

Brussels School of Governance Summer Course Descriptions

- The maximum course load is 2 courses.
- All our courses are taught in English.

BUS102G The Belgian Brewery Industry in a Global Context: Business, Economics, Culture and Innovation

Belgium is not only home to the world's biggest brewer, but in recent years has seen a rise of innovative micro-breweries and diversification of the beer market with potentially far-reaching implications for the business and economics of the brewery industry inside and outside the country. In November 2016, UNESCO even added 'Belgian Beer Culture' to the World Heritage List, highlighting the cultural importance and impact of the Belgian beer industry beyond pure business and economics. This course focuses on key principles and changes in the economics, marketing, production and innovation of the Belgian Brewery Industry in a Global Context. Taking the Belgian beer industry as a multi-faceted case study for studying core Business processes and developments in the field of the national and international beer market (including production, strategy, marketing and product innovation), this course also explores the impact of geography, culture and globalisation on Belgian beer businesses and their business strategies. The course includes company visits, guest lecture series and experiential learning and provides unique insights into the major shifts and changes of major the economics and business processes related to the brewery industry. In cooperation with key experts, this summer course will also include the possibility of learning the nuts and bolts of the beer brewing process itself.

BUS315G Women and Leadership – A Global Context

This course examines key leadership concepts, in general, and women in particular. The course is not set up to teach you how to be a leader, but it will operate with the assumption that if you know how successful women and men have navigated power and authority, applied core competencies, and have secured a work-life balance, you will be better able to frame your own academic endeavors and professional development. The course will explore leadership theory in a global context by examining leadership for a global audience and understanding leadership approaches addressing diverse populations. There is still much work to be done to rectify the gender imbalance and these are exciting times to make a difference in this regard. In fact, strong leadership in our global environment is one of the most valued skills you can have. This is one of the goals of the course—to make you aware of the value of strong leadership in knowledge-based societies. This course should be of interest to students in business, communication, international relations, international law, and other fields of studies.

Prerequisites: HUM101G

POL 229G EU Security Governance and International Security Challenges

The course will examine competing perspectives on security governance and will explore trends of the new security environment as well as global challenges. Students will analyze different case studies with a particular focus on the EU as a security actor. The course will introduce therefore to the students the governance concept, role of the EU, various international actors, and agendas developed for this purpose. The course will analyze and use empirical techniques to consider the external factors that contribute towards a national and global approach: political culture, geo-strategic location, economic structure, foreign policy goals and priorities, and history. Concepts will be investigated both to help analyze the relative strengths and weaknesses of existing structures and to suggest ways in which alternative forms might advance. Specific organizations and governance actors presently active are given particular attention, as is the management of selected global challenges.

Prerequisite: POL101G

INT381G Internship

Working in a host firm or organisation, students undertake a 150-hour, six week-long project on a theme or topic related to their major. It requires students to work on-site, remote or hybrid at least 25 hours per week, keep a weekly activity log and write a project report.

Prerequisites: BSoG degree seeking students have to have completed at least 90 ECTS by the end of the Spring semester to be able to do an internship in the Summer term and they have to be in good academic standing. Independently found internships must be approved by the Internship Committee. There are no prerequisites for Study Abroad students who are only joining for the Summer term.

LAW214G Fundamentals of the Energy Transition

Attaining the clean energy transition has become a global policy objective. The major crises we have been experiencing in the last few years, from the climate emergency crisis, to the outbreak of the energy price crisis, have exacerbated the challenges. Thus, the attainment of the energy transition is of an increasing importance, as it is key for addressing a plethora of different crucial issues, including climate change, growth, security, and energy democracy.

