



**Asignatura: Global Political Economy A (F. ECONÓMICAS)**

*Guía Docente*

*Curso académico: 2013-14*

## Introduction

# **Global Political Economy A (F. ECONÓMICAS)**

"Entorno Económico Global" (Global Political Economy) is an undergraduate course on international political economy which combines lectures, oral presentations and colloquium. It focuses on the main issues in international political economy, such as globalization, governance, trade, foreign investment, international migrations or financial markets.

**Global Political Economy** is designed as an introduction to the main ideas, trends, events and forces which shape the political, institutional and social framework in which the world economy develops.

For this purpose the course takes a multidisciplinary approach combining questions from different social sciences such as economics and political science. This analysis will help students develop a critical understanding of the new reality of the world economy, which some define with the sole word "globalisation" but which has many different sides to it. During the course we shall address the role and position of the economies of Spain and Europe in this global framework.

**Department:** Economics

**School:** Economics and Business.

**Degrees:** Economics (ECO/IDE) and Business (ADE/IDM)

**Year:** 2nd (ECO, ADE, IDE, IDM) and 3rd (GLM)

**Study plan:** ECO, ADE, ECO/ADE and Law, IDE, IDM, GEL, GML

**Organisation:** Second semester (January - May)

**ECTS:** 6 (Workload for the student: 150 hours)

**Course type:** Basic.

**Taught in:** English.

**Professor:** Scott Wishart (swishart@unav.es)

**Office hours:** Wednesdays, 10:30 am - 12:45 pm, (Of. 1650, Edificio Bibliotecas) and by appointment via email (swishart@unav.es).

## Competences



It is expected that, on completion of this course, the students will achieve the following objectives:

- Become familiar with existing ideas and debates on the global economy and the governance of the world economy.
- Exercise their critical thinking skills. Evaluate the logic and validity of arguments, as well as the relevance of information regarding each of the topics in the program.
- Develop an awareness of the many intertwined economic, social and political aspects of a globalized economy.
- Increase their abilities to present an argument with coherence and clarity, or critically defend a position either in a written essay or in an oral presentation.

Cognitive and conceptual competencies:

- Students must understand the forces that drive globalisation.
- Students will develop an historical perspective of the international financial and economic order.
- Students will get to know the main characteristics of the international environment in which the Spanish and European economies are integrated.
- Students will be able to explain the main demographic phenomena of our time and their economic consequences.

Skills and aptitudes:

- Students will need to develop and prove a high capacity for analysis and synthesis applied to the problems addressed during the course.
- Students will use and improve both oral and written communication skills.
- Students will apply and develop their teamwork skills.
- Students will apply a critical self-assessment and use a critical approach to the programme of the course.
- Students will make progress towards an integrated view of the phenomena which transform the international economic environment.

Learning Outcomes

- Knowledge tested in exams
- Oral assignments
- Critical exposition of an article
- Public debate on an article
- Participation in the course's forum

## Program

The programme is composed of the following 6 subjects (subject to modification):

1.- **The key aspects of Globalisation**: (2 Weeks) We shall study the main trends which define and drive economic globalisation from an historical perspective, introducing sociological, political and cultural



elements.

2.- **The World Economy at the beginning of 2015**: (2 Weeks) An analysis of the origin, transmission and consequences of the financial and economic crisis which started in 2007-2008 as well as the policies chosen to tackle it and the prospects for the future.

3.- **Government and the Public Sector in the international arena**: (2 Weeks) This is the last subject of the first part of the programme. Here we shall discuss why markets need the public sector and its current role in the world economy.

4.- **The Challenges of International Trade**: (2 Weeks) In this subject we shall address the issue of why countries trade. This will lead us through some of the most interesting issues in international trade such as intra-industry trade or the link between trade and Foreign Direct Investment.

5.- **International Capital Markets**: (2 Weeks) An introduction to financial markets and the international financial system.

6.- **Demographics and International Migration**: (2 Weeks) The last subject in the programme offers some key insights into demographic transition, the roots and consequences of population ageing and the main points of international migration.

## **Educational activities**

The teaching methodology is the following:

- **Lectures**: the professor will explain the material listed in the programme, actively encouraging student participation and interaction through questions. Students will be tested on the material both in the midterm and the final exam. Eight hours will be dedicated to the development of each one of the six subjects.
- **News and article discussion**: articles related to the course material will be distributed to students in class. The content of these articles and the ensuing class discussions will be considered a part of the course material for the exams.
- **Project**: students must form groups of 3 to work on this assignment. Teams will be given a document whose content is to be analysed and presented in a 15 to 20 minute PowerPoint presentation. This part of the course will be graded based on the following criteria:
  - Clarity of the presentation
  - Quality of analysis and synthesis
  - Relevance and quality of the references
  - Existence of a clear line of argument
  - Use of proper grammar, syntax and spelling
  - Oral expression
  - Quality of the PowerPoint presentation

### **Key dates for this project:**

- **Fortnight starting the second week of March**: presentations for this project will take place in class.



- **Exams:** part of the course will be based on the marks from the midterm and final written exams, as explained in detail in the grading section.

## Assessment

The UNAV uses a numerical grading system, from 0 to 10. You need to get at least a grade of "5" to pass a course. In this course, the system works as follows:

- Midterm exam (35%): the professor will provide students with the necessary material (readings) in English. The exam will cover the assigned readings as well as the material taught in classes on the first three topics of the program.
- Final exam (40%): the professor will provide students with the necessary material (readings) in English. The exam will cover the assigned readings as well as the material taught in classes on the last three topics of the program.
- Presentation (20%): the student, in groups of three persons, has to prepare and give a 15 to 20-minute oral presentation in front of the class. Please refer to the **Program & Teaching Methodology Section** for the Presentation Evaluation Criteria.
- Attendance and active participation in class (5%): active participation in the discussion of articles and involvement in debates that may arise during the lectures. N.B.: This 5% will not be awarded to those whose absences have been greater than 10% of the class sessions, excused absences exempted. As a reminder, Class Attendance is not only mandatory under the Bologna Accord Criteria, but it is also important given the fact that the language of instruction, "English", is a second language for many of us and "practice makes perfect".

The expected workload per student is of 150 hours, approximately distributed as follows:

- 36 hours of lectures given by the professor
- 12 hours of article discussion
- 8 hours of student presentations
- 30 hours dedicated to the group project
- 3 hours of exams (1.5 hours for the midterm and 1.5 hours for the final)
- 55-60 hours of studying, reading and preparation of the articles
- 1 hour of personalised tutoring during the professor's office hours

**Resit Examination:** A Resit Examination is available only for students who have failed the course. The Resit Exam will follow the same structure as the exams taken during the term and the grade obtained on it will count 75% towards the global final grade. The grade obtained during the term on the Group Project will provide 20% of the final grade for this course, and the remaining 5% will come from Attendance and active participation in class, if the student has qualified for it .

## Bibliography and Resources

Due to the timely nature of the course subject, there is no text book for this Course.



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The materials for this class will be drawn from the Internet; - Articles, Videos and Interactive Websites shall form the bulk of the course materials.

## **Office Hours**

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