



UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO

FACOLTÀ DI SCIENZE POLITICHE,
ECONOMICHE E SOCIALI



Besides the common courses of the Bachelor's programme - Logic and critical thinking, Data analysis, Writing and communication skills, Public law, Contemporary history, Political science, Comparative social systems, History of political theories, Microeconomics, Statistics, International law, International relations, International macroeconomics - IPLE offers two different specializations:

- IPE – International Politics and Economics
- IPL – International Politics and Law

We here briefly detail the content of the courses taught in those two curricula

Curriculum IPE



First year:

Mathematics

The aim of the course is to enable students to apply mathematics as a useful and precise tool in economics and statistics. Through a revision of basic mathematics, using practical examples, the course will introduce students to graphs and their role in simplifying the resolution of problems. Students should be able to formalize practical situations, including social sciences and basic economics, using mathematical language and graphical representation, analyzing relations between functions and graphs.

Second year:

Advanced Data Analysis

In this course, students will consolidate the concepts learned in the statistics course and learn to do their own analyses on real data using the STATA package.

Econometrics

This course, essentially, is an introduction to econometrics. The common topic is represented by the linear regression model, with one or more regressors. This model will be discussed in terms of its representation and about the statistical inference on the parameters. The course starts with the introduction of the OLS estimator and its properties under the basic assumptions, and then proceeds



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with further developments when departures from such basic assumptions are more likely to be considered. Students, at the end of the course will be able to perform and critically comment on the output of a linear regression model.

Polimetrics

The course aims to teach the basics of party competition, shedding light on different theories and strategies (ranging from the spatial theory of voting, to theories on issue competition, valence politics, populism, negative campaigning, and so on). In addition, students will learn the main techniques (manual or automated) that allow to measure political outcomes, with a focus on estimating the positions of political actors. With respect to this, peculiar attention will be devoted to quantitative text analysis and social media as a source of data.

Research Methodology

The course addresses the general topic of how to design and conduct a research project, from hypothesizing to choosing the most adequate method for testing hypotheses, to data analysis and reporting of the results. It will also have a practical character, having students work on online data bases and other kinds of resources (literature repositories, research reports from international organizations, etc.), as well as on microdata with the Stata software.

Third year:

Comparative Political Systems

The course is an introduction to the comparative analysis of different democratic systems, and to the use of the comparative method in the field of political science. We pursue both implicit comparison, by contrasting various countries' differing political institutions and political dynamics, and explicit comparison, by systematically testing hypotheses, primarily using a quantitative approach and the tools of statistics. At the end, students will be familiar with the diverse institutional settings of democracies, and will be able to frame their own research designs, and look for the answer to their own research questions.

International Economics and Policy

The course is centred around the analysis of the globalization phenomenon taking a multilevel approach. This means that causes and consequences of globalization and the possible policy responses will be studied through the lens of different economic agents: workers, firms and



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governments. The topics covered include the competitiveness of nations, protectionism, inequality, climate change, migration, human rights, offshoring and technological change. The course is highly interactive with in-class discussions about real life examples and group presentations on specific topics.

Models in Political Analysis

The course surveys approaches to and models of politics based on the rational-actor paradigm. The underlying assumption is that politics, like economics, may be described and understood in terms of rational, goal-seeking behaviour by individuals in various institutional contexts. The student is introduced to simple models (stylized facts) that allow the political scientists to generate hypotheses to be tested in empirical research. The course aims also at improving the students' awareness that politics is mainly about strategic interaction, that institutions matter and that "irrational" and suboptimal collective outcomes are fully compatible with rational individuals.

Public Economics

The Public Economics course aims to provide students with knowledge and understanding of the economic role of governments in modern market economies. The course focuses mainly on the efficiency reasons for government intervention in the presence of market failures (associated with the existence of public goods, externalities, imperfect competition, imperfect information). Other topics covered in the course are government failures, inequality and redistribution, and taxation.

Curriculum IPL



First year:

History of International Relations

The course of History of International Relations intends to analyze the organization and development of international relations in a global perspective, not only Euro-American, during the whole 20th century. Special attention will be given to the system of political and military alliances but also to the economic mechanisms and the pressure of public opinion and the evolution of related mentalities. The main focus will be on the several attempts to create a "world order", during and after WWII, with particular attention to the Cold War era intended as a pericentric confrontation not limited to Europe only or, as Odd Arne Westad puts it, the "Global Cold War".



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Second year:

EU Law

The course on EU law aims to provide a comprehensive overview of the European Union as a legal phenomenon. Students will become familiar with the EU institutional framework, decision-making process, sources and remedies available to institutions, States and individuals in case of breaches of EU law.

Sociology of Globalization

In this course, we will bust the common myths that surround globalization and explore the contemporary globalization of social life. We will come to understand globalization as a set of economic, cultural and political processes. We will apply this understanding to survey several sub-themes of globalization including global inequality, global migration and climate change.

War Studies

The course is designed to provide analytical and critical tools addressed to understand, interpret and evaluate interrelations among strategic thinking, and its historical evolution, and modern battlefields in the MENA, Middle East and North Africa, region. The course is divided into four sections that deal with: the notion of strategy; the strategic ideas of the most important thinkers, mainly Carl von Clausewitz; the study of current conflicts and their impact on the contemporary international system; the notion of irregular warfare, its evolution, its impact on international system and its links to the concept of terrorism.

Third year:

Comparative Public Law

The course in comparative public law will compare approaches to the separation of powers, federalism, judicial review and constitution making in leading, emerging and declining constitutional democracies around the world taking also into account the ongoing process of globalization of domestic constitutional law.

History and Institutions of East Asia

The course will analyse the late modern and contemporary history of China and East Asia, with particular attention to the development of political institutions, the process of construction of national identities and the major political, cultural and economic forces shaping the regional order.



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History and Politics of Global Powers

The course, History and Politics of the Global Powers, in a certain sense represents the natural evolution, and deepening, of the topics analyzed during the classes of History of International Relations. In particular this course will focus on case studies of “global powers” actions, taken after interventions and spurs provoked and accompanied by relevant individuals as crucial actors, i.e. diplomats, chiefs of State, religious leaders. This course, therefore, intends to stress some points peculiar of an integrated approach that merges both the relevant streams of historical evolution and the unique contributions offered by personal and institutional dynamics.

International Human Rights Law

This course offers a comprehensive introduction to international human rights law and practice. It illustrates the origins, functioning, and limits of the international systems of protection of human rights, as well as contemporary developments in the field. As regards its learning objectives, the course aims at providing students not only with knowledge and understanding of international human rights law, but also with the capacity to identify issues and problems relating to its enforcement.

International Trade Law

The International trade Law course is focused on the governance structures, including multilateral (WTO) and EU institutions, that regulate trade in goods and in services. It also explores how the relationship between competing interests of trade liberalization, on the one hand, and environmental protection or national security, on the other hand, are dealt with in the main international trade agreements. Finally, it will consider how political and economic tensions in international relations undermined the functioning of the multilateral trading system under the aegis of the WTO.

State and Society in North Africa and the Mediterranean Region

The course aims at analyzing, by means of a comparative approach, the historical processes of state formation and the regional ethnic, religious and political units in the MENA (Middle East and North Africa) area.