TEACHING GUIDE - 2026-2027

Political and Economic Dynamics at Borders: the case of the USA and Mexico

UGRA_014476

Departments	Department of Society, Politics and Sustainability
Teaching Languages	English
ECTS	2
Teacher responsible	Nicolas Pierre Foucras - nicolaspierre.foucras@esade.edu

Teaching methodology

The material will be given online as the teacher is located in the border area between the United States and Mexico. Content will be based on a mix of lectures and student participation through team research activities on specific topics.

Description

Short description

The objective of this elective is to be able to analyse the relations between Mexico and the United States with a special emphasis on border dynamics. As a result of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA or USMCA), the social, cultural, political and economic dynamics in the North of Mexico have been consolidating and deepening

Today this region (1) has become key to understand the competitiveness of US value chains (2) both sides are intertwined and the region has developed its own dynamics in which a multitude of actors are involved (political, economic, cultural, criminal and the citizens)

The content will address all perspectives linked to the border between the two countries: political, social, economic and cultural.
At the end of the course, the student will be able to understand the complexity of this region that over the last decades has been attracting many of the most relevant actors of globalization

Activities

Teamwork
Evaluation criteria consider 3 variables:

1.Oral presentations (40%). Each group of students will have to prepare and present 2 mini-oral presentations of 15/20 minutes based on literature as well as on reflection. The topics of these presentations are:

Content

#	Topic
1	Context of relationships: Mexico's opening process and NAFTA/USMCA
2	The multi-dimensional characteristics of the border
3	The changing dynamics in the border area and the impact of deepening economic integration between the two countries
4	Socio-cultural aspects as well as the migration issue in the border zone

Assessment

Tool	Assessment tool	Category	Weight %
Group project	First oral presentation: Each group of students will have to prepare and present an oral presentations about the major challenges of the Mexico-US relationship and the impact on the border area	Ordinary round	20.00%
Group project	Second oral presentation: Each group of students will have to prepare and present an oral presentations about the main characteristics we are observing on the border in specific aspects	Ordinary round	20.00%
Group project	Final research: Each group of students will have to carry out a research work based on a subject chosen by the group and accepted by the professor	Ordinary round	50.00%
Participation in program activities	Participation	Ordinary round	10.00%

PROGRAMS

ENGAL25-ENGAGE.EU (Undergraduates: Law)
- ENGAL25 Year 1 (Optative)

GBD20-Double Degree in Business Administration and Law (Undergraduates: Law)
- GBD20 Year 3 (Optative)
- GBD20 Year 1 (Optative)
- GBD20 Year 4 (Optative)
- GBD20 Year 2 (Optative)
- GBD20 Year 5 (Optative)

GBD23-Double Degree in Business Administration and Law (Undergraduates: Law)
- GBD23 Year 3 (Optative)
- GBD23 Year 1 (Optative)
- GBD23 Year 4 (Optative)
- GBD23 Year 2 (Optative)
- GBD23 Year 5 (Optative)

GBD25-Double Degree in Business Administration and Law (Undergraduates: Law)
- GBD25 Year 3 (Optative)
- GBD25 Year 1 (Optative)
- GBD25 Year 4 (Optative)
- GBD25 Year 2 (Optative)
- GBD25 Year 5 (Optative)

GBL24-Double Degree in Business Administration and Global Governance, Economics and Legal Order (Undergraduates: Business)
- GBL24 Year 2 (Optative)
- GBL24 Year 1 (Optative)

GDL20-Double Degree in Law and Global Governance, Economics and Legal Order (Undergraduates: Law)
- GDL20 Year 3 (Optative)
- GDL20 Year 1 (Optative)
- GDL20 Year 4 (Optative)
- GDL20 Year 2 (Optative)
- GDL20 Year 5 (Optative)

GDL23-Double Degree in Law and Global Governance, Economics and Legal Order (Undergraduates: Law)
- GDL23 Year 5 (Optative)
- GDL23 Year 3 (Optative)
- GDL23 Year 1 (Optative)
- GDL23 Year 4 (Optative)
- GDL23 Year 2 (Optative)

GDL25-Double Degree in Law and Global Governance, Economics and Legal Order (Undergraduates: Law)
- GDL25 Year 5 (Optative)
- GDL25 Year 3 (Optative)
- GDL25 Year 1 (Optative)
- GDL25 Year 4 (Optative)
- GDL25 Year 2 (Optative)

GED20-Bachelor in Law (Undergraduates: Law)
- GED20 Year 2 (Optative)

GED20 Year 3 (Optative)

GED20 Year 1 (Optative)

GED20 Year 4 (Optative)

GED25-Bachelor in Law (Undergraduates: Law)

GED25 Year 3 (Optative)

GED25 Year 1 (Optative)

GED25 Year 4 (Optative)

GED25 Year 2 (Optative)

GEL19-Bachelor in Global Governance, Economics and Legal Order (Undergraduates: Law)

GEL19 Year 3 (Optative)

GEL19 Year 1 (Optative)

GEL19 Year 4 (Optative)

GEL19 Year 2 (Optative)

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

GEL23 Year 1 (Optative)

GEL23 Year 4 (Optative)

GEL23 Year 2 (Optative)

GEL23 Year 3 (Optative)

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

GEL25 Year 1 (Optative)

GEL25 Year 4 (Optative)

GEL25 Year 2 (Optative)

GEL25 Year 3 (Optative)