



# Ages of Globalization for Higher Education

## Syllabus Spring 2026

### 10 MODULES for the LIVE LECTURES

#### Module 1: THE 7 AGES OF GLOBALIZATION

Introduces the framework of seven historical ages shaped by geography, technology, and institutions, tracing humanity's journey from hunter-gatherers to the digital age.

- **Introduction to The Ages of Globalization**
  - 8 billion of us living in an interconnected world
  - Interconnected in many crucial ways: trade, finance, tourism, technology, climate
  - Huge challenges facing us today, especially young people
  - Sustainable Development is our goal
  - History helps us to understand how to achieve our goals
- **The Seven Ages of Globalization**
  - Why seven ages?
  - The drivers of change: environment, technology, and institutions
  - From Homo Erectus to 8 billion of us
  - From hunting and gathering to urban life
  - Seven Ages: Paleolithic, Neolithic, Equestrian, Classical, Ocean, Industrial, Digital

#### Module 2: GEOGRAPHY

Explores how climate, topography, rivers, trade routes, and disease patterns have influenced economies, societies, and global interconnection.

- **The Environment as Home and Shaper of Economy**
  - Climate zones and economy
  - Topography
  - River systems
  - Trade Routes
  - Disease patterns and environment



### **Module 3: TECHNOLOGY**

Examines the role of innovation – from tools and infrastructure to industrialization and digital technologies – in driving transformation across all seven ages.

- **2 million Years of Technological Advancement**
  - Types of technology
  - Technological change
  - Innovation through all seven ages
  - Empire: Infrastructure
  - Ocean Age and Industrialization
  - Digital

### **Module 4: INSTITUTIONS**

Looks at the evolution of social, political, economic, and religious institutions, and their role in shaping how humans live and interact.

- **Institutions and How We Live**
  - Human beings as “social animals”
  - Politics
  - Property and Economy
  - Religion, Culture, Ethics
  - International Relations

### **Module 5: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT & SDGs**

Connects today’s urgent challenges – poverty, inequality, and division on a crowded planet – to the global vision of peace, prosperity, and sustainability.

- **Our Great Challenges Today**
  - 8 billion people on a crowded planet
  - Poverty in the midst of plenty
  - A deeply unequal & divided world
  - The complexities of modern life
  - Finding Peace & Cooperation in a deeply divided world



## **Module 6: THE RISE OF EMPIRES IN THE ANCIENT WORLD**

Traces the emergence of great empires across Asia, Europe, and the Middle East, highlighting their contributions to culture, governance, and exchange.

- **The Equestrian Age: 3,000 – 1,000 BCE**
  - The Ancient Steppes – Uzbekistan
- **The Classical Age – West: 1,000 BCE – 1,500 CE**
  - The Golden Age of Athens – Greece
  - The Macedonians, Alexander the Great at Mieza – Greece
  - The Macedonians, Alexander the Great the King – Greece
  - The Roman Forum – Italy
  - The Mongols – The Registan – Uzbekistan
- **The Classical Age – East: 1,000 – 1,500 CE**
  - The Great Wall of China
- **The Emergence of Islam: 620 CE**
  - The Umayyad Empire – Spain

## **Module 7: THE RISE OF WESTERN POWER AFTER 1500**

Explores the birth of global empires, colonial expansion, and the institutions that consolidated Western dominance.

- **The Birth of Global Empires**
  - The Escorial – Spain
  - The Chapel of Santa Maria Antigua – Spain
  - Palacio Rio Branco – Brazil
- **Competition Among European Empires**
  - London – England
  - Blenheim Palace – England
  - Bank of England – England
  - Versailles – France
  - Hofburg Palace – Austria
- **The Rise of the US to Global Predominance**
  - Independence Hall, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, United States



## **Module 8: FROM WESTERN DOMINANCE TO MULTIPOLARITY (POST-1950)**

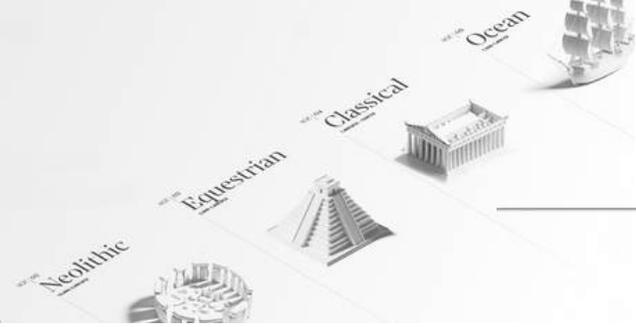
Examines the shifts since 1950 – from decolonization to the rise of new powers – toward a more multipolar world order.

- **The Post-Colonial World (Post-1950)**
  - The Ancient Steppes – Uzbekistan
  - Century of Humiliation and the birth of the PRC – China
  - End of Colonial Rule – India
  - Crossroads of the East-West, North-South – Turkey
  - Multi-Cultural – Brazil

## **Module 9: THE SUSTAINABILITY IMPERATIVE**

Focuses on today's environmental crossroads, addressing climate change, biodiversity loss, circular economy, and pathways to 2050.

- **Climate Change**
  - Great Challenges: Saving the Environment
  - The Great Rainforests – Brazil
- **Pathways to 2050**
- **The Future of Work, Technology, Living Patterns, and Politics**
  - Demographic Change
  - Automation, Artificial Intelligence
  - Two Paths: Utopia or Dystopia
  - Urban Life: Time Allocation
  - Care economy
- **The World in 2050: Building the Future We Want**
  - How to Achieve Sustainable Development
  - Choosing Peace over War
  - Global Ethics
  - Harnessing the Digital Age
  - The Leadership of Young People



## Module 10: THE NEW MULTILATERALISM

Considers how international institutions and global ethics can guide cooperation for peace, justice, and sustainable development in the decades ahead.

- The United Nations: UN Charter, Universal Declaration of Human Rights and Sustainable Development Goals, New York, USA
- The World Bank and International Monetary Fund, Washington DC
- Global Ethics: Ancient Wisdom for Modern Challenges (philosophers)



Find out more



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[agesofglobalization.highered@gmail.com](mailto:agesofglobalization.highered@gmail.com)



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