

Ethics and Global Governance

UGRA_013009

Departments	Department of International, European Union and Comparative Law
Teaching Languages	English
ECTS	3
Teacher responsible	Rigau Tusell Ignacio - ignacio.rigau@esade.edu

Course Goals

The learning objectives for a course on ethics and international relations:

1. Understand ethical theories: Develop a thorough understanding of major ethical theories and frameworks, such as utilitarianism, deontology, virtue ethics, and relativism, and their application to international relations.
2. Analyze ethical dimensions of global issues: Analyze the ethical implications of key global issues, including human rights, humanitarian intervention, global poverty, environmental sustainability, and international trade.
3. Evaluate international policies: Critically evaluate international policies and actions from an ethical perspective, considering the consequences, moral principles, and values involved.
4. Develop ethical reasoning skills: Enhance ethical reasoning and decision-making skills by applying ethical theories to real-world scenarios in international relations.
5. Explore cultural and moral diversity: Explore the impact of cultural and moral diversity on international relations, recognizing and respecting differing ethical perspectives and practices around the world.
6. Engage in ethical debates: Engage in informed and respectful debates on contentious ethical issues in international relations, developing the ability to present and defend ethical arguments effectively.
7. Assess case studies: Assess historical and contemporary case studies in international relations to identify and discuss the ethical challenges and dilemmas faced by policymakers and international actors.
8. Promote global justice: Explore concepts of global justice and their implications for international relations, including issues of equity, fairness, and the distribution of resources and opportunities.
9. Develop ethical leadership: Cultivate ethical leadership skills and an understanding of the importance of ethics in leadership roles within the context of international relations.

These objectives aim to equip students with the knowledge and skills necessary to navigate and address the ethical complexities and challenges inherent in the field of international relations.

Prior knowledge

No previous knowledge is needed to enroll in this course, beyond a general understanding of international issues and a basic grasp of current global events. These objectives aim to equip students with the knowledge and skills necessary to navigate and address the ethical complexities and challenges inherent in the field of international relations.

Prerequisites

There are no strict prerequisites for enrolling in the course on ethics and international relations. However, it is recommended that students have:

1. General Knowledge: A basic understanding of international issues and current global events.
2. Interest in Global Affairs: A keen interest in global politics, international relations, and ethical questions.

This background will help students engage more deeply with the course material and participate effectively in discussions and debates.

Teaching methodology

The evaluation methodology for this course is designed to assess students' understanding and application of ethical theories to international relations, as well as their ability to engage critically with relevant global issues. The evaluation components are as follows:

1. Weekly Assessments:

- Brief Tests or Written Assignments: Each session will explore a relevant topic in international relations through a philosophical lens. After each session, students will complete either a brief test or a written assignment related to the topic discussed. These assessments will test their comprehension and critical thinking skills.
- Purpose: To ensure continuous engagement with the material and to reinforce learning on a regular basis.

2. Research Project:

- Philosophical Question Assignment: During the course, students will be assigned a specific philosophical question related to ethics and international relations. They will be required to conduct in-depth research, develop well-reasoned answers, and present their findings in a written report.
- Purpose: To develop students' research skills, their ability to apply philosophical theories to real-world issues, and their capacity to formulate and articulate coherent arguments.

3. Final Exam:

- Conversational Examination: At the beginning of the course, students will be provided with three cultural materials (a movie, an article, and a book). The final exam will be a conversational evaluation where students discuss and analyze these materials in relation to the course content.
- Purpose: To assess students' ability to synthesize information from various sources, apply ethical theories to diverse cultural materials, and engage in thoughtful dialogue.

Summary of Evaluation Components:

1. Weekly Assessments (Tests/Written Assignments)
2. Research Project (Philosophical Question)
3. Final Exam (Conversational Analysis of Cultural Materials)

This comprehensive evaluation methodology ensures that students are assessed on a continuous basis, allowing them to demonstrate their knowledge, critical thinking, research skills, and ability to engage with complex ethical issues in international relations.

Description

Course contribution to program

The "Ethics and International Relations" course significantly enhances the Global Governance degree program by:

1. Developing ethical reasoning: Teaches students to apply ethical principles to global issues, aiding in sound decision-making.
2. Enhancing critical thinking: Improves students' ability to analyze and evaluate international policies.
3. Understanding global issues: Provides a comprehensive understanding of key global challenges like human rights and environmental sustainability.
4. Improving communication skills: Strengthens the ability to clearly and persuasively articulate complex ideas.
5. Promoting cultural sensitivity: Encourages respect and understanding of diverse ethical perspectives.
6. Fostering ethical leadership: Prepares students for leadership roles that require integrity and ethical considerations.
7. Enhancing research skills: Develops students' ability to conduct thorough and effective research.
8. Encouraging active engagement: Engages students with contemporary global issues and ethical debates.

Overall, this course equips students with the ethical framework, analytical skills, and leadership abilities necessary for effective global governance.

Short description

This course delves into the ethical dimensions of international relations, examining key global issues through a philosophical lens. Students will explore various ethical theories and apply them to real-world scenarios, enhancing their ability to navigate complex global governance challenges.

Program Learning Objectives

GEL23-Bachelor of Global Governance,

- Self-Development
 - Develop the capacity for critical analysis coherent with ethical and deontological conceptions.
- Lawyering skills and knowledge
 - Integrate legal reasoning in the field of international relations, in the context of the application of international law.

Economics and Legal Order

Activities

In-class discussions and debates

Written and/or oral exams

Quizzes/tests

Essays

Content

#	Topic
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	

Assessment

Tool	Assessment tool	Category	Weight %
In-class analysis and discussion of issues		Ordinary round	10.00%
Written and/or oral exams	Students will take a partial exam in which they must answer a philosophical question and a final exam in which the materials and content offered in class will be discussed.	Ordinary round	45.00%
Quizzes/tests	At the beginning of each session, students will take a short test on the content of the previous session.	Ordinary round	30.00%
Final individual project	Students must write an essay on one of the topics covered in class.	Ordinary round	15.00%

PROGRAMS

GEL19-Bachelor of Global Governance, Economics and Legal Order (Undergraduates: Law)
GEL19 Year 3 (Mandatory)

GEL23-Bachelor of Global Governance, Economics and Legal Order (Undergraduates: Law)
GEL23 Year 2 (Mandatory)