TEACHING GUIDE - 2026-2027

Institutions & Decision-Making

UGRA_005206

Departments	Department of International, European Union and Comparative Law, Department of Society, Politics and Sustainability, Global Governance
Teaching Languages	English
ECTS	4
Teacher responsible	Perisa Raznatovic - peko.raznatovic@esade.edu

Course Goals

This course explores the dynamics of decision-making across a number of important areas of world politics. Today, the international arena comprises not only states with diverse political systems, but also international organizations (formal and informal), non-state actors and multistakeholder initiatives. These confront unique economic, social and environmental challenges, but also interact with and affect one another due to globalization. States strive to reap the benefits of interdependence – not only through cooperation but also through coercive practices – and to protect themselves against its downsides. These processes are sometimes promoted or mediated by regional economic integration organisations, such as the European Union and ASEAN, as well as by more widely encompassing institutions such as the World Trade Organization and the World Health Organization. In this class, we will unpack these dynamics theoretically and empirically, observing how domestic and international institutions jointly shape the efforts to advance public interests and address global problems.

Prerequisits

This course is designed as an introductory level course and does not require any prior knowledge or background in politics or international relations. It is open to students from various disciplines and academic backgrounds. It is recommended that students have a genuine interest in politics, international relations, and global affairs. This course will explore various political systems, ideologies, institutions, and international actors. A curiosity and passion for understanding political phenomena will enhance the learning experience. While not a strict prerequisite, having a general understanding of current global events will greatly benefit students in this course. The ability to connect theoretical concepts and frameworks to real-world examples and contemporary issues will deepen the understanding of politics and international relations.

Teaching

Most sessions will consist of a lecture combined with a more participatory segment where students will be given a range of tasks to perform in order to

methodology

consolidate their understanding of the course content, including discussions and exercises. In addition, students will be asked to do several readings and carry out some exercises at home, as well as deliver presentations in class and sit for a final exam. Active participation will be encouraged and indeed expected throughout all sessions.

Description

Course contribution to program

The course introduces the complex interplay between national, transnational and international actors, with particular attention paid to important organisations and issue areas like economy and development, environment and human rights. After completing the course, students should have a comprehensive understanding of how decisions are made by individual states and collectively within major international organisations and agreements, with an economic focus and beyond. They should also understand the ways in which these institutions shape and are shaped by actions that states pursue domestically. Participants will gain knowledge of key theories and concepts which are useful to explain the operation and importance of governance institutions, as well as critical insights on their functioning and purpose. Transferrable skills, such as report writing, oral presentation, and teamwork, will also be developed.

Program Learning Objectives

GEL23-Bachelor of Global Governance, Economics and Legal Order

- General Management Skills
  - Recognise the economic, legal and social concepts that define the context of different stakeholders in the context of international relations and global governance.
- Systemic and Strategic Thinking
  - Apply tools, frameworks, and perspectives in an integrative way to analyze the interrelations between different actors in the global context.
- Teamwork
  - Deliver work that contributes to the team's goal.

GEL25-Bachelor of Global Governance, Economics and Legal Order

- General Management Skills
  - Recognise the economic, legal and social concepts that define the context of different stakeholders in the context of international relations and global governance.
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- Teamwork
  - Deliver work that contributes to the team's goal.

Activities

In-class discussions and debates

Analytical exercises

Written and/or oral exams

Role-play exercises and simulations

Teamwork

Group presentations

Readings

Case study analyses

Content

#	Topic
1	Part I: Global Governance Part I of the course serves as an introduction to the fundamental concepts of governance, national sovereignty, and the role of global institutions. It will explore the complex international arena, which includes not only states but also various international organizations and non-state actors. The section will likely address how these entities interact and affect one another in the context of globalization. The dynamics of cooperation and coercion between states to gain the benefits of interdependence will also be a focus
2	Part II: Theory of international and national decision-making This section delves into the theoretical frameworks that explain decision-making on both international and national levels. The curriculum will cover four main theories: Realism, Liberalism, Constructivism, and Conflict Theories. The course aims to unpack the dynamics of global politics theoretically, providing students with the conceptual tools to understand how institutions shape outcomes. Students will be expected to connect these theoretical concepts to real-world examples and contemporary issues.
3	Part III: Practice of international and national decision-making Part III shifts the focus to the practical application of decision-making in various key areas of world politics. The course will examine specific case studies and issues within international security, international law, and the international economy. Additionally, it will address contemporary global challenges, including environmental issues and humanitarian crises. This section will allow students to apply theoretical knowledge to practical, real-world scenarios and problems.

Assessment

Tool	Assessment tool	Category	Weight %
Group project	Group Position Paper -	Ordinary round	20.00%

Tool	Assessment tool	Category	Weight %
	Decision Making Simulation Memo		
In-class analysis and discussion of issues	Participation and attendance. Students must attend at least 80% of all sessions in order to qualify for a first exam sitting; the minimum attendance in order to qualify for a re-sit exam is 50%. Justified absences are excluded.	Ordinary round	20.00%
Quizzes/tests	Weekly Quizzes	Ordinary round	30.00%
Written and/or oral exams	Final exam (minimum grade to pass the course: 5).	Ordinary round	30.00%

PROGRAMS

GBL24-Double Degree in Business Administration and Global Governance, Economics and Legal Order (Undergraduates: Business)

GBL24 Year 1 (Basic)

GBL25-Double Degree in Business Administration and Global Governance, Economics and Legal Order (Undergraduates: Business)

GBL25 Year 2 (Mandatory)

GDL23-Double Degree in Law and Global Governance, Economics and Legal Order (Undergraduates: Law)

GDL23 Year 1 (Basic)

GDL25-Double Degree in Law and Global Governance, Economics and Legal Order (Undergraduates: Law)

GDL25 Year 1 (Mandatory)

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

GEL23 Year 1 (Basic)

GEL25-Bachelor of Global Governance, Economics and Legal Order (Undergraduates: Law)

GEL25 Year 1 (Mandatory)