RIGA GRADUATE SCHOOL OF LAW

Course Outline

Course number	RBE244				
Course title	**Political and Economic Challenges for Europe**				
Credit points	3 ECTS				
Total hours	75				
Contact hours	32				
Course level	Bachelor				
Prerequisites	None				
Category	Mandatory		Restricted elective	**X**	Free elective

COURSE RESPONSIBLE

Name	*Academic degree*	*Academic position*
Walter Doetsch	M.Sc.	Visiting lecturer

COURSE TEACHERS

Name	*Academic degree*	*Academic position*
Walter Doetsch	M.Sc.	Visiting lecturer

COURSE ABSTRACT

The course introduces key concepts for analyzing migration, demographic change, and political-economic transformation in Europe. It examines how migration, labor markets, education, technology, inequality, transnational crime, trade, and state capacity interact in a changing global environment, with particular attention to the growing role of digitalization, non-state actors, and foreign disinformation initiatives in shaping domestic politics and public debate. The second part compares Europe's position in relation to the United States, China, and Russia, focusing on political-economic risk, crisis dynamics, information manipulation, and the policy challenges these developments create for democratic governance and economic stability.

COURSE OBJECTIVES (optional)

Knowledge: To develop a basic understanding of recent economic and political tensions and challenges affecting Europe, and to understand the interdependence of economic, political, and social processes in a changing international environment.

Competencies and skills to be gained through the course: To train critical thinking and

develop methodological capacities to ask analytically strong questions about complicated economic, political, and social phenomena, especially in relation to migration, political-economic risk, public policy, and foreign disinformation.

Skills: To enable students to identify and evaluate risks, develop scenarios, and produce concise policy recommendations in written and oral form, including assessment of the domestic effects of foreign disinformation campaigns.]

GRADING CRITERIA

Criteria	***Weighting***
Class participation	20%
Policy paper (2-3 pages)	30%
Final policy briefing presentation (10-15 minutes) with memorandum (maximum 5 pages)	50%

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Students are expected to complete the assigned readings, participate actively in seminar discussion, submit short written assignments, and complete both a policy paper and a final policy briefing memorandum.