Deusto
Universidad de Deusto
Deustuko Unibertsitatea
University of Deusto

Academic course: 2024/2025

Course: CRITICAL APPROACHES TO THE CHALLENGES OF THE GLOBAL WORLD

Workload: 6 ECTS (150 hours)

Instructor: Cristina Ulloa

Description and justification

This course aims to critically reflect on some of the main challenges we are facing globally in the economic, political, social, cultural, and environmental arenas. It is one of the priorities of the University of Deusto since one of its objectives is to critically discuss and understand human processes to promote and protect human dignity, seek the fair distribution of goods, cultivate peace, and safeguard nature.

The contents and methodology of this course are selected for the students to gain knowledge, reflect on global challenges, and promote creativity to look for alternatives to the consequences of complex issues.

This learning process takes the defense and respect of human dignity and rights as a framework for analysis and gender, sustainability, social justice, and governance as transversal axes of knowledge.

Prerequisites

None

General Competencies

○ **Diversity and interculturality:**

- Understand and accept social and cultural diversity as an enriching element on both the personal and collective levels.
- Foster coexistence among people without falling into sex, age, religious, social, political, or ethnic discriminations.
- Accept and understand cultural and social affiliations as structural, volitive, and reasonable relations of the human condition.
- Understand that diversity is an inherent characteristic of the human being.

○ **Ethical Sense:**

- Cultivate the moral good of oneself or others positively (that means, to everything which is or means good, personal realization, sense of justice) and persist in it.
- Identify, recognize, and apply moral character and ethical principles.
- Reflect on new perspectives critically, even if this means bringing them into question.

Specific Competences

o **SC1:** Identity and critically analyze different dimensions of the globalization processes and their consequences on the present and future world.

o **SC2:** ethically reflect on complex issues considering alternatives to face them, their fundaments, and the consequences of application in the short, medium, and long term for the most vulnerable.

o **SC3:** critically analyze your judgments and reactions to proposed challenges and alternatives.

o **SC4:** recognize the responsibility you have regarding these challenges as a student, as a citizen, and as a professional.

Contents

I. **Reflective horizon: human rights as a universal ethical criterion to a global scenario.**

    i. **Globalization**: opportunities and threats: introduction to a global world (order vs. disorder). Dimensions and Consequences (economic, political, sociocultural, technological, and environmental)

    ii. **Human Rights:** historical contextualization, the problem of foundation, characteristics, protection and promotion systems, and gender and Human Rights.

II. **Analysis of the leading global challenges and the alternatives from civil society.**

    i. **Inequality and poverty:** clarification of concepts, historical evolution of poverty and inequality, alternatives from social economy, and ethical analysis.

    ii. **Migrations and management of cultural and religious diversity:** social map of the evolution and magnitude of migrations, the challenge of coexistence, critical balance of different models to manage cultural diversity.

    iii. **Climate change and ecological crisis:** economic foundation, climate justice, responsibilities on climate change, critical approximations to environmental conscience.

    iv. **Democracy on the crisis, political conflicts, and violent outcomes:** democracy as Government, threats to democracy, global perspectives on democracy, technology, and media's impact on democracy.

Teaching-learning strategy

The learning strategy corresponds to the University of Deusto Learning Model (UDLM). The learning process is organized into five segments:

1. Experiential contextualization.
2. Reflective observation.
3. Conceptualization.
4. Active experimentation.
5. Evaluation.

The learning cycle supports by the following strategies and resources:

- GUIDED READINGS of texts related to the different topics. Students will read these texts and develop written assignments based on them (as homework).

- EXPOSITIONS by the professor and by students of the main contents of the different topics, offering a general view of the core issues, bibliography, and recommended readings.

- PROBLEM-BASED AND CASE SOLVING activities connected to each topic (Asynchronous and In-class group work using virtual tools)

- TUTORING: Online tutoring to support individual and group work, as needed by appointment only.

In accordance with the 6 ECTS assigned to this course, students need to invest 140 hours of work in 14 weeks. Weekly, students will spend two hours of synchronous online class and eight hours on asynchronous individual or group work.

Evaluation

The achievement of general (30%) and specific (70%) competences will be assessed jointly through the following procedures:

- **Weekly exercises 30%**

- **Group-based project on alternatives 30%**

- **Final exam 40%**

Attendance in virtual classes is mandatory. Students that miss more than 1/3 of the sessions will lose the opportunity for evaluation during the ordinary period.

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