



TEACHING GUIDE - 2026-2027

Innovation for a better world

UGRA_017243

Departments	Data, Analytics, Technology and Artificial Intelligence (DATA)
Teaching Languages	English
ECTS	5
Teacher responsible	Angelo Romasanta Soleta - angelokenneth.romasanta@esade.edu

Course Goals

This course will prepare students to navigate the complex and rapidly evolving landscape of innovation in the global context and equip them with the skills needed to drive and manage innovation:

- To understand the different models, types and processes in innovation
- To understand how to manage innovation in a company, in a nonprofit and in government
- To analyze the ethical and policy implications of various innovations
- To evaluate the potential of innovations in pursuing the sustainable development goals
- To develop critical thinking skills in assessing the impact of innovations on society
- To cultivate interdisciplinary perspectives on the challenges of bringing innovation to the global stage
- To design innovative solutions to global challenges, informed by AI technologies

Teaching methodology

We aim to make the class engaging and relevant by fostering participation from the students and ensuring that they apply the lessons in innovation to real-world problems. The classes will include lectures, case studies, and guest speakers. Due to the increased prevalence of AI, the class will be conducted with the assistance of generative AI tools. Students will have to work in groups for their final project that will involve aiming to create real-world impact to a partner organization.

Description

Course contribution to program

ChatGPT, SpaceX and Lab-grown meats - We are living in times of abundant innovation but how can we manage innovation for the good? This course serves as an Introduction to Innovation Management for global governance, economics and legal order students who want to understand the role of innovation in shaping the future of society. The course will explore the entire innovation

process: planning, designing, prototyping, evaluation and diffusion. Students will use these insights to understand how to effectively manage innovation in different settings: large corporations, startups, government and nonprofits. The course will explore how innovation can be leveraged to address grand societal challenges including sustainable development, climate change and poverty alleviation. Through case studies, interactive discussions, and guest lectures from experts in the field, students will gain a comprehensive understanding of the challenges and opportunities presented by innovation in the global context.

Short description

How do we innovate to create the world a better place? This course serves as an Introduction to Innovation Management for students who want to understand the role of innovation in shaping the future of society. The course will explore the entire innovation process: planning, designing, prototyping, evaluation and diffusion. Students will learn different frameworks to make sense of the different scientific and technological advances around them. By the end of the course, students will have made a technology solution that could hopefully create real-world impact to a partner organization.

Bibliography

William MacAskill, Doing Good Better, Random House (Book)

Activities

In-class discussions and debates
Ethical debates about new technologies

Role-play exercises and simulations
Games and competitions to understand innovation dynamics

Group presentations
Deep dive in to real world problems

Prototype design
Creating a technology solution to address a real-world problem

Case study analyses
Cases of successful and failed innovations

Content

#	Topic
1	Technology evolution, innovation ecosystems
2	Design thinking, innovation adoption, prototyping
3	Intellectual property, innovation portfolio, innovation policy

#	Topic
4	Organizing innovation in large firms, innovation portfolio
5	Hypes, futures thinking, innovation evaluation
6	Innovation policy, role of government and non-profits
7	Deeper industry/technology knowledge in areas such as AI, Deep Tech, Biotech, CleanTech, SpaceTech etc.

Assessment

Tool	Assessment tool	Category	Weight %
Group project	Group work	Ordinary round	75.00%
Participation in program activities	Participation	Retake and ordinary round	25.00%
Written and/or oral exams	Oral final exam	Retake	50.00%
Group project	Group project	Retake	25.00%

PROGRAMS

G114-Global Governance Exchange Program (Undergraduates: Law)

G114 Year 1 (Optative)

G114S-Global Governance Exchange Program (Undergraduates: Law)

G114S Year 1 (Mandatory)

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

GEL23 Year 3 (Optative)

GEL23 Year 4 (Optative)