

**17.918**

**New Global Agenda:  
Exploring 21st Century Challenges through  
Innovations in Information Technologies**

**SYLLABUS**

**INSTRUCTOR:**

Prof. Nazli Choucri

**COURSE MEETING TIMES**

Lectures: 3-Week Workshop: 2-3 sessions / week, 3 hours / session

**PURPOSE**

This workshop is designed to introduce students to different perspectives on international politics in the 21st century. Students will explore how advances in information technology are changing international relations and global governance through opening new channels of communication, creating new methods of education, and new potentials for democratization. We will consider the positive and negative externalities associated with applications of such technologies. Students will be encouraged to look at alternative futures, and/or to frame solutions to problems that they define. The class will include guest lectures, discussions, and a final project and presentation.

**REQUIREMENTS**

Students are expected to come to all classes, participate, and complete all assignments. Students will be expected to cite works used and referenced in their work. If you do work with other students, please include their names.

## GRADING

Grading is based on two course assignments and a final project. Each represents one third of a student's course grade.

## CALENDAR

LEC #	TOPICS	KEY DATES
<b>Week 1: Introducing Technology in International Relations</b>		
	<i>Introductory Session and Trade-Networking Presentation</i>	
1	Focus: Course overview. We will also discuss how countries are becoming more economically intertwined and what such interconnectedness might mean for international relations.	
	<i>Examples of Technology Advances</i>	
2	Focus: We will discuss recent technology advances and how they may due affect international relations and policies.	Assignment 1
	<i>Global Agenda! Simulation</i>	
3	Focus: We will discuss the development of a computer simulation designed to teach students about international relations. We will also brainstorm international relations technology and policy issues and discuss the final project.	
<b>Week 2: Technology in Government, and Vice Versa</b>		
	<i>Governing the Internet</i>	
4	Focus: In the previous class we discuss how technology affects governments; in this class we talk about how governance structures should be formed to regulate technology. We will specifically discuss how one developing technology, the Internet, should be regulated.	Assignment 2 due
	<i>Technology for Government Accountability: Dangers and Opportunities</i>	
5	Focus: We will discuss how advances in IT are changing government structures and its implications for international relations.	
	<i>System Dynamics and International Relations</i>	
6	Focus: We have discussed how interconnected the world is becoming. System dynamics can be a useful way for capturing the complexities of such changing international relations. Travis Franck will present the latest World-3 Model, a policy analysis tool that allows for simulation of alternative futures.	

LEC #	TOPICS	KEY DATES
<b>Week 3: Wrap-Up</b>		
<i>Knowledge and Information for Sustainable Development</i>		
7	Focus: Presentation and available opportunities through the Global System for Sustainable Development.	
8	Presentations for Assignment 3	Final project due