

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

The courses regularly taught at the College are described in this section, though other courses may be offered on an occasional basis. Unless otherwise indicated, all courses are worth 6 ECTS units.

The courses are listed by subject area, which is also indicated by the first three letters of the course code. Courses are offered at three levels. Courses at the 100 level are introductory and can be taken by all students. They are often taken in the first year. Courses at the 200 and 300 levels are more advanced and often cannot be taken without first having passed an introductory course in the subject. Some of these upper-level courses may even require successful completion of a 200-level course. Any such prerequisites are indicated at the end of the course description. Exemptions from prerequisites may be granted by the course instructor and must be notified in writing to the Head of Academic Administration.

The frequency of course offerings is indicated. It may occasionally be necessary to adapt the semesters in which courses are given.

Courses at partner institutions

The Vesalius curriculum includes courses that are offered by partner institutions, such as the Free University of Brussels (VUB) and the Royal Music Conservatory. While these courses are, in principle, also open to study abroad students, it needs to be taken into account that they do not always follow the same academic calendar as that of Vesalius College. This may require a certain degree of flexibility on the part of student with respect to their travel arrangements. The study abroad department will deal with such requests on a case-by-case basis. Information on the available courses will be distributed before the pre-registration period each semester. Students taking courses at partner institutions must follow their rules.

Art (ART)

European Studies

ART 361E

A course focusing on European history and culture, which includes field trips to different European cities (Antwerp, Bruges and Brussels for Belgium; Amsterdam for the Netherlands; Paris for France and an additional trip to either Cologne or Trier in Germany or focusing on a theme such as the World War I and II). Studies the historical, cultural and economic aspects of each city as well as the country in which it is located. Special emphasis is placed on the history of art and architecture. (All costs for the trips are to be paid by the participants as an additional fee collected at registration; see section on tuition and fees). *Given each semester.*

Business (BUS)

Introduction to Business BUS 101E

Introduces students to the internal organisation of firms and to the legal, economic, political and social environment in which they operate. Aims to show how accounting, finance, marketing, operations, human resources and innovation, all fields that the student will later study, contribute to realising the objectives of the firm. Students also learn how to find and analyse information about businesses. *Given annually in the fall semester*

Business Law BUS 111E

Introduces the legal context in which business is conducted in civil and common law jurisdictions. After examining the sources and components of law, considers in-depth the law of contracts, the law of torts, finance of international trade, intellectual property rights, agency and distributorship, conflicts of law and competent courts, international commercial arbitration, bankruptcy and receivership and the law of corporations. *Given annually in spring semester*

Business and Media Ethics BUS 201E

Starts with the general features and conditions of ethical practice, followed by an overview of the main ethical traditions— virtue ethics, duty ethics (deontological ethics) and consequentialism (teleological ethics)—and a discussion of the specific character of applied ethics and the methodological problems that are connected to it. Three main issues dealing with the media will be treated: journalism ethics, advertising ethics and the ethics of new (digital) media. The discussion of business will include the idea of corporate social responsibility and ethical problems in human resource management and sales. *Given biennially in spring semester (2010)*

Prerequisite: at least one 100-level course in business, economics or communications

Human Resource Management BUS 211E

Examines the sub-system of staff planning, recruitment and selection, training and development, position control, audit and evaluation and that constitute the human resource function of all organisations. Emphasis is placed on the role of these activities as they relate to the organization and the organizational managers and leaders. Topics include recruitment and selection, personnel planning, testing employees, training, performance management, compensation, managing labour relations, organisation behaviour, organisational culture, ethics and fair treatment. *Given annually in fall semester*
Prerequisite: BUS101E

Management of Innovation and Technical Change BUS 213E

Provides tools and ways of thinking related to managing and sustaining innovation as a means of creating value. Themes to be addressed include features and characteristics of technological innovation, strategy/structure/environment and innovation, effects of new technology on employees and managers, implications for occupational health and safety,

the learning organisation and the culture of change, performance management and intellectual property. *Given annually in fall semester*
Prerequisite: BUS 101E

Marketing BUS 231E

Analyses the role of marketing in creating customer satisfaction. Discusses the importance of market segmentation, targeting and positioning, starting from understanding customer needs and translating these into superior perceived value, quality and service for the target market. Illustrates how to compose an effective marketing programme and stresses the application of concepts through the use of case studies. *Given annually in spring semester*

Prerequisite: BUS 101E

Financial Accounting BUS 241E

An introduction to accounting principles that form the foundation of contemporary financial accounting. The course provides a comprehensive grounding in the principles of financial accounting, including the underlying concepts and process involved in the preparation of financial statements. There is an emphasis on single-owner service providers and merchandising organizations in accordance with US Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP). *Given annually in fall semester*

Prerequisite: BUS 101E

Managerial Accounting BUS 242E

Introduces students to the vital role that management accounting plays in organisations for decision-making, planning and controlling operations. Explains how management accounting systems support the operational and strategic needs of an enterprise. Topics include budgeting, costing methods (including activity-based costing), capital investments and performance measurement. *Given annually in spring semester*

Prerequisite: BUS 241E

Information Systems BUS 251E

Covers topics in business data processing including data structures used in business applications, file organisation, sequential and random file access as well as an introduction to database concepts and data normalisation. In addition, the course examines some simple DBMS packages, methods of information systems analysis and design for organisations with data processing resources (concepts of Unified Modelling Language), system feasibility, information requirement analysis, organisational policy and procedures, database use including data dictionaries, software design and implementation management, project control and systems-level testing and installation. *Given annually in spring semester*

