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AI and Global Politics: Navigating Technology's Impact on International Relations

PROF. ALESSANDRO QUARENGHI

Area of study	International Relations
Course Code	IR/PO 326
Credits	6 ECTS
Dates	22 June – 03 July (2 weeks)
Campus	Milan

Description

The course aims to provide students with tools to understand how the current wave of technological innovation (AI, quantum computing, 3-D printing, etc.) is transforming the world. To do so, it defines the contemporary international order and its processes of change before focusing on the relationships between international relations and technology. Finally, it discusses how technology is influencing the reshaping of politics, society, economics, security, diplomacy, and even identities.

Upon successful completion of the course, students will

- be familiar, both from a theoretical and empirical perspective, with the features of the main models of the international system, its current structure and its contemporary processes of change;
- be aware of the reciprocally influencing relationship that has always existed between technology and politics;
- be able to discuss and trace how current technologies are redefining humans and the environment in which humans operate;
- have gained a preliminary knowledge of the tools that states are employing to govern technological change.

Course contents

The course is divided into two main parts. The first section focuses on international politics, tracing its transformation since its birth, before defining the concepts of social, political, and international order. The main models of the international order are then outlined. Finally, it discusses the main features of the contemporary international order and the issues and processes that are transforming it.

The second part of the course deals with the relationship between international politics and technology by focusing on the ways the current wave of technological innovation is changing the ideas, images, and relationships the world is based upon. To trace the complexity of technological influence, it discusses how technology is redefining identities, and the environments in which humans operate (socio-political, economic, security, and diplomatic). The end of the course aims to outline tools and strategies that states are developing to govern this technological wave.



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Prerequisites

The course can be accessed by students of all backgrounds. A good working knowledge of English is essential.

Method of teaching

The course will combine lectures, analyses of case studies, guest speakers, and debates. Students will have to research some case studies during the course, according to the instructor's guidelines provided at the beginning of the course. Finally, students will have to orally present (15-20 minutes) issues and/or case studies provided by the instructor and according to his instructions.

Course requirements

- a. Students are expected to actively take part in debate;
- b. Before each class, students are expected to have read the compulsory readings (and are strongly advised to read the recommended readings);
- c. Students are expected to research some case studies according to the instructor's guidelines;
- d. Students are required to research and orally present one of the topics provided by the instructor;
- e. Students will have to take a final written exam.

Grading

Class participation	20%
Case studies	25%
Group Presentation	25%
Final written exam	30%

Course readings and materials

All course readings and materials will be available on the course Blackboard page, in the Materials section, or can be accessed through the links provided.

Course Schedule

Lesson	Topic	Main Reading/Course Material
FIRST PART. INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND THE CONTEMPORARY GLOBAL SYSTEM		



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1	INTRODUCTION <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of the course: aims, structure, class-by-class overview. Assignments: suggestions on how to successfully complete the course • Introduction to the concepts of Power. 	<p>S. Lukes, <i>Power: A Radical View</i> (Macmillan 1974).</p> <p>P. Digeser, "The Fourth Face of Power", <i>The Journal of Politics</i>, 54 (4), Nov. 1992, pp. 977-1007.</p>
2	THE STATE AND THE INTERNATIONAL ORDER: BIRTH AND CHANGE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The State • The international system • International Relations Theory: Brief review of 'traditions' and 'approaches' 	<p>J. Grieco, J. G. Ikenberry, M. Mastanduno, <i>Introduction to International Relations. Enduring Questions and Contemporary Perspectives</i> (Palgrave, 2015), pp. 70-103</p> <p>H. Bull, <i>The Anarchical Society. A Study of Order in World Politics</i> (Columbia University Press, 4th Ed. 2002), pp. 3-21</p>
3	ORDER, AND PROCESSES OF CHANGE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concepts of Order • Types of International Order • The contemporary international global order • Global changes in the global system 	<p>C. Mudde, "The Populist Zeitgeist", <i>Government and Opposition</i>, 39 (4), Autumn 2004, pp. 541-563</p> <p>Y. Mounk, R. S. Foa, "The End of the Democratic Century. Autocracy's Global Ascendancy", <i>Foreign Affairs</i> (16 April 2018). Available at https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/2018-04-16/end-democratic-century</p> <p>J. Busby, "Warming World. Why Climate Change Matters More Than Anything Else", <i>Foreign Affairs</i> (14 June 2018). Available at https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/2018-06-14/warming-world</p>
4	TECHNOLOGY AND INTERNATIONAL POLITICS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technology and the international system • Main theoretical approaches 	<p>Krishna-Hensel, Sai Felicia. "Technology and International Relations." <i>Oxford Research Encyclopedia of International Studies</i>. 22 December 2017. https://oxfordre.com/internationalstudies/view/10.1093/acrefore/9780190846626.001.0001/acrefore-9780190846626-e-319</p> <p>McCarthy D. R. (ed.) <i>Technology and World Politics. An Introduction</i>, Routledge 2018</p>



