**Mini Course –** **Reading Seminar in International Relations Theory:**

**Power and Transnational Relations**

**Instructor: Petar Popović, PhD., associate professor (petar.popovic@fpzg.hr)**

**Course description:**

In contemporary international relations, states use various strategies within global governance institutions to advance their power and interests. Moving away from the traditional military-diplomatic complex, states exert influence through international organizations, free trade agreements, and various other accords, shaping the international order in their favor. In other words, the concept of political power intertwines with the interplay of state interests and interdependence, meaning the strategic use of economic, technological, and political globalization as tools to coerce or compel rivals. At the same time, states challenge prevailing norms, values, and rules by constructing parallel multilateral structures. Together, these phenomena illustrate the complex dynamics of the struggle for power in a globalized world, going beyond the dominant realist paradigm, which views the material capabilities of a state as the decisive factor in shaping international political relations. The aim of the course is to introduce students to the transnational dimension of political power from the perspective of institutionalist theories and globalization theories, to raise awareness of the realities of diffuse power, the complex relationship between the private and public spheres, "contested" multilateralism, and "weaponized" interdependence.

**Mode of work and student obligations:**

Reading assigned literature for each class meeting, group presentations (2-3 students), participation in discussions. The final grade is based on these elements.

The mini course will be held in English on the following dates: 11.12, 18.12, 8.1, 15.1, 22.1, 29.1, and 5.2, from 17:15 to 18:45.