

Global Minds (A005569)

Course size *(nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)*

Credits 5.0 **Study time 150 h**

Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2025-2026

A (semester 2)	English	Gent	lecture
			group work
			seminar

Lecturers in academic year 2025-2026

Van Gijssel, Leen	LW03	staff member
Keygnaert, Ines	GE39	lecturer-in-charge
Boeckx, Pascal	LA24	co-lecturer
Defloor, Bart	EB21	co-lecturer
Desmet, Ellen	RE22	co-lecturer
Frankl, Amaury	WE12	co-lecturer
Levecke, Bruno	DIO4	co-lecturer
Lietaert, Ine	PP04	co-lecturer

Offered in the following programmes in 2025-2026

	crdts	offering
Bachelor of Laws in Laws	5	A
Bachelor of Science in Political Science	5	A
Master of Science in Teaching in Science and Technology(main subject Biology)	5	A
Master of Science in Teaching in Social Sciences(main subject Sociology)	5	A
Master of Science in Complementary Studies in Business Economics(main subject Business Economics)	5	A
Master of Science in Sustainable Land Management(main subject Land and Groundwater Management)	5	A
Master of Science in Electromechanical Engineering(main subject Maritime Engineering)	5	A
Master of Science in Electromechanical Engineering(main subject Maritime Engineering)	5	A
Master of Science in Sustainable Land Management(main subject Urban Land Engineering)	5	A
Master of Arts in Global Studies	5	A
Master of Science in Biology	5	A
Master of Science in Electromechanical Engineering	5	A
Master of Science in Engineering: Architecture	5	A
Master of Science in Engineering: Ships and Marine Technology	5	A
Master of Science in Engineering: Ships and Marine Technology	5	A
Master of Science in Geography and Geomatics	5	A
Master of Science in Mechanical and Electrical Systems Engineering	5	A
Master of Science in Sociology	5	A
Master of Science in Sociology	5	A
Exchange Programme Architecture	5	A
Exchange Programme Global Studies and World Societies	5	A
Exchange Programme History	5	A
Exchange Programme in Political and Social Sciences	5	A
Linking Course Master of Science in Social Work and Social Welfare Studies	5	A
Ghent University Elective Courses	5	A
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Teaching languages

English

Keywords

global challenges, global justice, critical global citizenship, Global South, interdisciplinarity, multi-perspectivism

Position of the course

Due to the nature of the subject and the activating working methods (including group work), registration for this course is possible **until the first Friday (23h59) of the second semester** (academic calendar of the same year) at the latest.

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This course offers a critical introduction to global challenges and debates on global justice from different scientific disciplines. It focuses on the interaction between science and society and allows students from different scientific backgrounds to reflect critically and ethically on the global dimensions of their own discipline and work field.

Exchange students can take up this course unit. No prior knowledge of Dutch is required.

Contents

The course cultivates critical awareness of global challenges while promoting thoughtful, ethical engagement with cultural difference, systemic complexity, and global power imbalances. It does so by addressing historical and contemporary processes of globalization, highlighting multiple scientific and societal perspectives, with special attention to perspectives from the global South.

The course centres on interdisciplinarity and multi-perspectivism, engaging with both convergences and divergences in perspectives. It embraces difference and critically examines conflicting viewpoints within academic and societal debates on global challenges and global justice.

Initial competences

Final competences

- 1 Reflecting critically and ethically on the global dimensions of one's own academic discipline and work field. Point out different scientific and societal perspectives, and especially perspectives from the Global South.
- 2 Demonstrating intercultural skills, diversity-sensitive communication and interdisciplinary collaboration.
- 3 Demonstrating awareness of the multifaceted nature of global challenges and the ability to thoughtfully integrate diverse perspectives into one's academic work.

Conditions for credit contract

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is unrestricted: the student takes into consideration the conditions mentioned in 'Starting Competences'

Conditions for exam contract

This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract

Teaching methods

Group work, Seminar, Lecture, Independent work

Extra information on the teaching methods

Thematic modules with an introductory lecture, followed by group work: the aim is to set-up group discussions and portfolio-assignments around each of the respective modules. As such, we aim to stimulate the interdisciplinary perspective bottom-up: students engage in interaction around the global challenges from their own background and aim to arrive at complementary understandings. To achieve this aim, we will divide the group in smaller groups of approx.10 students (dependent on the total number of students) and these groups will be (necessarily) interdisciplinary and (preferably) also internationally mixed.

Study material

Type: Slides

Name: Slides

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Language : English

Available on Ufora : Yes

References

Course content-related study coaching

Ufora, tutor

Assessment moments

continuous assessment

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the first examination period

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the second examination period

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Participation, Assignment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

examination during the second examination period is possible in modified form

Extra information on the examination methods

100% continuous assessment: participation, group work, individual assignments. Students have to successfully follow all modules. Due to the interactive nature of the teaching methods, full and active participation is essential and mandatory in order to pass. Classes take place on Tuesdays from 5 to 8 PM. For each absence without a valid reason and prior notification, two points will be deducted from the final mark.

Calculation of the examination mark

The final mark is a combination of the marks on the group assignments (60%) and the individual assignments (40%). These marks include the assessment of active participation. For each absence without a valid reason and prior notification, two points will be deducted from the final mark.