

Contemporary Economic Challenges (F000980)

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

Credits 3.0 **Study time 90 h**

Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2025-2026

A (semester 2) Dutch Gent lecture

Lecturers in academic year 2025-2026

Heylen, Freddy EB21 lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2025-2026

	crdts	offering
Bachelor of Science in Economics	3	A
Bachelor of Science in Economics (Double Degree)	3	A

Teaching languages

Dutch

Keywords

Economic challenges, sustainability

Position of the course

The course analyses a variety of contemporary problems, such that students are confronted with the wide variety of topics to which economic reasoning can be applied. This should stimulate a critical attitude towards arguments that are used in the political debate, and help students to formulate their personal point of view. This course is part of the learning path sustainability in the Bachelor of Science in Economics.

Contents

Topics can change from year to year and depend on the current economic situation. Examples of economic analysis of contemporary challenges

- 1 Valuation problems on financial markets
- 2 Globalisation and inequality
- 3 Challenges for the Flemish labour market
- 4 Energy and climate challenges and policy
- 5 Demographic change (ageing): consequences and policy
- 6 Determinants and consequences of automation
- 7 Fiscal policy and public debt reduction in the EU
- 8 Tax policy and (un)employment
- 9 Migration: causes and challenges
- 10 Poverty and inequality

Initial competences

Understand basic concepts of economics. Good knowledge of macroeconomics and microeconomics (bachelor level). Introductory course in economics.

Final competences

- 1 Understanding the essence of the main economic challenges for the coming decades and the societal debate about it
- 2 Be able to have a substantiated opinion on key societal challenges
- 3 To be able to apply basic economic theory critically to analyse contemporary economic challenges.

Conditions for credit contract

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is determined after successful competences assessment

Conditions for exam contract

Access to this course unit via an exam contract is unrestricted

Teaching methods

Lecture

Study material

Type: Slides

Name: Slides

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Language : Dutch

Available on Ufora : Yes

Online Available : No

Available in the Library : No

Available through Student Association : No

References**Course content-related study coaching**

The professors teaching the course will guide students for the part they teach.

Assessment moments

end-of-term assessment

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

Written assessment

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

Written assessment

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment**Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment**

not applicable

Calculation of the examination mark

End-of-term evaluation (100%)