

WORLD POLITICS

Professor: **Hélène THOLLET**
Session: **June 2025**
Language of instruction: **English**
Number of hours of class: **36h**



Objective of the Course

This course relies on both theoretical and empirical (case studies) approaches to help students craft their own analysis of world politics. It proposes an interdisciplinary perspective of international issues, using the methods and frameworks of a variety of social sciences fields, including sociology, history, comparative politics, international relations, and political economy.



Summary

This course offers an interdisciplinary approach to World Politics, combining conceptual tools, historical insight, and empirical evidence. It introduces students to core concepts, such as power, security, cooperation, sovereignty, identity, 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, migration and, to do so, 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.

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).



Organisation of the course

The first set of sessions examines key concepts like states, sovereignty, empire, globalization, international order, international systems, international society and power through historical examples.

The second and third sets of sessions articulate national and multilateral levels of political analysis focusing on migration and environmental governance as a key case study.

The third set of sessions explores war and peace, violence, crises and revolutions in world politics.

In each session, the instructor introduces the material and opens the discussion to class participation. Students present group assignments on specific case studies. The course ends with a final essay.



Professor's Biography



[H el ene Thiollet](#) is a CNRS tenured researcher at Sciences Po and her research focuses on the politics of migration and asylum in the Global South, notably in the Middle East and Sub-Saharan Africa. She teaches international relations, comparative politics and migration studies. Currently, H el ene is leading a research team for the H2020 project MigrAtion Governance and asYlum Crises [MAGYC](#) (project number 822806) financed by the European Union.

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).