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## **PROVISIONAL SYLLABUS**

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

PROF. ALESSANDRO QUARENGHI

Term: Summer 2025

Date: 23 June - 04 July

### 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 outlines the main features of the contemporary international order and the issues and processes that are transforming it.

The second part of the course initially discusses the relationship between international politics and technology, but focuses on the ways the current wave of technological innovation is changing the ideas, images, and relationships which the world is based upon. In order 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 discuss tools and strategies that states are developing to govern this technological wave.

### Prerequisites

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



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## Method of teaching

The first part of the course will consist of lectures. In the second part of the course, and depending on the number of students, some issues will be introduced by a student presentation (15-20 minutes), which can be supported by the assigned readings. The issues raised by the presentation and by the readings will foster a discussion led by the instructors, which will constitute the bulk of the class. The instructors will then conclude by briefly (10-15 minutes) summarizing the most important points made during the discussion.

## 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.

## Credits

6 ECTS

## Grading

Participation	10% of final grade
Group project (presentation)	30% of final grade
Final written exam	60% of final grade

## 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.

## Instructor bio

Alessandro Quarenghi is a Lecturer in International Politics at the Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, where he teaches International Relations, Economic Geography, 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 Master's 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.

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## Course Schedule

Lesson	Date	Topic	Reading/Course Material
<b>FIRST PART. INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND THE CONTEMPORARY GLOBAL SYSTEM</b>			
1	June 23  14.00-18.30	<b>INTRODUCTION</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentation of the course: aims, structure, class-by-class overview. Assignments: suggestions on how to successfully complete the course</li> <li>• Introduction to Power. Main concepts (Dahl's, Bachrach and Baratz's, Luke's, and Foucault's proposals)</li> </ul>	<p><u>Recommended Reading</u></p> <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	June 24  10.00-14.30	<b>THE STATE AND THE INTERNATIONAL ORDER: BIRTH AND CHANGE</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The State:</li> <li>• The international system: historical change</li> <li>• International Relations Theory: Brief review of 'traditions' and 'approaches' to International Politics</li> </ul>	<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>Ikenberry J. G., "The End of Liberal International Order?", <i>International Affairs</i>, 94 (1), 2018, pp. 7-23</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> <p>Bremmer I., Keat P., <i>The Fat Tail: The Power of Political Knowledge in an Uncertain World</i> (OUP, 2009), pp. 47-51. Available at <a href="https://tinyurl.com/y5k9lcje">https://tinyurl.com/y5k9lcje</a> (NOT ON BLACKBOARD)</p> <p>J. Grieco, J. G. Ikenberry, M. Mastanduno, <i>Introduction to International Relations. Enduring Questions and Contemporary Perspectives</i> (Palgrave, 2015), pp. 418-436</p>
3	June 25  10.00-14.30	<b>INTERNATIONAL ORDER, AND PROCESSES OF CHANGE</b>	C. Mudde, "The Populist Zeitgeist", <i>Government and Opposition</i> , 39 (4), Autumn 2004, pp. 541-563



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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social, Political, International, and World Order</li> <li>• Types of International Order</li> <li>• The contemporary international global order and its interpretation</li> <li>• Introduction to contemporary global changes in the global system: the global environment, anti-globalization politics, populism, migration, shift to power (hegemonic transition).</li> </ul>	<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 <a href="https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/2018-04-16/end-democratic-century">https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/2018-04-16/end-democratic-century</a></p> <p>J. Busby, "Warming World. Why Climate Change Matters More Than Anything Else", <i>Foreign Affairs</i> (14 June 2018). Available at <a href="https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/2018-06-14/warming-world">https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/2018-06-14/warming-world</a></p> <p>I. Buruma, A. Margalit, <i>Occidentalism. The West in the Eyes of its Enemies</i> (Penguin, 2004), pp. 1-12 and 75-99.</p> <p>S. Walt, "The End of Hubris And the New Age of American Restraint", <i>Foreign Affairs</i>, 98 (3), May/June 2019, pp. 26-35. Available at <a href="https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/2019-04-16/end-hubris">https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/2019-04-16/end-hubris</a></p> <p>Flockhart T., Korosteleva E. A. "War in Ukraine: Putin and the multi-order world", <i>Contemporary Security Policy</i>, 43:3, 2022, pp. 466-481, DOI: 10.1080/13523260.2022.2091591</p>
4	June 26 10.00-14.30	<p><b>TECHNOLOGY AND INTERNATIONAL POLITICS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Technology and the international system</li> <li>• Main theoretical approaches</li> </ul>	<p>Eriksson, J., &amp; M. Newlove-Eriksson, L. (2021). "Chapter 1: Theorizing technology and international relations: prevailing perspectives and new horizons". In Giampiero Giacomello, Francesco N. Moro, and Marco Valigi (eds.) <i>Technology and International Relations</i>. Cheltenham, UK: Edward Elgar Publishing. Retrieved Mar 2, 2025, from <a href="https://doi.org/10.4337/9781788976077.00007">https://doi.org/10.4337/9781788976077.00007</a></p> <p>Schwab K., "The Fourth Industrial Revolution. What It Means and How to Respond", <i>Foreign Affairs</i>, 12 December 2015. Available at <a href="https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/2015-12-12/fourth-industrial-revolution">https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/2015-12-12/fourth-industrial-revolution</a></p>



