

Introduction to Global Studies (K001468)

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

Credits 5.0

Study time 150 h

Course offerings in academic year 2026-2027

A (semester 1)

English

Gent

Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027

Mello Juraszek Dos Santos, Ana Rúbia

PS05

staff member

Limberger, Michael

LW03

lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2026-2027

[Master of Arts in Global Studies](#)

crdts

5

offering

A

Teaching languages

English

Keywords

Global Studies; area studies; postcolonial studies; World History; Social Sciences; 20th century

Position of the course

This course covers essential approaches and debates that constitute the field of Global Studies. In an effort to grapple with a rapidly changing world, Global Studies emerged as an interdisciplinary field in the social sciences to analyse pressing issues such as social inequality, global health, or migration. Over the past two decades, global studies has gained influence in academia as well as in societal debates. This introductory course will give students a broad overview of different approaches, methods and theories within the field across diverse disciplines. The lectures will allow students to critically engage with concrete debates that define the field today.

This course is open to all students within the EMGS consortium. This course is not open to students from other programmes.

This course is taught in English.

Contents

The course starts with an introductory class that will provide a broad overview of the field, its history, and its contemporary developments and challenges. The following sessions will consist of guest lectures by scholars from different disciplines, coming from across the EMGS consortium. Each class will depart from a specific disciplinary approach to global studies, discuss its theoretical and methodological challenges, and bring in concrete examples from contemporary research in the field. Each class comes with required reading to prepare students for the weekly discussion with the guest lecturer.

Evaluation methods:

Paper assignment: Students will write two reflection papers throughout the course. A first, mid-term paper must be submitted halfway the course. The second and final paper must be submitted at the end of the semester. Each paper focuses on a different lecture and discusses insights from the lecture in relation to a key debate, approach, or challenge in global studies, as well as in relation to the students' further research interests within the programme. Students will register for the lectures they want to discuss in their papers so as to ensure an even distribution of papers among all lectures.

Initial competences

Bachelor degree

Final competences

- 1 To have the ability to use advanced insights from diverse social sciences disciplines to analyse and evaluate new and complex ideas.
- 2 To have the ability to critically use insights into global studies to analyse complex problems and to formulate possible research questions.
- 3 To have the ability to take a critical approach to the global context of a particular period, region or subject.
- 4 To have the ability to critically analyse and make original use of current international academic debates in the field of global studies.
- 5 To have the ability to recognize the dynamics, processes and recurrences in complex global developments.
- 6 To have the ability to form nuanced opinions on global developments.
- 7 To have the ability to approach a problem systematically from multiple perspectives (multiperspectivism).
- 8 To have the ability to present a critical discussion of key debates in global studies in a written assignment.

Conditions for credit contract

This course unit cannot be taken via a credit contract

Conditions for exam contract

This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract

Teaching methods

Lecture, Independent work

Extra information on the teaching methods

Students receive required reading (English) in preparation for the weekly discussions in class. Active participation required.

Study material

Type: Syllabus

Name: Syllabus

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Language : English

Available on Ufora : Yes

Type: Slides

Name: PowerPoint Presentations

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Language : English

Available on Ufora : Yes

References

Juergensmeyer, M. (Ed.). (2014). Thinking Globally: A Global Studies Reader. University of California Press.

Course content-related study coaching

Individual appointments during office hours. Office hours will be announced on UFORA.

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

Extra information on the examination methods

Continuous assessment (during the term) based on active participation during class and two written assignments, one mid-term and one at the end of term.

Calculation of the examination mark

- 100% continuous assessment (active participation in class, written assignments)
- 20% attendance and active participation
- 30% first paper
- 50% final paper

Facilities for Working Students

Only students of the EMGS programme can take up this course.

- 1. Class attendance is mandatory and will be included in the calculation of the final score;
- 2. Online learning material will be provided;
- 3. Advice and feedback can be given by email instead of through appointment during office hours.
- Working students should contact the lecturer(s) and the monitoring service of the Faculty of Political Science.