Course Outline

Virtual Exchange Autumn Semester 2025

Course Title: Six Issues Changing our World

Number of ECTS-Credits: 3

Format of the course:

☒ synchronous online course (FIX timeslots)

☐ asynchronous online course (NO fix timeslots)

☐ mix of synchronous and asynchronous online course

☒ synchronous hybrid course (students can choose online OR on campus in FIX timeslots)

☐ asynchronous hybrid course (students can choose online OR on campus in NON-fix timeslots)

☐ mix of synchronous and asynchronous hybrid course

☐ other, namely:

Number of Students accepted

☐ Total number of students is limited to

☒ Total number of students is unlimited

☐ Total number of virtual exchange students is limited to

☒ Total number of virtual exchange students is unlimited

Responsible lecturer: Michael Jeive

Link to lecturer's profile at FHNW: https://www.fhnw.ch/en/people/michael-jeive

n|w University of Applied Sciences and Arts Northwestern Switzerland
School of Business

Table of Contents

1. Course content

Imagine the World in 2035? What has changed? What forces have driven this change? Were we prepared?

Our world is changing at an unprecedented pace and positions seen as self-evident just a few months ago are being challenged and overturned

"Six Issues Changing the World" addresses critical geopolitical transformations shaping our global landscape and their profound implications for business leaders.

Understanding the resurgence of authoritarianism, intensifying geopolitical rivalries, and the fracturing of globalization is essential for navigating the evolving global economy. The course also explores how technological supremacy and the geopolitics of AI redefine competition, governance, and security in the digital age. Finally, it emphasizes how climate change and resource scarcity are creating new tensions and business challenges.

Engaging with these interconnected issues will equip students with vital insights and strategic foresight necessary for successful leadership in a rapidly changing world. Through short lecturer presentations and seminar discussion, students will actively address these issues.

2. Learning objectives

Knowledge and Understanding: Students ...
- Cultivate awareness of contemporary global issues and megatrends.

Applying Knowledge and Understanding: Students ...
- Develop awareness of the socio-political, economic and ethical dimensions inherent in tackling contemporary global issues.

Making Judgements: Students ...
- Analyze the interconnectedness of global issues and their implications on societies worldwide.
- Evaluate the drivers and consequences of each issue from multiple perspectives.

Communications Skills: Students ...
- Communicate orally and in writing taking the needs of target audiences into consideration.

Learning Skills: Students ...
- Foster interdisciplinary approaches to understanding and addressing complex global phenomena.
- Develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills necessary for addressing complex global challenges.

3. Prior knowledge and entry requirements

- Interest in global affairs, critical thinking skills, and openness to interdisciplinary perspectives are recommended.
- As this module requires participants to be able to discuss complex issues, a fluent level of English is recommended.

4. Course structure and dates

1. **The Rise of Authoritarianism & Populism** – Examining the resurgence of strongman leaders, democratic backsliding, and the impact of populist movements on global governance and stability.
2. **Geopolitical Competition and the New Cold War** – Analyzing U.S.-China tensions, the re-emergence of great power rivalries, and the role of regional actors like India, Russia, and the EU in shaping global order.
3. **The Fracturing of Globalization** – Investigating shifts toward economic nationalism, supply chain disruptions, decoupling from China, and the future of global trade and cooperation.
4. **The Fight for Technological Supremacy** – Assessing how competition between major powers shapes the fragmentation of the global technology landscape and what this means for international collaboration.
5. **Climate Change and Resource Competition** - Examine how climate change is creating new geopolitical tensions through resource scarcity, migration patterns, and the race for new energy technologies.
6. **The Geopolitics of AI and Digital Power** – Exploring how artificial intelligence is transforming economies, warfare, governance, and global influence. Topics could include AI-driven disinformation, digital authoritarianism, the role of AI in national security, and the ethical dilemmas of AI governance.

   Course time: Mondays, 17:15h – 18:45h

   Course dates: Sept (22/29), Oct (06/13/20/27), Nov (10/17/24), Dec (01/08/15)

The course will be delivered in Hybrid form. Students may attend onsite in Basel or online from anywhere in the world.

5. Assessment

☒ Assessment with (online)presentation, report, groupwork, test etc. during semester
Students work in small groups to create a short video exploring one of the core themes of the course. The video should include existing published materials re-edited with a commentary and reflections from the students.

6. Literature

All literature will be provided via an online platform

7. Grading

☐Pass-fail

☒According to swiss grading system (see below)

Mark	6.0	5.5	5.0	4.5	4.0	below 4
In words	excellent	very good	good	satisfactory	pass	fail