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			<p>Krishna-Hensel, Sai Felicia. "Technology and International Relations." <i>Oxford Research Encyclopedia of International Studies</i>. 22 December 2017; Accessed 1 Oct. 2024. <a href="https://oxfordre.com/internationalstudies/view/10.1093/acrefore/9780190846626.001.0001/acrefore-9780190846626-e-319">https://oxfordre.com/internationalstudies/view/10.1093/acrefore/9780190846626.001.0001/acrefore-9780190846626-e-319</a></p> <p>Milner, H. V., Solstad S. U., "Technological Change and the International System", working paper 2020, pp. 1-10. Available at <a href="https://scholar.princeton.edu/sites/default/files/technology_diffusion_and_the_international_system.pdf">https://scholar.princeton.edu/sites/default/files/technology_diffusion_and_the_international_system.pdf</a></p> <p>McCarthy D. R. (ed.) <i>Technology and World Politics. An Introduction</i>, Routledge 2018</p> <p>Drezner, D. W. (2019). "Technological change and international relations". <i>International Relations</i>, 33(2), 286-303. <a href="https://doi-org.ezproxy.unicatt.it/10.1177/0047117819834629">https://doi-org.ezproxy.unicatt.it/10.1177/0047117819834629</a></p> <p>Horowitz, Michael, Elsa B. Kania, and Gregory C. Allen and Paul Scharre. 2018. <i>Strategic competition in an era of artificial intelligence</i>. Center for a New American Security Reports (Jul 18), <a href="https://www.proquest.com/reports/strategic-competition-era-artificial-intelligence/docview/2072898763/se-2">https://www.proquest.com/reports/strategic-competition-era-artificial-intelligence/docview/2072898763/se-2</a> (accessed March 2, 2025).</p>
	June 27 10.00-14.00	<p>FIELD TRIP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ISTITUTO DI RICERCHE FARMACOLOGICHE MARIO NEGRI</li> </ul>	Istituto di ricerche farmacologiche Mario Negri, via Mario Negri 2, Milano
SECOND PART. CONTEMPORARY TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATION AND GLOBAL CHANGE			
5	June 30 10.00-14.30	<p>NEW TECHNOLOGIES AND ECONOMICS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Fourth Industrial Revolution: technologies (AI, quantum computing, etc.)</li> </ul>	<p>World Economic Forum, <i>Top 10 Emerging Technologies of 2020</i>, November 2020. Available at <a href="http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_Top_10_Emerging_Technologies_2020.pdf">http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_Top_10_Emerging_Technologies_2020.pdf</a></p> <p>Cantwell J., "Innovation and Competitiveness", in Fagerberg J., Mowery</p>