Prerequisite: BUS101E

Selected Topics in Business BUS 281E/381E

Topic to be announced together with the prerequisites

International Business BUS 301E

Introduces advanced students to the major fields of international business: organisation, finance, marketing and human resources management. Examines both the international environment and the nature and form of international business arrangements with a special focus on the role of multinational enterprises. It covers European, US and Asian firms as well as both the manufacturing and service industries. Concepts are studied through the use of case studies. *Given annually in spring semester*
Prerequisites: ECN 101E, BUS 101E

International Business Negotiations BUS 302E

Introduces students to basic concepts of the theory of negotiations while providing hands-on application of such concepts in simulated negotiations of complex international business transactions of a project nature. Also deals with the preparation/analysis of positions and reporting on progress and outcomes. *Given annually in fall semester*
Prerequisite: BUS101E

Mergers, Acquisitions and Related Transactions BUS 312E

Covers the main types of mergers and acquisitions (including leveraged buy-outs; management buy-outs; friendly and hostile mergers and acquisitions), and of related transactions (including divestments; de-mergers; privatisations; alliances, partnerships and joint-ventures). These transactions are studied from all the main points of view. The topics covered include: motives; search for potential acquisitions, acquirers and partners; the role of advisers; bid tactics; legal and regulatory issues; valuation; financing; accounting and tax issues; organizational and human aspects; integration; successes and failures. *Given annually in spring semester*
Prerequisite: BUS 101E

Finance BUS 321E

Focuses on the theory and practice of corporate financing decisions, including the management of working capital, capital structure decisions, dividend policy, cost of financing and long term financing. *Given annually in fall semester*
Prerequisites: MTH 140E, BUS 241E

International Finance BUS 325E

Examines the financing of a multinational enterprise and surveys international investing. Areas covered include currency, interest rate and negotiable securities markets. Also discusses hedging and interest rate arbitrage, foreign exchange, futures and options as well as international money, capital markets and international financing. *Given annually in spring semester*
Prerequisites: ECN 101E, BUS 101E

Marketing Research in Europe BUS 333E

This intermediate level marketing course compares and contrasts market research methods from both academic and client-based perspectives.□ The course examines approaches, methods and applications of market research in a primarily European and

international context. We focus on the need for market research to be viewed on a systemic level, as an integrated creative process, composed of varying practical and theoretical approaches, which can be tailored to each research project. Statistical analysis will be actively used in the course in the context of the decision making process. □ *Given occasionally in the summer semester*

Prerequisites: STA101E, BUS 231E

Virtual Enterprises & Electronic Business BUS 351E

Focuses on information systems requirements and management issues relating to the conduct of business over the internet/intranet and on the development and management of virtual enterprises. Topics include web design, electronic commerce and virtual supply chains. *Given annually in fall semester*

Prerequisites: BUS 251E

Operations Management BUS 361E

Surveys the practice and important issues involved in production and operations management: value-driven operations management, quality function deployment, supply chain management, enterprise resource planning (ERP), materials planning and scheduling (MPS, MRP II, JIT, TOC), inventory management, quality management, group technology and cellular manufacturing and flexible manufacturing systems. Includes video presentations and guest lectures. *Given annually in spring semester*

Prerequisite: BUS 101E

Management Science BUS 362E

The use of quantitative decision tools in management and policy-making. Topics include constrained optimization, including widely applied methods such as linear and integer programming. Extension to multiple objectives is discussed in goal programming. Emphasis is placed on problem formulation and the interpretation of results, using relevant software. Other topics include project management methods (CPM/PERT), Monte-Carlo simulation and decision theory. *Given biennially in spring semester (2010)*

Prerequisite: MTH 140E, STA 101E

Corporate Strategy BUS 391E

Business capstone course focusing on strategy formulation, implementation and performance. Deals with the identification and analysis of external opportunities and constraints and with the development of internal capabilities in response to these factors. Investigates the main functions of the corporation: products/services, research and development; manufacturing, logistics, marketing, finance/accounting, and human resources. Taught primarily through case studies. *Given annually in fall semester*

Prerequisite: third-year standing in the Business major or permission of the instructor

Entrepreneurship BUS 392E

Business capstone course designed to develop understanding of the entrepreneurial process and small business management and to explore the strategies that improve new venture performance. The core task is for the student to produce an actual business plan for the student's own venture that includes information such as: the technical concepts of

the product or service, a marketing plan, an outline for the first three years and a financing plan (equity/leverage). Also develops skills in written business communication and oral presentations that allow students to integrate entrepreneurship concepts and interact with business experts. *Given annually in spring semester*

Prerequisites: third-year standing in the Business major or permission of the instructor; BUS 241E required, BUS 242E recommended

Communications (CMM)

Introduction to Human Communication CMM 101E

Allows future communication practitioners to study and comprehend the preliminaries to language as well as to verbal and non-verbal communication. Strong focus on public communication and on the preparation and organisation of public speeches. Studies the nature, components and purposes of human communication. Familiarizes students with the basic theoretical and practical models of various communication courses offered within the major—namely organisational, intercultural and mass communication. *Given annually in fall semester*

Introduction to Mass Communication CMM 102E

Starts with an overview of the uses and functions of mass communication and the history and rise of mass media in modern society. Studies the content and strategy of different types of mass media such as the printed press, radio, television and Internet, as well as the advertising, public relations, music and film industries. *Given annually in fall semester*

Introduction to Organisational Communication CMM 104E

Familiarises students with the dynamics of interpersonal communication within groups. Introduces the theory and practice (mainly through case studies) used by organisations to plan, develop, implement and evaluate a variety of communication strategies. The course allows students to propose and defend a comprehensive communication plan for a newly created company. *Given annually in spring semester*

