STUDY GUIDE

Global Studies in a changing world: Challenges and Solutions

Organised by

Universidad de Cantabria

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1. IDENTIFYING DATA	
Course Name.	Global Studies in a changing world: Challenges and Solutions
Coordinating University.	Universidad de Cantabria
Partner Universities Involved.	Universidad de Cantabria (UC, Spain), University of North Carolina at Charlotte (UNCC, USA), Università di Catania (UNICT, Italy), Vaasan Yliopisto (UVA, Finland), Brandenburgische Technische Universität (BTU, Germany) and Instituto Politécnico de Viseu (IPV, Portugal). As for students, the course is open to all universities in the EUNICE alliance, in addition to UNCC.
Course Field(s).	Global studies
Related Study Programme.	The course is designed for students of any degree belonging to the EUNICE Universities
ISCED Code.	ISCED LEVEL 6 BACHELOR'S OR EQUIVALENT LEVEL 64 Bachelor's or equivalent level, academic 645 First degree (3-4 years) ISCED LEVEL 7 MASTER'
Sustainable Development Goals	SDG 1. No poverty. SDG 3. S Good health and wellbeing. SDG 5. Gender equality. SDG 8. Decent work and economic growth. SDG 13. Climate action. SDG 16. Peace, justice and strong institutions.
Study Level.	Bachelor (B)

Number of ECTS credits allocated.	3ECTS credits
Mode of Delivery.	Blended (face to face and online)
Language of Instruction.	English
Course Dates.	Online: 1 –26 June 2026 On site: 29 June – 10 July 2026.
Schedule of the course.	From 10:00 to 14:15 on June 29, 30 and July 1, 2, 6, 7, 8 and 9. Cultural activities organized on 3 and 10 of July. (30 hours of class-room study in total)
Key Words.	Global studies; challenges; solutions.
Motivational Phrase.	Global studies in uncertain times: identifying challenges, proposing solutions

Prerequisites and co-requisites.	- EUNICE student - English B2
Number of EUNICE students that can attend the Course.	50

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Course inscription procedure(s).	UC students: enrol through Virtual Campus· Students from EUNICE universities: contact your International Relations Office (IRO)

2. CONTACT DETAILS	
Department	Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering
Coordinator	Prof. Eugenio Bringas
E-mail.	bringase@unican.es
Other Lecturers.	Charles Houck, UNCC Susana Batista, IPV (EUNICE) Iole Fontana, UNICT (EUNICE) Melanie Jager-Erben, BTU (EUNICE) Anisur R. Faroque, UVA (EUNICE) Domingo Rasilla, UC (EUNICE) Antonio Domínguez, UC (EUNICE)

3. COURSE CONTENT

This newly designed course focuses on identifying what are some of the world´s most pressing challenges from a global studies perspective, and then thinking about, discussing, testing and presenting possible solutions to these challenges. Expert lecturers from the UNICE alliance are invited to lecture on the major challenges within their area of expertise. Students, in groups, working online and in person towards the end-of-course group presentation, which presents in the classroom their thinking on a specific global challenge and their proposed solutions.

4. LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Analyse major global challenges (e.g., climate change, migration, global health) using interdisciplinary frameworks.
- Evaluate the impact of globalization on social, cultural, economic, and environmental systems.
- Apply concepts of cognitive decision-making (heuristics, biases, uncertainty) to real-world global issues.
- Assess the role of emerging technologies (e.g., AI, clean energy) in addressing global challenges.
- Examine the interconnections between planetary health, sustainability, and human well-being.
- Critically discuss ethical, cultural, and political dimensions of global transformations.
- Develop evidence-based arguments and propose innovative solutions to complex global problems.
- Communicate ideas effectively in English through oral presentations and academic discussion.

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5. OBJECTIVES

- Understanding and differentiating the concept of globalization in its different dimensions.
- Identifying the concepts associated with globalization and being able to relate them.
- Encouraging the use of information management tools for permanent updating (main websites of international organizations and think tanks).
- Developing a critical spirit and reasoned discussion in matters related to global studies.
- Encourage students to engage with real-world global challenges and propose feasible solutions.

6. COURSE ORGANISATION

UNITS

Module 1. Introduction to Global Studies. Migration and Globalization.

Module 2. Cognitive Decision-Making Under Global Uncertainty: Heuristics, Biases, and Entrepreneurial Logics.

Module 3. Global Climate Change. Technologies for Climate Change Mitigation.

Module 4. Globalization, Culture, and Resistance.

Module 6. Planet Health & Sustainable Development.

Module 7. Global Health, Artificial Intelligence and the Future of Human Care.

Module 8. Student presentations: Global studies: identifying challenges, proposing solutions.

LEARNING RESOURCES AND TOOLS

Learning resources and tools will be uploaded to EUNICE Moodle Platform (click here to access it).

PLANNED LEARNING ACTIVITIES AND TEACHING METHODS

The training activities will be of a theoretical and practical nature. The teaching methodology will be active, seeking the participation of students with the Professor and in groups. The course will be developed using the EUNICE Moodle Platform (click here to access it). On this platform, students will find the presentations, as well as the compulsory readings corresponding to each module. It is essential all students read all of the compulsory readings before starting the course, as well as start sharing impressions about these readings with their student groups online, in preparation of the start of the course from Monday June 29.

7. ASSESSMENT METHODS, CRITERIA AND PERIOD

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Assessment will be based on:

- Class attendance (minimum 80%).
- Completion of a written and oral group presentation at the end of the module. All students in the group must demonstrate how they have contributed to the work presented.
- Each group of students must prepare a presentation on a major global challenge they have identified, and come up with a proposed solution(s).
    - After the course, this presentation must be completed and uploaded to the UNICE Moodle Platform in order to pass the course.

8. BIBLIOGRAPHY AND TEACHING MATERIALS

- Each lecturer will upload to UNICE Moodle Platform ONE compulsory reading that includes discussion of some of the major global challenges in the topic of interest.
- Lecturers may upload further complementary readings on their topic of interest, which students may wish to read for background towards their group presentation.

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