This course aims to highlight the complexity and multifaceted character of these challenges, and make the students conversant with the fundamentals of the energy transition. With a focus on the international and European level, it adopts a multi-disciplinary approach (law, policymaking, governance, as well as political and geopolitical interests and balances). In this regard, the course scrutinises the content of fundamental concepts, such as energy transition, energy democracy or energy solidarity. It examines how energy markets work, it analyses the core aspects of the relevant legal and regulatory framework, and it discusses the application of fundamental rights in the field of energy. In addition, it elucidates different conflicts between policy objectives and regulatory targets, as well as the different interests of different actors. Major questions that will be discussed include:

- What does the term energy transition refer to?
- What are the policy objectives and the governance model that drive the energy transition?
- How can we regulate energy markets, and how can we promote renewable energy sources within the current structure of the energy markets?
- What is the role of the fundamental rights in the field of energy? Can citizens or citizen initiatives have access to judicial protection?
- What is energy democracy, and what is the role of self-consumers and energy communities?
- What is energy solidarity and energy security, and what is their legal expression?
- What is the relation between the attainment of the energy transition and the protection of the environment?

The course adopts a dialectical and inclusive teaching method, that combines ex cathedra lectures and tutorial-style problem-based learning. Real cases and open-ended questions will be used to trigger students' curiosity and interest, and to boost active participation in the course. With the aim to encourage students to undertake independent research and strengthen both their writing and presentation skills, there will be two assignments: a) writing a brief (4-5 pages) essay and presenting it in the class. A discussant-model can be followed, with each student providing feedback to the essay and presentation of a fellow student. In this manner, the critical thinking of students will be sharpened and the students will get familiar with academic peer-reviewing; b) an oral assignment consisting in debating in small teams on open-ended questions. The course structure also includes one visit to an EU institution or organisation in Brussels. Such an educational activity will be a special spice to the course structure that very much pertains the nature of a summer school. Further, a guest lecture may be organised for one of the topics that the course aims to discuss. Inviting an external expert for delivering a guest lecture will be enriching for the students because they will have the chance to get insights from and interact with not only the course coordinator and lecturer of the course.

A week-by-week overview of the course follows. The structure and content is indicative, and I will be glad to discuss changes and make adaptations on the basis of the needs of the summer school.

LAW215G Blockchain Multilevel Governance

This course provides an in-depth examination of blockchain governance as a multilevel process spanning self-regulation, national, supranational, transnational, and international dimensions. Students will explore how decentralized technologies challenge existing legal frameworks, requiring new forms of governance and accountability mechanisms at the international level. The course critically assesses the tensions between autonomy, regulation, and human rights, analyzing how governance structures impact the development and regulation of blockchain ecosystems.

At the core of this course is an investigation into how various stakeholders—including blockchain developers, regulators, international organizations, and civil society—contribute to the shaping of governance rules and technical standards. Students will examine case studies on national regulations, supranational approaches like the EU's Markets in Crypto-Assets (MiCA), and emerging trends in international law that seek to address blockchain accountability. A special focus will be placed on human rights, trade law, and financial regulation.

The course is designed to equip students with the analytical tools needed to critically evaluate blockchain governance mechanisms and propose innovative legal solutions. Through interactive discussions, real-world case studies, and an institutional visit to a relevant regulatory or industry body, students will develop a nuanced understanding of the role of law in shaping blockchain governance at multiple levels.

POL 215G Cybersecurity and International Relations

How are computer networks affecting societies? How are information and communication technologies affecting our notions of space and time? What is the importance of cybersecurity for modern society? Which threats arise when ‘connecting the unconnected’? The course aims to give a general understanding of the transformational impact that emerging technologies have on our societies, consider the main threats to our democracies arising from the connected society, and provide students with essential awareness concerning the relationship between Cyberspace and international relations. For this, the course will briefly present the history of the internet and how it has evolved in the past decades, as well as the main ongoing technological advancements that have or will have an influence on our daily lives (AI, big data, IoT, quantum computing, etc.). During the classes, the students will get acquainted with fundamental concepts stemming from Cyberspace and the implications that this domain bears in our connected societies. Case studies including social-media platforms, cyber incidents, and other examples from the real-world scenario will be also presented. Finally, the course will provide a general understanding of international approaches to cybersecurity, as developed in the EU and other regions, to combine the content of the first part of the course with classic theories of international relations.

Prerequisite: POL101G