Language and Communication CMM 105E

Introduces key fields in linguistics and language study so that students develop the basic conceptual framework and technical vocabulary needed to understand the nature of language and its use. Focuses on the notions of creativity, complexity and structure. Combines textbook and theoretical readings with practical exercises in language analysis. Prepares Communication majors for intermediate-level work in stylistics and discourse analysis. *Given annually in spring semester*

Print Journalism CMM 203E

An advanced workshop on writing for print media, covering the ways in which journalists seek, collect, assess, write and publish information on specialised news stories and feature articles for newspapers and magazines. Includes extensive discussion of good

taste, ethics and the responsibilities of the media as well as the basics of communication law. *Given annually in spring semester*

Prerequisite: CMM105E

Broadcast Journalism

CMM 204E

A workshop on writing for the broadcast media that familiarises students with the techniques of radio and TV news (broadcast news and style, setting up of interviews, news reading mechanics and basic principles of recording). Also focuses on the writing and production techniques needed to create radio and television shows, covering the fundamentals of writing body copies, liner notes, features, news, radio documentaries and docudramas. Students write a number of scripts and storylines made for a variety of broadcast outlets and gain some practical insights as to how to translate an idea or concept into an actual audiovisual production. *Given biennially in spring semester (2010)*

Prerequisite: CMM105E

Film: History, Theories, Narration and Scriptwriting

CMM 205E

Develops and refines writing skills in the audio-visual field. Expands cinematic vocabulary by familiarising students with fundamental film structure and narrative as well as basic film theories and a broad range of genres (including Italian neo-realism, the French nouvelle vague and British social cinema as well as mainstream productions). Analyses the constitutive elements of film narration and explains basic visual techniques. By the end of the course students will have mastered the techniques necessary to provide a professionally written screenplay. *Given annually in fall semester*

Prerequisite: CMM 102E recommended

Business Writing and Social Networking Applications

CMM 206E

This course covers the complete process of business communication writing from the development of print and graphic materials (reports, grant proposals, business plans, correspondence) through the management of information, to participation in meetings as well as the preparation and presentation of speeches. Half of the course will be dedicated to writing styles for the web and how businesses are using the new social media and networking tools (Wikipedia, blogs, Facebook, You Tube...) for public relations, marketing and better internal and external network communications. *Given biennially in spring semester (2010)*

Prerequisite: CMM 104E

Scriptwriting for Radio and Television

CMM 207E

Focuses on the writing of fictional or semi-fictional material. Mainly in a workshop format, students will be involved in creating storyboards, photonovels and scripts for music videos and commercials as a preparation for the creation of radio dramatisations and TV serials, be they original stories or adaptations generally in a 'full-length format' in order to build up a significant portfolio of scriptwriting samples. *Given biennially in spring semester (2011)*

Rhetoric

CMM 231E

Introduces the history and study of persuasion and rhetorical theories from classical

Greece to the present. Uses these theories to analyse persuasive messages of all types (public speeches, dialogues, television debates, theological arguments, articles, etc.). Analyses and assesses the implications of these persuasive messages, be they expressed in a democratic or dictatorial context, for society. Through role-plays and mock trials, students hone their persuasive and argumentation skills. *Given biennially in fall semester (2009)*

Prerequisite: CMM 101E recommended

Corporate Communications & Public Relations CMM 242E

Corporate culture is expressed through corporate communications and public relations. This course assesses the tools the communications manager has at his disposal to shape a company's image internally and externally. Particular attention is paid to corporate communication strategy development within perceived cultural narratives, with students researching and assessing the quality and nature of the communication flow within an organisation or company of their choice. Public relations are approached by evaluating numerous case studies and situational analyses. *Given annually in fall semester*

Political Communication CMM 251E

Looks at the use made of the media by political actors who range from presidents to terrorists and analyses the ways in which communication strategies may be used to shape public opinion. Focuses on the roles of political reporting, advertising and public relations in politics and provides a detailed consideration of the political and philosophical implications of the changing mass communication landscape as fuelled by the impact of the new communication technologies. *Given annually in spring semester*

Media Systems in Europe CMM 261E

The course provides students with an understanding of media policies in different European countries and examines the changing role of the media in European societies. By systematically analyzing the distinctive features of different national media markets, state policies and civil societies this course examines the extent to which there still exist distinctive national or regional media strategies and philosophical approaches despite the clear progress of globalization, convergence, concentration and commercialization in the European communications industry. *Given biennially in spring semester (2010)*

Prerequisite: CMM 102E recommended

Intercultural Communication CMM 271E

Deals initially with the phenomenon of culture in a broad sense and then moves to different ways of studying culture. Highlights major theoretical issues via a series of short case studies illustrating the difficulty of studying culture, intercultural contact and identity (in all their complexity) in an academic manner. Presents several existing theoretical models to show the theoretical, methodological and practical issues involved in this typically interdisciplinary field and how the issues have been dealt with so far. *Given annually in fall semester*

Prerequisite: CMM 101E recommended

Selected Topics in Communications

CMM 281E/381 E

Topic to be announced together with the prerequisites

Cultural Studies and Cross-Cultural Capability

CMM 302E

Part one highlights major theoretical issues in the discipline of Cross-Cultural Capability (or Language and Intercultural Communication), exploring this field in the broader context of Cultural Studies, presenting its origins and growth as an academic discipline, and critically examining its jargon and methodology. Part two applies these insights to the Low Countries within the Belgian, Dutch and European contexts. Topics include the “building blocks” of Flemish, Belgian and Dutch identities and intercultural differences with the United States. A contrastive/comparative approach is applied to political, economic, geographical, historical, religious, etc. data. Specific emphasis is put on “transferability of knowledge” so that students learn to carry out research on similar topics independently. *Given annually in spring semester*

