

Winter term 2021

INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS AND GLOBALIZATION

Instructors: Francisco J. Granados (IBEI)

How does international business drive economic globalization and affect people across countries? How do international business and current domestic and international political issues affect each other? What challenges and opportunities do firms face operating internationally? How corporate social responsibility can contribute to sustainable development? The course starts with an overview of economic globalization from a historical, political and sociological perspective, focusing on aspects related to international business: the role of states and international institutions (e.g., WTO, EU); socioeconomic development; inequalities within and across countries; international migrations; domestic political debates about globalization.

HISTORY AND POLITICS OF GLOBALIZATION

Instructors: Yannis Karagiannis (IBEI)

How do individual citizens, organized groups, and political parties react to the internationalization of economic activity? Who promotes it and who fights against it? Who is more likely to be successful and who is more likely to fail in the pursuit of their goals? To answer these questions this course offers a historical introduction to international political economy. It is organized around three main sections. First, we present the most important theories and methods used to learn about the politics of international economics. Second, we use the theories and methods covered in the first section to review major developments in international economic relations from the 1860s to today.

THE EU IN THE WORLD

Instructors: Juan Pablo Soriano (UAB-IBEI)

How similar is the European Union (EU) compared to other international actors such as the United States (US)? Do they play similar roles in the world? How internal (Brexit, economic crisis) and external events (Trump, the rise of China) may affect the very nature of the EU and its foreign policies? This course studies the EU and its external activities through the analysis and discussion of key issues on the EU agenda placing a comparative focus on the US. The first part of the course briefly analyzes the historical evolution of the European polity and the decision-making of its external action. It raises questions about the geographical and political limits of Europe, what are the main drivers of its integration and tackles the consequences of Brexit.

UNITED NATIONS: INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY

Instructor: Pol Bargues (CIDOB)

The aim of this course is threefold: first, to introduce students to the United Nations (aims, institutions, history) and its critical role in contemporary international society; second, to focus on the analysis of mechanisms in place at the UN architecture to achieve one of its main goals: maintaining international peace and security; and third, to provide a systematic toolkit which helps students out in critically analyzing the performance of the UN Peace Operation missions, by identifying strengths and weaknesses of different historical operations in the field.

GEOPOLITICAL GAMES: FOREIGN POLICY OF RUSSIA AND CHINA

Instructors: Anastassia V. Obydenkova (IBEI)

This course offers insights into foreign policy of Russia and China in the 21st century with special focus on their overlapping geopolitical goals and strategies. Both states are located in Eurasia. They have overlapping interests, competing goals, and they face sometimes similar external challenges. The course offers insights into strategy of foreign policy of both states, contrasting and comparing their geopolitical battles before COVID-19 and immediately after it. The course is structured in the following way: (1) theory of foreign policy analysis; (2) historical legacies in foreign policy; (3) goals and challenges of foreign policies of two states; (4) shared geopolitical space (struggle over the dominance in Central Asia); (5) implications of their foreign policies and their impact on the region.

More information:

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