This course is a tour d’horizon of recent work in international relations dealing with global governance and the problem of war. Global governance is the catchphrase de jour. It is meant to encompass more than classical descriptions of system structure (hegemonic, bipolar), more than the field of international organization, and to include current concerns about the ways in which order will be maintained in various areas of world politics. The phrase captures the sense that there is governance at the global stage even though it differs from domestic government. The core question of global governance remains that of peace and war.

Each week we will discuss, in depth, one book. We will talk about where the book fits in the field, where it attempts to take the field, we will assess the logic of the argument, the nature of the empirical work, its implications, etc. The books vary on a variety of dimensions. They evince a variety of methods and orientations. There are books by senior scholars and there are revised dissertations. There are books by IR scholars, but also a relevant work by an economic historian. There are works in international political economy and security as well as ones focused on ethnic conflict and nationalism.

Requirements: Course attendance, reading, research paper, and perhaps an in-class presentation