Prerequisite: CMM 271E

Communication Theories

CMM 310E

Provides a broad historical overview of the main communication theories and links them to current debates about media and the internet. Students review key authors and publications in the development of communication theory and learn to situate them in their historical context. Students discuss the texts in class and learn to relate them to current processes and issues. *Given annually in fall semester*

Prerequisite: CMM 102E

ICTs, Media and Society

CMM 321E

Examines the impact of new Information and communication technologies (ICTs), with a focus on the political impact of the internet and the changes this has led to in our understanding of media and democracy. Discusses in detail the impact of digitisation, and in particular the effect of the internet on changing patterns and modes of governance in the European Union. Examines and critically analyses the changing role of government, with a focus on the role of public administrations in communicating with citizens and civil society. *Given annually in fall semester*

Prerequisite: CMM 102E recommended

International Communication

CMM 322E

Introduces the historical context and examines different approaches to international communication from the modernisation and cultural imperialism theories to cultural studies and critical political economy perspectives. The course also examines the theories and problems related to the international function of the news media, the entertainment industry and the telecommunications sector. Students also gain a clear understanding of the creation of the global media marketplace and how international communication evolves in the Internet age. Furthermore, the course discusses the international governance structures related to media, news, telecommunications and the Internet. *Given biennially in spring semester (2011)*

Prerequisite: CMM 102E; CMM 251E is recommended

Marketing Communication & Advertising

CMM 341E

Surveys theoretical models of marketing communication with particular emphasis on a coherent and integrated approach to communication. Students are involved in the design and implementation of a strategic communication scheme for different publics. The increasingly global nature of marketing and advertising are considered allowing students to gain a sense of how important cultural factors are and why they need to be taken into consideration when selling a service, a product or a media production on an international scale. Guest speakers and visits to marketing departments are included.
Given annually in spring semester

International Journalism

CMM 343E

Teaches basic professional skills with a definite commitment to excellence in all ethical forms of journalism (elite media, respectable tabloids, regional papers, commercial or public service radio and TV, websites and blogging). The course mixes general presentations (on ethics, the state of international reporting) with very practical classes. It highlights the problems of doing international reporting (time and resource constraints, etc) and introduces more innovative and less conventional forms of reporting (transnational reporting, preventive journalism, etc.) *Given biennially in spring semester (2010)*

Media Management

CMM 345E

Mass media represents one of the most dramatically changing growth sectors in the world today. This course gives the opportunity to students to study the unique challenges of managing media organisations in a fast-paced global environment. Focus is on the market analysis, planning, organisation, financial management, promotion, distribution and human resource management of media organisations. Particular emphasis will be placed on the Appreciative Inquiry model as applied to media companies. This course also considers how media companies need to approach the media, stakeholders and the public in a public relations context. *Given biennially in fall semester (2009)*
Prerequisite: CMM 102E

Lobbying in the EU

CMM 346E

A lobbyist is someone who tries to influence a decision-making process. In other words, we are all lobbyists, but in Brussels, this is a profession for around 15,000 experts. This course will examine how these public affairs specialists raise awareness, run campaigns and facilitate dialogue between private or public organisations and the decision-makers of the European Union. Taking an issue management approach, students will focus on the ways in which lobbyists follow, analyse and even influence the decisions of the European Union. *Given biennially in spring semester (2011)*

Prerequisites: none, but at least one of the following are strongly recommended: CMM 104E, CMM 242E, POL 231E or POL 332E

International Reporting in Brussels

CMM 352E

Enhances writing, reporting and analytical skills so that students can produce articles on the European Union, NATO and other intergovernmental and international non-governmental organisations based in Brussels, the city with the highest number of

accredited international journalists worldwide. Requires attendance at news conferences and briefings in European Parliament, European Council, European Commission, European Investment Bank, NATO and UN headquarters. *Given annually in fall semester*
Prerequisite: CMM 203E; POL 231E recommended

European Communication Policies CMM 361E

The course aims to provide students with an understanding of the media policies in Europe, and in particular how they are shaped at the level of the European Union. The way in which media-related civil society organizations influence EU policy formation and the nature of the issues involved will be studied, as will the roles the European Commission and the European Parliament.

Offered biennially in fall semester [2010]

Prerequisite: CMM 261E or permission of the instructor

Communication Capstone Course CMM 391E and CMM 392E

Provides students with an opportunity to work, under the direction of an adviser, on an extended research problem in communications. Requires students to integrate knowledge and exercise the skills acquired throughout their work in the major. By calling for sophisticated understanding of theoretical issues as well as an appreciation of ways to construct empirical research solutions, it prepares students for independent research at graduate level. *Given each semester: CMM 391E in fall, CMM 392E in spring*

Prerequisite: SOC 203E

Economics (ECN)

Introduction to Economics ECN 101E

Illustrates the way in which economists view the world by the development of some basic tools of economic analysis and by their application in understanding the behaviour of households, firms and government. Problems include: trade and specialisation; the operation of markets; industrial structure and economic welfare; the determination of aggregate output and the price level; and fiscal and monetary policy. *Given each semester*

Macroeconomics ECN 201E

This intermediate-level course examines the determination of income, employment, the price level, interest rates and exchange rates in the economy. Piece-by-piece, we construct a model that describes how each of these variables is determined in the long- and short-run. We investigate issues of long-run growth, business cycles, international trade, and monetary and fiscal policy. We pay special attention to current developments, with an international and European perspective throughout. *Given annually in fall semester*
Prerequisite: ECN 101E

Microeconomics ECN 211E

Provides a rigorous intermediate-level treatment of microeconomic theory with

applications to business and public policy. Topics include the mathematical foundations of economic theory; the theory of individual economic behaviour; the theory of the firm and economic organisation; perfect competition, general equilibrium, and economics of information; corporate behaviour and strategy under imperfect competition; capital theory; labour markets; welfare economics and public choice. *Given annually in spring semester*

