Objective

The course serves as an introduction to globalisation, one of the most important phenomena and processes confronting the world today. Globalisation is affecting every aspect of society-including economics, politics, and culture. The course offers a general introduction and overview (i.e. concepts, definitions, approaches, historical developments and assessment) of the futures of EU in a globalising context. It will look at the phenomena from a multiplicity of perspectives-as it is studied in different disciplines and as it is seen in different regions throughout the world. We will look at globalisation in all of its dimensions, including economic globalisation, political globalisation, the globalisation of civil society, global knowledge, and our global environment. While the focus will be on the economic and social changes taken place in EU, the course will offer an opportunity to reflect and prospect on emerging themes, challenges and inclusive policies in the future of European societies within a globalising context, in particular the social and cultural dimension of globalisation.

Contents: The course is structured along three major parts.

I. The first (conceptual & historical) introductory part gives an overall theoretical framework of the relation of globalisation of economy and society in the EU.

MODULE 1: Methodological Introduction: overview of approaches and methodologies

1. Different approaches and methodologies are introduced and shortly evaluated in relation to the triangle between economy (market), polity (state) and society (values, culture) in a rapidly changing international context.
2. Social changes in Europe: focus is on the making of modern societies as to changing institutions in contemporary Europe.
3. European Sociology: social interaction and everyday life in theoretical, European and global perspective with particular focus on contemporary theory and practitioners.

MODULE 2: European dimension of globalisation (past, present & future)

In a second section this part of the course focuses on the past, present and future developments of Europe. It looks at the specific characteristics of the European civilization and presents the European integration process as a permanent search between integration and diversity.

1. An overview is presented of the social and institutional process of change in contemporary Europe and the interplay between various shaping factors: analysis of the different concepts, phases, trends of convergence and diversity and patterns of change in European societies.
2. In this subsection, the existing European debate is assessed with its structural developments, internal and external challenges and futures in the context of a wider Europe (i.e. global player, networking, neighbourhood policies and intercultural dialogue).

II. In the second part the phenomenon and process of globalisation is studied:

MODULE 3: Globalisation in perspective

From an introduction to the phenomenon and process of globalization in context (i.e. definitions, views and facts) different forces are identified and analyzed (i.e. global politics, global economy, global culture/citizen and global threats). An assessment section concludes with some key developments and challenges in the EU (i.e. new institution building, globalisation versus internationalisation, Europeanisation versus globalisation, globalisation versus regionalism, etc.)

PART ONE
- Definitions
- Views and perceptions
- Facts & Figures
- Assessment

PART TWO
- Global Politics and Governance
- Global Economy
- Global Culture/Citizen
- Global Threats

III. The last part concerns the relation between globalisation and inclusion policies in European perspective. Focus is on three particular areas of concern, i.e. values, social dimension and democracy.

MODULE 4: Globalisation & Values: Identity/Nationality/Citizenship
Globalisation forces us to engage in full dialogue with, based on mutual respect and mutual obligation among partners and rooted in a progressive development of the human person. Inclusive policies must therefore be developed from a basic code of values.

MODULE 5: Globalisation and the Social dimension
Main focus will be on the social dimension of globalisation (social inclusion) and its institutional framework at international (e.g. World/European Social Forum, ILO, UNDP) and European level.

MODULE 6: Globalisation and Democracy
In particular, attention will be given to the promotion of inclusive policies in (formal and informal) democratic processes of active citizenship in the EU.

Course requirement:
The overall course validation is based on the basic reading of suggested bibliography, class participation/discussion and the writing of a paper in English or Italian. Students are required to write an essay of max 10 pages (3000 words) in length. The essay will analyse in a structured and coherent way a comprehensive question on issues dealing with the globalisation versus europeanisation debate. It should demonstrate a solid understanding of the basic reading material and eventually use other bibliographical sources. This will be presented and discussed during an oral examination in English or Italian.
Jean Monnet certificate
Students who have frequented the course and passed the exam receive a Jean Monnet certificate by an international guest speaker during a solemn event.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Syllabus:

Required Reading

Bibliographical References

- Books

- Articles
Korthals Altes, Edy, Spiritual Awakening; The Hidden Key to Peace and Security; Just and sustainable Economics, A responsible European Union, Leuven, Peeters, 2008, Ch. 9 & 10.

Stiglitz, J., Ch 1, Another world is possible, p. 3-24, in Making globalization work, London: Penguin, 2006.


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General course information is accessible on the website of Scipol. Detailed course information, the power point presentation of the various lectures and material for the exam preparation can be found on http://www.centrodirittiumani.unipd.it (Corsi di laurea e post-laurea > Corsi di laurea su scienze politiche, relazioni internazionali, diritti umani, pace, istituiti nella Facoltà di Scienze politiche dell'Università di Padova > Materiali per la preparazione agli esami universitari.)