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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Innovation and State competitiveness</li> <li>• Technology innovation as an economic process</li> <li>• Supply and Demand change: A Knowledge economy?</li> </ul>	<p>D.C., and Nelson R.R. (eds.), <i>The Oxford Handbook of Innovation</i> (Oxford University Press 2006). As a working paper (2003), available at <a href="http://globalbusiness.rutgers.edu/Working_papers/jc_ohib.pdf">http://globalbusiness.rutgers.edu/Working_papers/jc_ohib.pdf</a></p> <p>O'Sullivan D., Dooley L., <i>Applying Innovation</i> (SAGE 2009), Chapters 1, 2, 3 (pp. 1-71). Available at <a href="https://tinyurl.com/yxbeegjq">https://tinyurl.com/yxbeegjq</a> (NOT ON BLACKBOARD)</p> <p>McKinsey Global Institute, <i>The China Effect on Global Innovation</i>, Research Bulletin June 2015. Available at <a href="http://mckinseychina.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/mckinsey-china-effect-on-global-innovation-2015.pdf">http://mckinseychina.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/mckinsey-china-effect-on-global-innovation-2015.pdf</a></p> <p>Steinfeld E. S., Beltoft T., "Innovation Lessons from China", <i>MIT Sloan Management Review</i> 55 (4), 2014, pp. 49-55.</p> <p>Prud'Homme D., von Zedtwitz M., "The Changing Face of Innovation in China", <i>MIT Sloan Management Review</i> 59 (4), 2018, pp. 24-32.</p> <p>European Commission, Directorate-General for Research and Innovation, Hollanders, H., Es-Sadki, N., Khalilova, <i>European Innovation Scoreboard 2022</i> – , Publications Office of the European Union, 2022. Available at <a href="https://data.europa.eu/doi/10.2777/309907">https://data.europa.eu/doi/10.2777/309907</a> (previous editions at: <a href="https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/statistics/performance-indicators/european-innovation-scoreboard_en#european-innovation-scoreboard-2022">https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/statistics/performance-indicators/european-innovation-scoreboard_en#european-innovation-scoreboard-2022</a>) (NOT ON BLACKBOARD)</p> <p>Institute for Management Development (IMD), <i>World Digital Competitiveness Ranking 2022</i>. Available at <a href="https://www.imd.org/centers/wcc/world-competitiveness-center/rankings/world-digital-competitiveness-ranking/">https://www.imd.org/centers/wcc/world-competitiveness-center/rankings/world-digital-competitiveness-ranking/</a></p> <p>The World Economic Forum (WEF), <i>The Global Competitiveness Report 2019</i>. Available at</p>
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			<p><a href="http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_TheGlobalCompetitivenessReport2019.pdf">http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_TheGlobalCompetitivenessReport2019.pdf</a></p> <p>The World Economic Forum (WEF), <i>The Global Competitiveness Report 2020</i>. Available at <a href="http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_TheGlobalCompetitivenessReport2020.pdf">http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_TheGlobalCompetitivenessReport2020.pdf</a></p> <p>Institute for Management Development (IMD), <i>World Digital Competitiveness Ranking 2021</i>. Available at <a href="https://www.imd.org/centers/world-competitiveness-center/rankings/world-digital-competitiveness/">https://www.imd.org/centers/world-competitiveness-center/rankings/world-digital-competitiveness/</a></p> <p>The World Economic Forum, <i>The Europe 2020 Competitiveness Report</i>. Available at <a href="http://reports.weforum.org/the-europe-2020-competitiveness-report/">http://reports.weforum.org/the-europe-2020-competitiveness-report/</a> (NOT ON BLACKBOARD)</p> <p>European commission, <i>Factsheet: Competitiveness Strategy</i>, 16 March 2023. Available at <a href="https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/FS_23_1670">https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/FS_23_1670</a></p> <p>Nallari R., Griffith B., <i>Clusters of Competitiveness</i>, The World Bank, 2013. Available at <a href="http://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/152521468158381169/pdf/Clusters-of-competitiveness.pdf">http://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/152521468158381169/pdf/Clusters-of-competitiveness.pdf</a></p>
6	<p>July 01</p> <p>10.00-14.30</p>	<p><b>NEW TECHNOLOGIES AND SOCIOPOLITICAL CHANGE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A new 'Great Transformation?'</li> <li>• Co-production: knowledge, society, and power</li> </ul>	<p>World Economic Forum, <i>HR4.0: Shaping People Strategies in the Fourth Industrial Revolution</i>, December 2019. Available at <a href="http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_NES_Whitepaper_HR4.0.pdf">http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_NES_Whitepaper_HR4.0.pdf</a></p> <p>World Economic Forum, <i>Digital Media and Society. Implications in a Hyperconnected Era</i>, January 2016. Available at <a href="https://www.weforum.org/reports/digital-media-and-society-implications-in-a-hyperconnected-era">https://www.weforum.org/reports/digital-media-and-society-implications-in-a-hyperconnected-era</a></p> <p>WEF, <i>The Future of Jobs</i>, May 2023, available at</p>





