Institutions and Markets

2017-2018

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Office hours: By appointment

Course Description

Arguably, the current State of globalization is both the source and the result of an ever-experienced extension of the network of political and economic relations at a global scale. This has necessary required an increasing number of Actors involved as well as an increasing number of Interconnections among those Actors.

Non-State Actors do undeniably play a role in the configuration of global affairs today, and their mere existence do turned many of the classic theories and explanations upside down. Nonetheless, and even taking into account that many counter-examples could be mentioned, it is still plausible to assert that States still constitute the basic unit to understand global political and economic dynamics today.

These States can no longer be conceived as independent monads interacting each other and simple and quite isolated ways yet. Rather the contrary the expected and non-expected effects of Globalization have prompted States to interrelate each other differently. The proliferation of International Organizations since the aftermath of WWII is a good example, but not the only one.

In this vein, Regional processes -in all their modes and variants- conform a very relevant case among the ensemble of new inter-State relations that shape the current World order, and with no doubt will have a major impact on the shaping of Globalization itself. Their geographical scope (not surprisingly, only but a very few number of Independent States are not involved in any kind of regionalist process) proves that they came to stay. Their very different approaches on the meaning and purpose of a region illustrate however that their specific overall role is still to be determined.

All in all, this course will approach regionalism from a wide perspective which will include experiences in the Africa, the Americas, Asia, and last but not least, Europe. Without denying the importance of the European Union, materially and theoretically speaking, this course will seek to present a larger empirical background that may result in an enriching cross-fertilization, and hopefully the avoidance of any potential bias.
Objectives

This course is designed to provide tools for the external diagnosis of the institutional context – political and economic – in which business plans operate. The aim is thus to provide Students with those conceptual and analytical tools to understand the role played by regional integration processes in the dynamics of the globalisation and contemporary World order.

More specifically, this course aims at reaching the goals below:

- To understand of the emergence and role of the different regional integration processes since WWII.
- To know in-depth the most important processes worldwide (EU, Mercosur, ASEAN, NAFTA, AU, ...)
- To develop a critical judgement towards regionalism and its impact on Globalization and World Affairs
- To assess to what extend ongoing regional process enhance/constrain potential economic operation in specific markets (supranational, national, and subnational).

Methodology

Each session will consist on a lecture (90 min ca.) and a seminar-like activity (90 min ca.). Far from overlapping, the content of both parts will be designed to complement each other.

Lectures will introduce and contextualize the corresponding different regional integration processes, and develop their most important specificities. A strong emphasize will be put in the comparative perspective, so that the course tends to approach regionalism as a complex phenomena with many different varieties, rather than as a collection of unique and isolated processes.

The seminar-like activities will include different types of programmed activities: review of the international press, case studies analysis, oral presentations, debates, etc.

Consequently, a series of materials for each Seminar session will be provided in advance. Both compulsory readings and additional material to prepare each session (as well as any further material that could be of interest for Students) will be timely uploaded to the e-campus.

The preparation of discussion topics and readings can be resolved either individually or by informal groupings. Students will be expected to actively participate and steer the discussions and debates.

Further reading might always be provided after Students’ demands.
Evaluation criteria

Students will pass “Markets and Institutions” by successfully completing the requirements listed bellow. **No overall grade under 50 % (i.e, 5.0 points out of 10.0) will pass.**

The Assessment of *Institutions and Markets* is three-folded:

- A final exam (synthesis)
- Short essays (continuous assessment)
- Student’s performance at the seminar sessions (continuous assessment)

The **partial requirements** for each of those elements will consist on the following criteria:

**Final exam**

*It will be 40 % of the final grade.* The format of the final exam will be explained in advance. Potential content will be restricted to the topics considered along the lectures, as well as the content of the seminar sessions. **Students are expected to get, at least, a 50% in the Final Exam to pass the Overall Assessment.**

**Short essays**

*They will account for the 35% of the final grade.* After each seminar session, a general topic related to the corresponding session will be proposed to the Students, who will be asked to write a short essay of **no more than 1500 words.**

Students will deliver **three essays only,** and it is completely up to them to choose the topic they prefer to work on. Nonetheless, those three essays will be mandatory distributed as follows:

- One essay before week 5 (i.e. related to topics 2, 3, or 4; i.e. the EU)
- One essay before week 8 (i.e., related to topics 5 or 6; i.e. the Mercosur or the NAFTA)
- One essay before week 11 (i.e., related to topics 7 or 8; i.e. the AU or ASEAN)

Alternatively, Students may opt for delivering **an essay related to their own Master’s Thesis.** This will be an **individual work,** and will be also handed **before week 11.** This is completely regular essay in terms of evaluation and conditions.

**Particular terms, dead-lines and conditions for the submission will be specified in due time together with the corresponding topic proposals.**

**It is completely up on each Student to choose the topic he or she wants to work on.**

**Student’s performance at the seminar sessions**

*It will be a 25% of the final grade,* and it will be based on the student’s performance at planned activities in the Seminar sessions. The mere (completely passive) attendance to the Sessions will not be computed.

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*Note: This document is only informational, detailed contents and faculty may change.*
Students will know in advance the format of each Seminar. Content will be related with the general on-going debates presented along the Lecture sessions.

Students are required to **attend 80% of classes**. Failing to do so without justified reason will imply a Zero grade in the participation/attendance evaluation item and may lead to suspension from the program.

**General Issues**

As with all courses taught at the UPF BSM, Students who fail the course during regular evaluation will be allowed **ONE re-take of the examination/evaluation**. Students that pass any Retake exam should get a **5,0 by default as a final grade for the course**. If the course is again failed after the retake, Students will have to register again for the course the following year.

In case of a **justified no-show to an exam**, the Student must inform the corresponding faculty member and the Director of the program so that they study the possibility of rescheduling the exam (one possibility being during the “Retake” period). In the meantime, the Student will get an “incomplete”, which will be replaced by the actual grade after the final exam is taken. The “incomplete” will not be reflected on the student’s Academic Transcript.

Plagiarism is to use another’s work and to present it as one’s own without acknowledging the sources in the correct way. All essays, reports or projects handed in by a student must be original work completed by the student. By enrolling at any UPF BSM Master of Science and signing the “Honor Code, students acknowledge that they understand the schools’ policy on plagiarism and certify that all course assignments will be their own work, except where indicated by correct referencing. Failing to do so may result in automatic expulsion from the program.”
Calendar and Contents

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Final exam  Date to be determined

Reading Materials/ Bibliography/Resources


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Bio of Professor

Joan Pere Plaza i Font received his Doctorate in Political Science from the Universities Autònoma de Barcelona (2009) with a dissertation dealing with the ideological evolution of the European People's Party through the lens of chaos theory. He currently holds a position of Adjunct Lecturer on European Politics at the ESCI-UPF, and he is also involved in the project `Democratization of the EU and regulatory decision: a quantitative analysis of Comitology', funded by the Spanish Government.

Prior to these current appointments, he served as post-doctoral researcher at the Universidad Carlos III (Madrid). Additionally, he has also visited other universities and research centers such as the Université catholique de Louvain (Belgium), École Normale Supérieure de Lyon (France) and the Centro de Estudios Avanzados de la Universidad Nacional de Córdoba (Argentina).

His research interests focus on the institutional framework of the European Integration process and compared regionalism as well as the Methodology in Social Sciences, with a very special attention to the application of Chaos Theory to this field. Some of the results of his scientific works have been published in, among others, Springer Verlag and the Journal of European Public Policy.