



## IB Global Politics Summer Work 2026

---



Ms. Mobbs

[mobbsk@futlonschools.org](mailto:mobbsk@futlonschools.org)

Feel free to email me over the summer with any questions! Please note I will be out of the country from June 1<sup>st</sup>-June 20<sup>th</sup>. You can reach out but expect slow communication over the summer in general and even slower communication when I am in a different time zone!

### **Course Overview:**

“Global politics is a course for students who want to understand more about how the world they live in works, what makes it change, or what prevents it from changing. The course draws on a variety of disciplinary traditions in the study of politics and international relations, and more broadly in the social sciences and humanities. Students build their knowledge and understanding by critically engaging with contemporary political issues and challenges that interest them.

The scope of global politics extends over a wide range of topics and areas of study, many of which will find links with other subjects in the individuals and societies group. Students develop their understanding of political concepts and their knowledge of specific content by exploring and researching real-world case studies and examples.

Developing an understanding of power is critical for analyzing how political systems work and how they change. Global politics students encounter the complexity and nuances of power from the beginning of the course. They build their understanding of how power works across multiple and interconnected dimensions, affecting the everyday lives of people around the world.”

### **Required Summer Tasks:**

**Task one: Email me a brief introduction by July 31st! Make the email subject: “[Your Name] Introduction”**

**It should include the following:**

- a. The name you go by & the grade level you will be in in August of 2026
- b. Describe yourself as a learner and a student! Give me an overview of things I may need to know to more holistically understand you as a participant in this course. Include one thing/trait about you that you like about yourself, or you think adds value to the learning environment! Include one thing you want to work on as a student in the upcoming year.

- c. Tell me why you chose to take IB Global Politics and what you're looking forward to this year! Feel free to include types of assignments and activities you'd like to see throughout the course (no promises obviously but I'm willing to take suggestions).

### **Task two: Perspectives on Power\***

We will be thoroughly discussing and investigating the concept of "power" throughout the course.

Power, as described in the IB Global Politics Guide: Power is a central concept in the study of global politics and a key focus of the course. Power can be seen as an ability to effect change. Rather than being viewed as a unitary or independent force, it can also be seen as an aspect of relations among people functioning within a social organization. Contested relationships between people and groups of people dominate politics, particularly in this era of increased globalization. Understanding the dynamics of power therefore plays a central role in understanding global politics.

It is important to understand that the concept of power is widely debated and there are various approaches to its understanding. **In no less than 400 words**, research the perspective on power of two of the authors below.

Authors to consider: Hannah Arendt, Michel Foucault, Antonio Gramsci, Bell Hooks, Eric Liu, Steven Lukes, John Mearsheimer, Walter Mignolo, Joseph Nye, Hannah Pitkin, Yaqing Qin.

In your write-up, which should be written as paragraphs, you should compare the theories of two of the authors. To do this properly, be sure to include each individual author's perspective on power and highlight the differences and similarities between the theories of both authors. For full credit, include critiques of both authors. You will have to do your own research here and you should have your sources listed. I don't care if you do it in a specific formatting (don't get used to that) but, at the very least, you should provide your sources as links. Start with Google Scholar if you're struggling! For the purposes of this assignment, you could also use more unconventional sources like YouTube videos (but vet them!! Please!!! I'm just trying to be nice and not make you read tons of theory)

**Email me a document with your write-up by July 31<sup>st</sup>** and be prepared to submit it to our course's Canvas page once you have access. This will be your first minor grade of the year.

### **Task three: Ongoing Political Issues Mini-Presentation\***

It is my goal that we would immediately get used to learning in a collaborative environment in which everyone is comfortable with sharing their voice. Therefore, we will start the year off strong with short presentations!

**You will turn in your presentation by August 4<sup>th</sup> at 11:59 PM.** Your presentation should be about 5-7 slides. It should be neat and pleasing to the eye. Feel free to use PowerPoint or Canva. Critically, any text on the slides should be transferred over to a document and uploaded to our Canvas page as a separate item. This is for ease in scanning for both plagiarism and AI so do ensure that the text is the same!