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			<p><a href="https://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_Future_of_Jobs_2023.pdf">https://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_Future_of_Jobs_2023.pdf</a></p> <p>Jasanoff S. "Future imperfect: Science, technology, and the imaginations of modernity", in S. Jasanoff, <i>Dreamscapes of modernity: Sociotechnical imaginaries and the fabrication of power</i>, Routledge, 2015, 1-33. <a href="https://go.exlibris.link/WcQPnPBv">https://go.exlibris.link/WcQPnPBv</a></p> <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 &amp; Francis, 2004, pp. 1-45. <a href="https://go.exlibris.link/7gk7nIF9">https://go.exlibris.link/7gk7nIF9</a></p>
7	July 2 10.00-14.30	<b>NEW TECHNOLOGIES AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Geopolitics</li><li>• Security</li><li>• Digital Diplomacy</li></ul>	<p>Giacomello G., Moro F. N., and Valigi M. (eds.) <i>Technology and International Relations</i>, Edward Elgar Publishing, 2021. Accessed Oct 1, 2024, <a href="https://doi.org/10.4337/9781788976077">https://doi.org/10.4337/9781788976077</a></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 <a href="https://www.cairn-int.info/journal-politique-etrangere-2018-3-page-105.htm">https://www.cairn-int.info/journal-politique-etrangere-2018-3-page-105.htm</a></p> <p>Bode, I. (2024). "AI Technologies and International Relations: Do We Need New Analytical Frameworks?" <i>The RUSI Journal</i>, 169(5), 66–74. <a href="https://doi.org/10.1080/03071847.2024.2392394">https://doi.org/10.1080/03071847.2024.2392394</a></p> <p>Kello, Lucas. <i>The Virtual Weapon and International Order</i>, Yale University Press, 2017. ProQuest Ebook Central, <a href="https://ebookcentral-proquest-com.ezproxy.unicatt.it/lib/unicatt-ebooks/detail.action?docID=4987810">https://ebookcentral-proquest-com.ezproxy.unicatt.it/lib/unicatt-ebooks/detail.action?docID=4987810</a>.</p> <p>Bjola C., Kornprobst M. (eds.), <i>Digital International Relations: Technology, Agency and Order</i>, Taylor &amp; Francis, 2023. <a href="https://go.exlibris.link/B7tYbXDk">https://go.exlibris.link/B7tYbXDk</a></p> <p>Bjola, C., Holmes, M., <i>Digital diplomacy: theory and practice</i>, Routledge new diplomacy studies, 2015</p>





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			<p>Drum K., "Tech World. Welcome to the Digital Revolution", <i>Foreign Affairs</i>, July/August 2018. Available at <a href="https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/world/2018-06-14/tech-world">https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/world/2018-06-14/tech-world</a></p> <p>Cohen J., Fontaine R., "Uniting the Techno-Democracies. How to Build Digital Cooperation", <i>Foreign Affairs</i>, November/December 2020. Available at <a href="https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/united-states/2020-10-13/uniting-techno-democracies">https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/united-states/2020-10-13/uniting-techno-democracies</a></p> <p>Kalantzis-Cope P., "Geopolitical Structuring in the Age of Information: Imagining Order, Understanding Change", <i>Alternatives: Global, Local, Political</i>, 41(4) 2016, pp. 179-193</p> <p>Watson V. B. "The Fourth Industrial Revolution and its Discontents: Governance, Big Tech, and the Digitization of Geopolitics". <i>Hindsight, Insight, Foresight: Thinking About Security in the Indo-Pacific</i>, edited by Alexander L. Vuving, Daniel K. Inouye Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies, 2020, pp. 37-48. Available at <a href="http://www.jstor.org/stable/resrep26667.8">http://www.jstor.org/stable/resrep26667.8</a>. Accessed 18 June 2023</p> <p>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 <a href="https://www.brookings.edu/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Doshi-Commerce-Testimony-7.30.2020-Final.pdf">https://www.brookings.edu/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Doshi-Commerce-Testimony-7.30.2020-Final.pdf</a></p>
8	<p>July 03</p> <p>10.00-14.30</p>	<p><b>NEW TECHNOLOGIES AND IDENTITY</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The reshaping of identity: the liberal, the post-human and its critics</li> </ul> <p><b>GOVERNING TECHNOLOGICAL CHANGE</b></p>	<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 <a href="https://www.india-">https://www.india-</a></p>



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	<p>July 04</p> <p>10.00-14.00</p>	EXAM	