Prerequisites: ECN 101E, MTH 140E

The European Economy: Structure and Performance ECN 271E

Examines in detail the current structure of the European economy - the what, who, how and why of production, distribution and consumption. Discusses, for example, differences among countries in economic organisation, in financial institutions and labour relations, as well as the role and influence of the European Union as against that of nation states. Assesses recent economic performance across Europe and attends throughout to the ways in which the European economy is similar to or different from economies in other parts of the world. *Given annually in spring semester*

Prerequisite: ECN 101E

Selected Topics in Economics ECN 281E/381 E

Topic to be announced together with the prerequisites

Industrial Organization and Competition ECN 303E

Extends the analysis of the firm and market structure by adding insights from game theory, principal-agent theory, transaction cost economics, economic sociology and behavioural economics. The course analyzes various forms of imperfect competition: oligopoly, Bertrand and Cournot competition, homogeneous and differentiated products, monopolistic competition and location analysis. Other topics include the classical structure-conduct-performance paradigm, concentration and mergers, research and development, compatibility and standards, advertising, quality, durability, warranties, pricing and marketing tactics. A survey of competition theory discusses workable competition, the Chicago School of Economics, Austrian economics and contestable markets, and studies European competition law and policy. Students must investigate an industrial sector of their own choosing. *Given biennially in spring semester (2010)*

Prerequisite: ECN211E

International Trade ECN 307E

This course analyses the interdependence that arises from international trade in goods and services. We cover the following topics: the gains from trade, the pattern of trade, the impact of protection, international factor movements, and trade policy. We pay special attention to the European Union and its relationship to other regional trading blocs. *Given annually in spring semester*

Prerequisite: ECN 101E

Economics of the European Union ECN 334E

Begins with a brief overview of EU history and institutions. Examines the theory of economic integration, both micro and macro, and policies of the single European

market: competition, transport, energy, environment and labour. It also looks at structural policies: agriculture, fisheries, regional policy and social policy. Also studied are external relations and enlargement. *Given annually in fall semester*

Prerequisite: One course each in economics and political science or permission of instructor.

Econometrics

ECN 353E

This course is designed to teach students how to quantify and test economic theories. We cover the basic ideas of linear regression, first with the two-variable regression model and then with the multivariate model, using both quantitative and qualitative variables. Then we deal with the practical consequences of relaxing various assumptions of the classical linear regression model. At the end of the semester, students will be able to set up an econometric model, estimate the model, perform appropriate diagnostic and hypothesis tests, and interpret the results. *Given biennially in spring semester (2011)*

Prerequisites: MTH 140E, STA 101E

History (HIS)

Modern Europe: 1848 to the Present

HIS 112E

This course stresses the development of modern European societies since the Revolutions of 1848. It will begin with an analysis of the causes, course and consequences of the 1848 upheavals in Europe and continue with an overview of the economic and social consequences of industrialisation, the evolution of parliamentary democracy, the origins and development of liberalism, nationalism and socialism, diplomatic and military developments from Lord Palmerston to the end of the Cold War. The course will end with an examination of the situation of Europe after World War II and the causes and essential features of the Cold War. *Given annually in spring semester*

Modern Europe: 1648 to 1848

HIS 201E

Introduces students to the main political, social, economic and intellectual developments that contributed to the development of Western Civilization and its common culture from the Westphalian Settlement of 1648 to the Revolutions of 1848. Absolutism, the Enlightenment, the French Revolution, Napoleon, the Vienna Settlement and Restoration shall constitute the focal points. *Given biennially in spring semester (2010)*

Development of the Major Powers: 1815 to 1945

HIS 202E

Studies the domestic history of France, the United Kingdom, Germany and Russia stressing political, social and economic developments directly related to the powers' current state, with particular focus on nationalism, liberalism, conservatism and totalitarianism as dominant ideologies. Connects international affairs to domestic developments. Includes weekly discussion periods and two extensive primary source workshops. *Given biennially in spring semester (2011)*

History of Postwar Europe

HIS 213E

Examines political, economic, social and cultural developments in Western, Central and Eastern Europe from the end of World War II to the aftermath of the Cold War and the collapse of the Soviet Union. Specific topics include the origins, evolution and end of the Cold War, the process of de-colonisation, the origin and development of the European Union, the rise and evolution of the welfare state, the spread of mass production and consumption, the role of ideology, the revival of nationalism and post-war cultural trends. *Given annually in fall semester*

Evolution of the International System, 1815-1914

HIS 214E

Designed to introduce students of International Affairs to the practice of diplomacy and the evolution of the International System from the Congress of Vienna to the eve of World War I. Though historical in approach, lectures focus on how the diplomatic system functioned, how policy was formulated and what role certain concepts and theories (balance of power, Concert of Europe, collective security, war as an instrument of policy, etc.) played during this period. Pays special attention to helping students build up an international relations vocabulary. Assumes a basic knowledge of European history in the 19th century. *Given biennially in fall semester (2009)*

Prerequisite: HIS 112E

Evolution of the International System, 1914-1989

HIS 215E

Designed to introduce students of International Affairs to the practice of diplomacy and the evolution of the International System from World War I to the fall of the Soviet Union and German Re-unification. Though historical in approach, lectures focus on how the diplomatic system functioned, how policy was formulated and what role certain concepts and theories (balance of power, collective security, war as an instrument of policy, etc.) played during this period. Pays special attention to helping students build up an international relations vocabulary. Assumes a basic knowledge of European history in the 20th century. *Given biennially in fall semester (2010)*