SECOND PART. CONTEMPORARY TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATION AND GLOBAL CHANGE		
	NEW TECHNOLOGIES AND IDENTITY <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Fourth Industrial Revolution: technologies (AI, quantum computing, etc.) The reshaping of identity: the liberal and the post-human identity and their critics 	<p>World Economic Forum, <i>Top 10 Emerging Technologies of 2020</i>, November 2020. Available at http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_Top_10_Emerging_Technologies_2020.pdf</p>
5	NEW TECHNOLOGIES AND ECONOMICS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Innovation and State competitiveness Technology innovation as an economic process A Knowledge economy? Changes in Supply and Demand 	<p>Nallari R., Griffith B., <i>Clusters of Competitiveness</i>, The World Bank, 2013. Available at http://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/152521468158381169/pdf/Clusters-of-competitiveness.pdf</p>
6	NEW TECHNOLOGIES AND SOCIO-POLITICAL CHANGE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A new 'Great Transformation?' Co-production: knowledge, society, and power 	<p>Jasanoff S. "The idiom of co-production" and "Ordering knowledge, ordering society", in S. Jasanoff (ed.) <i>States of knowledge. The co-production of science and social order</i>, Taylor & Francis, 2004, pp. 1-45.</p>
7	NEW TECHNOLOGIES AND SECURITY <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Issues influencing country competitiveness 	<p>Giacomello G., Moro F. N., and Valigi M. (eds.) <i>Technology and International Relations</i>, Edward Elgar Publishing, 2021. https://doi.org/10.4337/9781788976077</p> <p>Mialhe N., "The geopolitics of artificial intelligence: The return of empires?", <i>Politique étrangère</i>, 2018/3 (Autumn Issue), p. 105-117. Available at https://www.cairn-int.info/journal-politique-etrangere-2018-3-page-105.htm</p>
8	NEW TECHNOLOGIES AND DIPLOMACY <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Digital Diplomacy 	<p>Bjola C., Kornprobst M. (eds.) <i>Digital International Relations: Technology, Agency and Order</i>, Taylor & Francis, 2023</p>



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		Doshi R., "The United States, China, and the Contest for the Fourth Industrial Revolution", Prepared Statement before the U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, Subcommittee on Security For the Hearing "The China Challenge: Realignment of U.S. Economic Policies to Build Resiliency and Competitiveness", July 30, 2020. Available at https://www.brookings.edu/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Doshi-Commerce-Testimony-7.30.2020-Final.pdf
9	<p>GOVERNING TECHNOLOGICAL CHANGE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview: technology foresighting, strategy, roadmap, evaluation. • The European Union's AI Act 	<p>Miles I., Saritas O., Sokolov A., <i>Foresight for Science, Technology, and Innovation</i> (Springer, 2016)</p> <p>Jasanoff S, "Governing Innovation: The Social Contract and the Democratic Imagination." Seminar 597, May 2009. Available at https://www.india-seminar.com/2009/597/597_sheila_jasanoff.htm</p> <p>European Union, <i>The Artificial Intelligence Act</i> (at this stage, 2023, a draft of EU Regulation). Available at https://artificialintelligenceact.eu/ (NOT ON BLACKBOARD)</p>
	EXAM	

Course Evaluation

At Cattolica we highly value student opinions as they are among our most important resources for assessing and improving the quality of teaching.

The course evaluation will be available on the Blackboard two weeks before the end of the course.

Note that **you will not be able to view your final grade if you do not submit the survey for the course.**

The survey is made of multiple choice questions and open questions. The evaluations will remain anonymous. Professors will receive an average score of each answers (except for the open question).

Instructor Bio

Alessandro Quarenghi is a Lecturer in International Politics at the Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, where he teaches on International Relations and International Relations of the Middle East. He holds a degree in Law, a PhD in International Relations, a Specialization in International Economics and Politics, and Masters Degrees in Postcolonial Politics and Cross-cultural Mediation. His work focuses on US foreign policy, international order and international relations and politics of the Middle East, Italian politics, and



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