- a. Pick an ongoing global political issue occurring in the world. It should not be occurring within the United States, but it is okay if the United States is an actor or a stakeholder.
- b. Provide a summary of the event in your own words!
- c. Choose two articles covering your event and analyze them! For each article, explain the central argument and do your best to analyze any bias that is present in either of the articles. Some good ways to analyze news articles:
  - Identify the primary sources of information used in the article. Are these sources credible and diverse?
  - Discuss any potential biases or perspectives presented in the article.
  - Analyze the tone and language used in the article. How does it shape the reader's understanding of the event?
  - Evaluate the visual elements (images, infographics, etc.) accompanying the article. How do they contribute to the narrative?
- d. Relate your event to one of the key concepts of the IB Global Politics course (listed below). They are listed below. In your presentation, explain this concept in your own words and explain how your event connects to the theme.
- e. Be sure to include any sources you use as links on the final slide of the presentation.

We will begin presentations within the first week of school!

|             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|-------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Power       | Power is a central concept in the study of global politics and a key focus of the course. Power can be seen as an ability to effect change. Rather than being viewed as a unitary or independent force, it can also be seen as an aspect of relations among people functioning within a social organization. Contested relationships between people and groups of people dominate politics, particularly in this era of increased globalization. Understanding the dynamics of power therefore plays a central role in understanding global politics. |
| Sovereignty | Sovereignty characterizes a state's independence, its control over territory and its ability to govern itself. How states use their sovereign power is at the centre of many important issues in global politics. Some theorists argue that sovereign power is                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |

|                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|-----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                 | <p>increasingly being eroded by aspects of globalization such as borderless communication and trade, which states cannot fully control. Others argue that sovereign states exercise a great deal of power when acting in their national interest, and that this is unlikely to change.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Legitimacy      | <p>Legitimacy refers to an actor or an action that is commonly considered acceptable to a population. It provides the fundamental rationale for all forms of governance and other ways of exercising power. The most accepted contemporary form of state legitimacy is some form of democracy or constitutionalism, whereby the governed have a defined and periodic opportunity to choose who governs and exercises power. In states where this is not the norm, other sources of legitimacy might be expressed, such as hereditary or traditional leadership. Within any proposed framework of legitimacy, individual actions by a state can be considered legitimate to a greater or lesser extent. Other actors in global politics, and their behaviour, can also be evaluated from the perspective of legitimacy. Evaluation can be based on the acceptance or recognition these actors are given by others in exercising certain roles or taking specific decisions.</p> |
| Interdependence | <p>In global politics, the concept of interdependence most often refers to the mutual reliance between and among groups, organizations, geographic areas and/or states on access to resources that sustain living arrangements. Often, this mutual reliance is economic (e.g. trade), but it can also have a security dimension (e.g. defence arrangements) and, increasingly, a sustainability dimension (e.g. environmental treaties). Globalization has increased interdependence, while often changing the power relationships among and between global political actors.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |

### **\*Notes on Plagiarism, AI, and Work Ethic**

When you receive your syllabus for the course, you will find that there is never a condoned use of AI in this course. Any potential use you present to me will be met with a rejection. I would always prefer you to give me work that is your own, even if it is imperfect, over receiving what the machine wrote. Why would I care at all what the machine has to say about global politics? I care about what YOU have to say and what YOU think as a real, living person connected to the world around you. I do not condone any use of AI in any part of your summer work. Any work that TurnItIn deems to be over 30% AI will be flagged as cheating and the cheating protocol outlined in the syllabus will be followed. If you're worried about being falsely accused, document your process. Work on the same document so there are time stamps and, above all else, write in a tone of voice that sounds like YOU. Be careful not to plagiarize when you are reviewing the sources for your perspectives on power! Be sure to CITE all sources used for each task in your summer work.

I'm really looking forward to getting to know you all!!! (or having you again) I hope you have wonderful summers. As I said before, reach out with any questions. If you get confused or struggle, just try! Above all else, I value effort and the willingness to try to figure things out.

See you soon!