Prerequisites: HIS 112E

History of the Middle East

HIS 261E

Introduces students to the main events and developments in the history of the Middle East from the Ottoman defeat of the Byzantine Empire in 1453 to the present. For background and context, discusses certain historical developments occurring before 1453, such as the advent and spread of Judaism, Christianity and Islam. Examines the impact of European Imperialism on the region as well as the origins and evolution of the Arab-Israeli conflict. *Given biennially in spring semester (2011)*

History: Methods and Problems

HIS 271E

Explores the theory, practice and application of history by investigating various classical issues of historiography and extending the student's techniques of historical analysis and research. Includes an inquiry into the nature of the discipline, basic historical theory, the notion of historical truth, the nature of evidence, the auxiliary sciences, comprehensive

research techniques, writing and organisation, classical and modern research trends and the so-called “new” histories. *Given biennially in spring semester (2010)*

Prerequisite: HIS 112E

U.S. Foreign Policy: 1898 to the Present

HIS 321E

Provides students with a thorough survey of the United States’ foreign policy since 1898. Emphasises the rise to superpower status by the US between 1898 and 1945, the US Cold War policies and the role of the US today and in the future with regard to “New World Order” and the “War on Terrorism”. Pays special attention to economic and ideological aspects of policy formation as well as political, military and strategic considerations. *Given biennially in spring semester (2010)*

Honours Essay (HON)

Honours Essay

HON 393E

The Honours Essay is a research paper of 10,000-12,000 words (including footnotes, but excluding bibliography) that may be undertaken by qualified students, with the assistance of an essay adviser, in semester 5 or 6 of the Bachelor’s degree programme. The Honours Essay counts as a 300-level course and is worth 6 ECTS credits. An Honours Essay in the field of the major (Business and International Affairs only) counts towards the Major Electives of the majors.

In order to qualify for the Honours Essay, a student must at the start of the semester during which it is to be written, have earned at least 120 ECTS credits, have successfully completed HUM 112E, and have a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0.

During the semester preceding that in which the Honours Essay is written, a student who is likely to qualify should ask a faculty member to serve as an adviser for the Honours Essay and submit to the adviser a research proposal of approximately 300 words. If the adviser approves the proposal, then the student may register for the Honours Essay, conditional on meeting the requirements specified above.

During the semester, the student should meet regularly with the essay adviser to discuss the progress of the research. The essay must be submitted in triplicate by the end of the last week of teaching and will be assessed by the adviser and by an additional reader appointed by the head of the relevant curriculum committee.

Students interested in doing an Honours Essay should ask the administration for a document laying out in greater detail the procedures for applying and submitting the essay and the criteria for its assessment. They are advised to obtain this document early in the semester preceding the one in which the honours essay is to be done.

Humanities (HUM)

Critical Thinking and Academic Writing I and II HUM 111E, HUM 112E

Teaches the essential structures of written and spoken exposition, introduces students to the modes of critical thinking and writing practiced in the different academic disciplines and analyses a variety of models that provide criteria for evaluating the students' own written and oral work. Must be taken in sequence.

HUM111E is a prerequisite for HUM 112E *Both courses are given each semester*

Note: HUM 112E is a prerequisite for ALL 300-level courses. Students who have not successfully completed this course will be unable to take any 300-level courses.

The Problem of Free Will HUM 271E

Drawing on interdisciplinary readings from literature, philosophy, history, art, political science and neurobiology, this course examines free will as a complex, unresolved and evolving problem for thinkers and artists in the Western tradition, from the time of the ancient Greeks to the late 20th century. *Given biennially in fall semester (2009)*

Prerequisite: HUM 112E

Internship (INT)

Internship INT 381E

Working in a sponsoring firm or organisation, students undertake a 150-hour, semester-long project on a theme or topic related to their major. Requires students to work on-site at least 10hours per week, keep a daily activity log and write a project report. Prerequisites: Students in second semester of second year or first semester of third year, good academic standing and approval by the Internship Committee

Law (LAW)

International Law LAW 301E

Familiarises students with the fundamental concepts and principles of modern international law. Introduces the historical and theoretical development of international law as well as its basic methodology in order better to understand present day developments. *Given annually in fall semester*

Prerequisites: one other upper-level course in international relations, history or politics

Languages**Dutch (LDU)**

Elementary Dutch LDU 101E

This course focuses on listening and understanding, vocabulary and basic practical grammar. After these courses students should be able to manage living in a Dutch-speaking environment, to participate in everyday conversations, to read and understand

basic Dutch texts and to compose simple written work. Students will also learn more about Dutch/ Belgian culture while working on different projects. Designed for students with no prior knowledge of Dutch. *Given each semester*

French (LFR)

Elementary French I & II

LFR 101E, LFR 102E

This sequence focuses listening and understanding, vocabulary and basic practical grammar. After these courses students should be able to manage living in a French-speaking environment, to participate in everyday conversations, to read and understand basic French texts and to compose simple written work. Students will also learn more about French/ Belgian culture while working on different projects. LFR101E is designed for students with no prior knowledge of French, and LFR102E is for students with the equivalent one semester of college French as assessed by a placement test. *Both courses given each semester*

Intermediate French I & II

LFR 103E, LFR 104E

This sequence focuses on the acquisition of major elements of French grammar, as well as a more advanced level of comprehension, accurate and active communication skills and a broader coverage of vocabulary. Compositions, essays, oral presentations and reading newspaper articles are a part of these courses. French culture will be highlighted through a theatre project. *Both courses given each semester*
Prerequisite for LFR103E: LFR102E or placement test.
Prerequisite for LFR104E: LFR103E or placement test.

