic required readings and materials are provided at the beginning of the course. In the case of seminars, an additional specific preparation will be announced by the instructors.

Sistema de evaluación

This course includes the options of single and continuous evaluation. Students may choose the option they wish within the deadlines established by CEI's own regulations by filling out a form available at the secretary's office of the affiliated center. The minimum compulsory attendance for the two evaluations is 80% of the sessions.

In the case of continuous evaluation, the course combines continuous evaluation mechanisms (two seminars and participation) and a final exam. Active and pertinent participation by students during the term amounts to 20% of the final grade. The seminars amount to 20% of the final grade. The first seminar will take place during week 4 and will concern "Authority and authorities in the governance of the internet". The second seminar will be held during week 10 on the topic of "Military challenges of global governance". The evaluation of the final exam amounts to 60% of the final grade.

Active participation 20 %

Seminars 20%

Final exam 60%

Total % 100%

Reevaluación

Students who have met the minimum compulsory attendance requirements and taken the final exam but did not pass it may retake the final exam. For those who also failed the continuous assessment, the retake exam will include a practical component.

Written exam (100 %)

Volumen de trabajo

Horas totales	75
Teórico-prácticas	25
Trabajos dirigidos	25
Trabajo autónomo	25

Bibliografía básica

- Deborah Avant; Martha Finnemore; Susan K. Sell (eds.), Who Governs the Globe?, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2010.
- Alice D. Ba & Matthew J. Hoffmann (eds.), Contending Perspectives on Global Governance. Coherence, Contestation and World Order, London: Routledge, 2005.
- Michael N. Barnett, Jon C.W. Pevehouse & Kal Raustiala (eds.), Global Governance in a World of Change, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2022.
- J. Best & A. Gheciu (eds.), The Return of the Public in Global Governance, New York: Cambridge University Press, 2014.
- Tonny Brems Knudsen & Cornelia Navari (eds.), International Organization in the Anarchical Society. The Institutional Structure of World Order, Palgrave Macmillan, 2019.
- Tim Büthe and Walter Mattli, The New Global Rulers: The Privatization of Regulation in the World Economy. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2011.
- Commission on Global Governance, Our Global Neighborhood, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1995.
- Paul F. Diehl & Brian Frederking (eds.), The Politics of Global Governance: International Organizations in an Interdependent World, Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner Publishers, 5ª ed., 2015.
- J. L. Dunoff & J. P. Trachtman (eds.), Ruling the World? Constitutionalism, International Law and Global Governance, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2009.
- Lars Engberg-Pedersen, Adam Fejerskov & Signe Marie Cold-Ravnkilde (eds.), Rethinking Gender Equality in Global Governance. The Delusion of Norm Diffusion, Palgrave Macmillan, 2022.
- Eva Erman & Anders Uhlin (eds.), Legitimacy Beyond the State?: Re-examining the Democratic Credentials of Transnational Actors, New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2010.
- Markus Fraundorfer, Global Governance in the Age of the Anthropocene, Leeds: Palgrave Macmillan, 2022.
- Doris Fuchs, Understanding business power in global governance, Baden-Baden: NOMOS, 2005.
- Jean-Christophe Graz & Andreas Nolke (eds.), Transnational Private Governance and Its Limits, London: Routledge, 2007.
- Alexandru Grigorescu, The Ebb and Flow of Global Governance. Intergovernmentalism versus Nongovernmentalism in World Politics, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2020.
- S. Guzzini & I. Neumann (eds.), The Diffusion of Power in Global Governance. Palgrave Macmillan, 2012.
- Rodney Bruce Hall & Thomas J. Biersteker (eds.), The Emergence of Private Authority in Global Governance, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2002.
- Sophie Harman & David Williams (eds.), Governing the World? Cases in Global Governance, London: Routledge, 2013.
- Alexandra R. Harrington, International Law and Global Governance. Treaty Regimes and Sustainable Development Goals Implementation, London: Routledge, 2021.
- Virginia Haufler, A Public Role for the Private Sector: Industry Self-Regulation in a Global Economy, Washington, DC: Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, 2001.
- David Held & Anthony McGrew (eds.), Governing Globalization: Power, Authority and Global Governance, Cambridge: Polity Press, 2002.
- David Held & Mathias Koenig-Archibugi (eds.), Global Governance and Accountability, Cambridge: Polity Press, 2005.
- David Held & Charles Roger (eds.), Global Governance at Risk, London: Polity Press, 2013.
- Martin Hewson & Timothy J. Sinclair (eds.), Approaches to Global Governance Theory, New York: State University of New York Press, 1999
- Miles Kahler (ed.), Networked Politics: Agency, Power, and Governance, New York: Cornell University Press, 2009.
- Nico Krisch, Beyond Constitutionalism: The Pluralist Structure of Postnational Law. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2010.
- D. Levi-Faur (ed.), Oxford Handbook of Governance, Oxford: OUP, 2012.
- Augusto Lopez-Claros; Arthur L. Dahl; Maja Groff, Global governance and the emergence of global institutions for the 21st century, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2022.
- Terry Macdonald, Global Stakeholder Democracy: Power and Representation Beyond Liberal States, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2008.
- Walter Mattli & Ngaire Woods (eds.), The Politics of Global Regulation, Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2009.
- Joost Pauwelyn, Ramses A Wessel & Jan Wouters, Informal International Lawmaking, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2012.
- Wolfgang H. Reinicke, Global Public Policy: Governing Without Government?, Washington, D.C.: Brookings Institution Press, 1998.
- Stefan Renckens, Private Governance and Public Authority. Regulating Sustainability in a Global Economy, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2020.
- Charles Rogers, The Origins of Informality. Why the Legal Foundations of Global Governance are Shifting, and Why It Matters, Oxford: OUP, 2020.
- James N. Rosenau & E. O. Czempiel (eds.), Governance Without Government: Order and Change in World Politics, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1992.
- Ole Jacob Sending, The Politics of Expertise. Competing for Authority in Global Governance, University of Michigan, 2015.
- Penelope Simons & Audrey Macklin, The Governance Gap: Extractive Industries, Human Rights, and the Home State Advantage, London: Routledge, 2014.

- Timothy J. Sinclair (ed.), Global Governance. Critical Concepts in Political Science (4 vols.), London: Routledge, 2004.
- Timothy J. Sinclair, Global Governance, Cambridge: Polity Press, 2012.
- J. Tallberg et al, The Opening Up of International Organisations, CUP, 2013.
- Thomas G. Weiss & Ramesh Thakur, Global Governance and the UN: An Unfinished Journey, Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press, 2010.
- Thomas G. Weiss & Rorden Wilkinson (eds.), International Organization and Global Governance, New York: Routledge, 2014.
- Rorden Wilkinson (ed.), The Global Governance Reader, New York: Routledge, 2005.
- Oran Young, Governance in World Affairs, Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1999.
- Michael Zürn, A Theory of Global Governance. Authority, Legitimacy, and Contestation, Oxford: OUP, 2018.