

Globalization Challenges

Prof. Dr. Peter Eppinger and Dr. Ernesto Ugolini
Carl von Ossietzky University of Oldenburg
Summer term 2026

Content

In this course we analyze several key challenges associated with globalization, such as the recent rise of U.S. tariffs and the use of trade policy for achieving geostrategic goals, critical dependence on foreign inputs and disruptions to global supply chains, the labor market impact of globalization, the role of innovation and intellectual property in global production, or the effects of international trade on the environment. We apply theoretical and empirical methods of international economics to study these questions.

Eligibility

This is a new course eligible under the module wir420 (or alternatively wir410) for students in the Bachelor programs (typically in the 2nd or 3rd year), e.g. in Economics and Business Administration (single or dual subject), Sustainability Economics, Business Administration: Management and Law, and for exchange students. The course is not eligible for Master students.

Organization and schedule

This course consist of a combined lecture and seminar.

The lecture will be offered by Peter Eppinger. The seminar will be offered by Ernesto Ugolini.

Lecture schedule

The lecture will take place every Wednesday at 10:15 am – 11:45 am in seminar room A05 0-055, starting in the first week of the term (April 8, 2026).

Seminar schedule

Session	Date	Time	Location
Introduction session	Friday, April 10, 2026	10:15 am – 11:45 am	V03 0-D003
Topic allocation	Friday, April 17, 2026	10:30 am – 12:00 noon	V03 0-D003
Presentation session 1	Monday, July 6, 2026	8:00 am – 6:00 pm (TBD)	V03 0-D003
Presentation session 2	Friday, July 10, 2026	8:00 am – 6:00 pm (TBD)	V03 2-A215

Prerequisites and recommended background

This is a field course in economics at the Bachelor's level. There are no formal prerequisites for participation. However, background in principles of economics, especially microeconomic theory, as well as in statistics and econometrics is recommended. The course is complementary to International Economics (wir250).

Registration

Please register for this course (both the lecture and the seminar) on Stud.IP, where all course materials will be made available. Joining the course later during the semester will not be possible because seminar topics will be assigned in the second week.

Assessment

Grading is based on a **portfolio including a short written exam (60 minutes, 40%), a seminar paper (30%) and a presentation (30%)**.

The seminar paper should comprise approximately 12 pages (12 pt standard font, 1.5-spaced text, with 3 cm margins).

The presentations are scheduled for 15 minutes per person, and we will reserve 15 minutes for open questions and discussion per topic.

The final version of the seminar paper will be due two weeks after the presentation sessions, which allows you to take into account feedback from the presentation.

Attendance in the seminar is mandatory (unless justified in exceptional circumstances) and active participation is encouraged and expected.

Literature

Readings will be announced during the course.

Outline of the lecture (tentative)

1. Introduction
2. Gravity
3. Labor Market Effects of Globalization
4. Trade Policy
5. Free Trade Agreements
6. Decoupling and Geoeconomics
7. Innovation in the Global Economy
8. Globalization and the Environment

Seminar guidelines

The list of seminar topics will be provided on Stud.IP.

The objective of the seminar is to write a 12-page academic paper and present it in class. The paper should address a clearly formulated research question related to the assigned topic. The question does not need to be original; rather, it should structure your discussion of what we know about the topic, including the relevant theoretical mechanisms, empirical evidence, and policy implications in the existing literature. In the conclusion, you may identify open questions or gaps and suggest directions for future research. Conducting original research is not required. You can choose a topic from the list provided on Stud.IP. Each topic includes key references that serve as an entry point into the literature. Seminar topics are assigned to students in the second seminar session. Please take a look at the list of topics and rank your preferences. You will then be called up randomly to choose one of the topics that are still available.

After the topic allocation, you should study the main reference(s) and identify additional relevant academic contributions. Based on this reading, formulate your research question and prepare a structured outline of the paper.

Please send your outline by e-mail to Ernesto Ugolini within three weeks after the topic allocation session. If needed, we will schedule individual meetings to discuss your plan.

We are also open to alternative topic proposals related to globalization challenges. If you wish to propose a topic, please send a brief description of the research question and the core academic literature you intend to engage with.

Contact details

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Office hours: by appointment (please send us an e-mail, stating your questions).