Advanced French: Current Events

LFR 201E

Advanced French: Culture & Society

LFR 202E

At the outset of each course students are prepared and tested on the conjugation of all tenses of basic verbs, since this is essential knowledge for the advanced programme. The two courses are comparable in their methods of instruction (advanced vocabulary and grammar practice, class discussions, essay writing, oral presentations and a theatre project) but each has its own programme in advanced grammar and its own theme as shown in the course titles. The theatre project, including the study of an author, a play, and a visit to the theatre, is different each semester. The two courses complement each other in the development of vocabulary, comprehension, writing and oral skills, and may be taken in any order. *Given annually, LFR 201E in fall, LFR 202E in spring*
Prerequisite for LFR 201E: LFR 104E or placement test
Prerequisite for LFR 202E: LFR 104E or placement test

Mathematics (MTH)

Mathematics for Business and Economics

MTH 140E

Teaches the mathematical skills required for problem solving and decision making in the business world through use of mathematical models and specialised techniques. Topics include: functions as mathematical models, equation-solving techniques, differential and integral calculus, exponential growth and time-value of money and partial derivatives

and their applications in economic functions. *Given annually in spring semester*

Advanced Mathematics for Business and Economics MTH 203E

Includes topics in mathematics of interest to students in economics and business. Covers linear algebra: vector spaces, linear transformations and matrices, eigenvalues and eigenvectors, quadratic forms. Reviews and extends multivariable calculus, including concave programming and the Kuhn-Tucker conditions. Introduces integration and dynamics: first- and second-order difference and differential equations, both linear and nonlinear. May include optimal control theory if time permits.

Prerequisite: ECN 201E, 211E, MTH 140E

Politics (POL)

Introduction to Political Concepts and Theories POL 101E

This is a basic introductory course to political science. In this course, students will study concepts such as democracy and justice; nation and nationalism; power and justice; state and sovereignty; leadership and governmental institutions. The study of these concepts helps outline the relationship between the individual, the society and the state. Furthermore, these concepts serve as a basis for students to understand different political theories and prepare them to conduct research in political science. *Given annually in fall semester*

Inquiry in International Affairs POL 103E

Introduces and explores the core issues, defining events, principal actors and underlying processes of international affairs since the Cold War. Provides methodological tools and theoretical frameworks for analysing key aspects of international affairs from a wide range of scholarly perspectives. Also focuses on strengthening students' research and public speaking skills. *Given annually in fall semester*

Introduction to International Relations POL 212E

Introduces the major paradigms in the discipline of international relations, viz. realism, pluralism and globalism. Use of historical and up-to-date examples illustrate, as well as test, central assumptions and arguments of these approaches aiming to provide a framework offering a fundamental insight to the mechanisms and dynamics of world politics. Provides a knowledge base useful for the further study of international relations as well as everyday dealings with international politics. *Given annually in spring semester*

Introduction to the European Union POL 231E

Explores the origins of the European Union and its development, explains the construction of European institutions and discusses its status as an organisation. Surveys historical landmarks in the European Union's development and focuses on the workings and politics of the major institutions of the European Union. Visits a session of the European Parliament and includes guest lectures bringing current problems in the process of the European integration process into the classroom. *Given annually in spring semester*

Comparative States and Political Institutions POL 232E

Studies “the state” and its major institutional features from a comparative perspective. Considers the nature of “the state” and the logic of comparative methodology and discusses different frameworks for carrying out comparative political study. Using an institutional framework, considers characteristics of European liberal democracy (as practised in the U.K., France and Germany). Examines state socialism, as practised in China, as an alternative to liberal democracy. Also explores the impact of these two models on countries in the developing world. *Given biennially in spring semester (2011)*

History of Political Thought from Machiavelli to Marx POL 251E

Provides an overview of the history of modern political thought based on a historically contextualized in-depth examination of classic texts by Machiavelli, Hobbes, Montesquieu, Rousseau, Tocqueville and Marx. Analyses the significance of their works to modern scientific and ideological debate. *Given biennially in fall semester (2009)*

Contemporary Political Debates POL 252E

Debates key policy and normative dilemmas in contemporary liberal democracies. Introduces topics using recent academic literature and policy documents and then examines classical and modern political texts in order to build conceptually coherent arguments to support conflicting positions on political and normative dilemmas. *Given biennially in fall semester (2010)*

Selected Topics in Politics POL 281E/381 E

Topic to be announced together with the prerequisites

International Political Economy POL 311E

Studies the interactions among political, economic, and social institutions and processes and how they affect international relations. Describes approaches to international political economy: mercantilist, neoliberal, radical, and contemporary. Analyzes structures of trade, finance, security, and knowledge. Compares change, transition, and development in different regions. Analyzes global problems, including energy, migration, and environment. *Given annually in fall semester*

Prerequisite: One course each in economics and politics

Organisations in Globalisation POL 313E

Analyses the role different types of organisation play in the globalisation process including cross border organisations and their challenges and opportunities for global governance. Provides tools for understanding differences and similarities between global organisations with a focus on political and civil society governmental and non-governmental organisations. Utilises organisations with representation in Brussels for descriptive student projects on the problems of transnational organisations and their influence on the political process. Concludes with seminar sessions focusing on the

future role of global organisations in governance. Complements POL 314E but focuses on organisations outside, or complementary to, the UN. *Given biennially in spring semester (2010)*

The United Nations and Global Governance

POL 314E

Studies the United Nations organisation as the protagonist in processes of conflict control, dispute settlement and the maintenance of international peace and security. The historical background and genesis of the United Nations are examined, as well as the UN machinery for diplomatic and judicial dispute settlement and conflict resolution. Places special emphasis on the UN's ability to organise a framework for global governance in sustainable development, as well as to address the security challenges of the new century. *Given biennially in spring semester (2011)*

