

Course Syllabus:

Current Economic & Social Issues

Autumn Semester

Campus:	Hénallux Social Campus
Section:	IB226 Current Affairs MK-oriented IBS module and HRM-oriented IBS module
ECTS Credits:	2
Course Unit Code:	IBS05
Cycle:	First Cycle
EQF Level:	6
Language of Instruction:	English
Total Workload:	50 hours (16 hours in the IBS schedule)
Instructor:	Constantin MIRICA
Course Type:	Compulsory (MK-oriented module and HRM-oriented module)

Course Overview

The goal of International Business for current economic and social issues is to enlighten students about the society in which they live, raising awareness of current economic and social biases, as well as equipping them with strategies to overcome these biases to build a robust and resilient society. The class will focus on developing diverse transversal skills structured around two primary pillars: understanding how European institutions function and analyzing their behavior within social and macroeconomic contexts.

To succeed in this class, it is essential to be open-minded, collaborative and critical regarding your own and others' points of view.

Learning Outcomes

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

- Transversal skill: Demonstrate strong oral and written English proficiency on relevant topics;
- Transversal skill: Understand how to develop a robust and resilient society;

- Theory: Have a solid understanding of European institutions;
 - Theory: Have a solid understanding of the global and EU macroeconomic contexts;
 - Recognize and analyze the social implications of macro-economic events.
-

Course Content

- 2h - Introduction to European institutions and their goals
 - European Commission
 - European Parliament
 - European Council
- 3,5h - Introduction to EU macroeconomic context and how it fits in the global financial ecosystem.
 - Finance
 - Social
 - Policy
 - Trade
 - Challenges
- 4,5h - In assigned groups, prepare a 15-minute presentation on one of the EU-related topics/concepts listed below, carefully considering relevant social and economic contexts and aspects. Groups will be predetermined, reflecting real-world scenarios where team composition is often beyond individual choice. You may reference multiple topics during your presentation, but clearly focus on a primary topic agreed upon within your group. In your analysis, specifically address how Belgium and your own country approach and are positioned regarding your selected topic. The use of AI tools is permitted; however, grading will emphasize each student's deep understanding and engagement with the presented topics. Following each presentation, there will be a 30-minute open discussion and debate session where active participation from every student is mandatory. **Approach all topics strictly from social and economic perspectives, avoiding any political bias or viewpoint.**
 - Defense
 - AI
 - Sovereignty
 - Migration
 - Robust
 - Interoperability
 - Governance
- 1,5h – Let's zoom on Belgium
- 0,5h – Q&A and explanation of the written examination.
- 2h – In class, students will write a dissertation demonstrating their understanding of EU institutions, the role of their individual member state within the EU ecosystem and drawing connections to one of the presentations given by their classmates.

All classes will be recorded and shared online.

Teaching Methods

- Theoretical lectures
 - Interactive oral presentations
 - Students' presentations & debates
-

Assessment Method

- Active attendance & debate mindful participation (25% of total grade)
 - Active attendance: 15%
 - Debate mindful participation: 10%
- Presentation (25% of total grade)
 - Content: 20%
 - Visuals: 5%
- Written examination (50% of total grade)

Language of assessment: English

Learning Resources

- Shared deck
 - Class debate
 - Class recordings
-

Key References

Bibliography will be provided.