In this course we look at twelve selected global problems that human society faces in the 21st century. The process of globalization since the late 20th century has brought about many benefits for societies across the planet ranging from those of major importance, like the spread of democratic norms and institutions to former dictatorships, to the more trivial, like the ability to buy Kit Kats pretty much anywhere in the world you go. It has also gone hand in hand, however, with the spread of problems of a global scale which pose significant threats to the viability of the very globalized civilization humanity seems to be aspiring to create. Whether this globalized world survives the 21st century in large part depends on our collective ability to confront and deal with these problems. The main aims of the course are 1) to familiarize students with each of the problems faced, 2) to understand potential solutions to them from a variety of disciplines (legal, political, economic and technological) exist, and 3) to understand what hurdles international society faces in attempting to implement the varying solutions which are potentially available. The course is cross-disciplinary, and relies on literature from the fields of law, politics, economics and others.

**Course Prerequisites**

None.

**Course Contents**

Week 1. Introduction
Week 2. Income and Wealth Inequality
Week 3. Urbanization
Week 4. Demographics and overpopulation
Week 5. Refugees
Week 6. Artificial Intelligence
Week 7. Risks to Global Financial System
Week 8. Risks to Global Trade
Week 9. Loss of Biodiversity
Week 10. Threats to our food system
Week 11. Resource depletion
Week 12. Plastic pollution
Week 13. Climate Change
Week 14. TBA
Week 15. Review

**Evaluation methods**

50% Term Paper
50% Final Exam

**Notice for students**

Textbook None. Reading materials will be distributed in class.

Reference Book None.