



College of Europe
Collège d'Europe



Natolin

ECTS CARD

STUDY PROGRAMME(S) / STUDY TRACK(S)

Master of Arts in European Interdisciplinary Studies
Master of Arts in Transatlantic Affairs (Study Track: European Interdisciplinary Studies)

YEAR

2026-2027

COURSE TITLE

Political Economy of Europe in a Changing World Order

SEMESTER

1

PROFESSOR(S)

MARTELLI Angelo

ACADEMIC ASSISTANT(S)

DAMIANI Giulio

COURSE TYPE

Core Course

MAJOR(S)

Not applicable

ECTS CREDITS

4

TEACHING HOURS

20

INDIVIDUAL & GROUP STUDY TIME

80

TUTORIAL(S)

COEFFICIENT

1

LANGUAGE(S)

EN

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The aim of the course is to engage students with relevant concepts in European political economy and their main applications in the areas of labour markets, migration, and finance. The course will anchor the degree in historical and current debates about the nature of European political economy, the role of institutions, and the pros and cons of different methodological approaches taken by political economists. The aim of the lectures is to outline key European political economy concepts and their theoretical background, while exploring the uses and limits of the respective concepts through the systematic analysis of relevant research papers.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the end of this course, the students will be able to:

- 1) Acquire in-depth knowledge of the role and presence of the EU in world affairs and global governance in areas such as finance, technology, and migration (A1, A3, MATA1.5);
- 2) Analyse EU relations with key global and emerging actors, other regional and inter-regional arrangements in Europe and beyond, and international organizations, and to reflect critically on how global actors influence the EU, how the EU reacts, and how the EU is perceived by external actors (A6, MATA1.6);
- 3) Obtain in-depth knowledge of significant agency- and structure-related forces and dynamics and their influence on local, regional, and international developments and EU policies in global perspective (A5, MATA1.7);
- 4) Gain an advanced understanding of conceptual and theoretical approaches relevant to the analysis of global governance, regionalism, global and regional structures, actors and processes and are able to apply them to conduct independent and advanced research and analysis of the role and presence of the EU in world affairs (A1, A3, A5, A6);

- 5) Acquire professional skills helping them to qualify for existing and emerging job opportunities in fields such as, inter alia, diplomacy, journalism, academia, think tanks etc. (B8).

RECOMMENDED PREPARATION

None – yet a knowledge of the basics of modern European history will be beneficial.

TEACHING METHOD(S)

The course will be lecture-based and will feature group presentations.

ASSESSMENT METHOD(S)

Assessment is based on the following elements:

- Oral presentations (20% of the final mark): On-site presentations held during the final session(s) of the course. Students will present one of the themes covered during the course (i.e. technology, finance, migration, etc.). The specific format will be determined depending on the number of course participants.
- Final exam (80% of the final mark): 2h, written, digital, closed-book, on-site exam. Students need to answer two out of eight available essay questions.

COURSE CONTENTS

The course begins with an intro into Political Economy followed by three key themes: finance, technology, and migration. In detail, the course outline looks as follows:

- The remit of European political economy
- Stress testing economic systems: the end of the Golden Age
- The rise of finance and its elusive power
- International regulation of financial markets
- Structural employment changes and the disappearing middle class
- The transition to the knowledge economy, labour market institutions, and income inequality in advanced democracies
- The political economy of migration
- Globally coordinated governance of migration

COURSE MATERIALS (readings and other learning resources/tools)

The course materials consist of articles and other publications as specified in the Course Outline and readings section.