Prerequisite: At least one politics/international affairs course

Model United Nations (MUN) Preparatory Course

POL 315E

Prepares Vesalius students to represent a country at a MUN meeting (currently GIMUN), an annual forum gathering students from around the globe to discuss current world problems. Helps students, who speak on behalf of an assigned country on a variety of issues decided each year to expand their understanding of diplomacy, global geopolitics and international relations. Provides opportunities for the delegates to forge friendships that transcend nationality. Please note that this course is not available to one-semester study abroad students and to students who have not participated in MUN preparations in the fall semester, given that the GIMUN takes place in the middle of the spring semester. Note, too, that the costs of attending the MUN session are the student's responsibility. This course is assessed on a pass/fail basis. *Given annually in spring semester*

Prerequisite: At least one POL course, POL 314E recommended

Peace and Security Studies

POL 317E

Based on knowledge of international relations, students will investigate different theories regarding conflict, peace and security (seen from the military as well as the non-military aspects). Issues such as security communities, conflict management, disarmament and arms control and third-party interventions will be discussed by examining Asia-Pacific international relations. *Given biennially in fall semester (2010)*

Prerequisites: POL 212E or written approval from the instructor

Chinese Foreign Policy and External Relations

POL 319E

This course provides a comprehensive analysis of Chinese foreign policy and external relations since 1949. It is divided into two parts. The first part focuses on the ideational elements such as Chinese history, culture, and ideology; the material elements such as Chinese military and economic modernisation; the Chinese leadership and the decision-making procedure; and the influence of external environment, to examine the role of these elements in the making of Chinese foreign policy. The second part studies the bilateral and multilateral relations between China and the other countries and regions, which gives an overall picture of the continuities and changes of Chinese external relations. *Given biennially in spring semester (2010)*

Dilemmas of European Integration

POL 332E

The course provides an in depth discussion of major dilemmas of EU policy-making, structured around three main topics: communicating Europe, decision-making between the community method and inter-governmentalism, openness and soft methods of policy-making between efficiency and legitimacy. Thus structured, the course allows for an in-depth exploration of the main policy areas of the EU, while at the same time investigating decision-making rules, institutions and actors and their impact on policy content. The overall goal is to provide students with the cognitive tools needed to analyse any debate in EU policy-making – whether covered by the course or not -, based on a thorough understanding of the main mechanisms and dilemmas in EU integration.

Given annually in spring semester

Prerequisites: At least one social science course with an introductory course in European Integration recommended.

Policies in the European Union

POL 333E

Aims to familiarise students with institutions, actors and policy patterns of EU policy domains (agriculture, regional development, environmental policy, social policy and foreign/security policy), as well as with public policy approaches and concepts used to analyse EU policies. Addresses challenges of EU policy-making: asymmetry, path dependency, complexity, accountability, legitimacy, public participation, implementation and monitoring deficits, hierarchical authority, enlargement, etc. Refers extensively to policy cases and domains to clarify theories and concepts, which are juxtaposed to highlight explanatory advantages and weaknesses. *Given annually in fall semester*

Prerequisite: none, POL231E recommended

European Union's Approach to Security and Development

POL 336E

The course explores why and how the European Union exercises its powers to enhance security in the developing world. It establishes the link between the distinct nature of the European Union as an actor of world politics, its foreign policy goals and instruments, and security risks and threats stemming from crises and conflicts in the developing world. Issues include regional stability, terrorism, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, and migration. *Given annually in fall semester*

Prerequisite: at least one course in politics or history

International Affairs Capstone

POL 391E, POL 392E

Provides students with an opportunity to work, under the direction of an adviser, on an extended research problem chosen in relation to their field and representative (as a “capstone”) of their course work at the College. Requires students to integrate knowledge and exercise the skills acquired throughout their studies. By calling for sophisticated understanding of theoretical issues as well as an appreciation of ways to empirically construct research solutions, it prepares students for independent research at graduate level. Among the themes around which the capstone seminar can be organised is the European Union as a global actor. *Given each semester, POL 391E in fall, POL 392E in spring*

Prerequisite: HIS 271E or SOC 203E, and third-year standing in the International Affairs major; or permission of the instructor

Sociology (SOC)

Introduction to Sociology

SOC 101E

Introduces the theory, fundamental concepts and methodology of sociology, using a cross-cultural approach and focusing on the major institutions of society. Examines everyday problems students find in their world such as ethnic and gender conflict, inequality and tactics for social change. *Given annually in fall semester*

Methods of Social Scientific Inquiry

SOC 203E

Focuses on the design, execution and presentation of research. Examines the logic of inquiry and the methods available to the researcher by working on specific problems in social scientific research. Focuses on the relation of choice of method to the problem and issues of reliability, validity, interpretation and perception involved in the interpretation of evidence. *Given annually in fall semester*

Prerequisites: STA 101E and at least one social science course at the 100-level

Statistics (STA)

Introduction to Statistics

STA 101E

This course introduces statistical methods that allow us to make decisions in the face of uncertainty and to assess the reliability of these decisions. The objective is to develop the ability to reason about random events or statistical results, to be critical readers of statistical reporting in the media, and to design and implement simple statistical tests of our own. We cover the following topics: objectives and pitfalls of statistical studies, structure of data sets, histograms, mean and standard deviation, analyzing relationships using correlation and regression, probability, binomial and normal distributions, interpretation of estimates, confidence intervals, and significance tests. *Given each semester*

Intermediate Statistics

STA 201E

Covers multiple sample tests, goodness-of-fit tests and analysis of contingency tables. Focuses on multiple regression, including indicator variables, curvilinear relationships and interaction effects, multi-co-linearity and auto correlation. Other topics may include time series and forecasting, exponential smoothing and non-parametric methods. *Given annually in fall semester*

Prerequisite: STA 101E