
Global governance is a complex and dynamic process through which public, private, and civil society actors having different, and sometimes conflicting, interests and perspectives seek to address common issues and problems. This intensive course critically examines contemporary global governance structures and efforts with a particular focus on achieving economic development that is environmentally sound and socially inclusive. Students gain an in-depth understanding of the many different roles that states, inter-governmental organizations, and non-governmental organizations play in global governance in the early parts of the 21st Century.

The course is designed for upper-level undergraduate and graduate students who specialize in international relations, political science, public health, development and environmental studies, and other related fields. It draws on the unparalleled resources of Geneva as a hub of global politics and policy-making. The course combines rigorous coursework and extensive in-class discussions on key governance challenges with field trips to the offices of international organizations working on development, environment, and human security issues as well as topical presentations by professionals located in Geneva and working in international affairs.

The presence of the United Nations, the World Trade Organization, the International Red Cross, and more than 250 other major organizations contribute to the uniqueness of Geneva. Located in the French-speaking part of Switzerland, the population is one-third non-Swiss, making it one of Europe’s most international metropolitan centers. All coursework and field trips will be carried out in English, the common language of Geneva’s multilingual and cosmopolitan community.