



UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

## SYLLABUS DEL CORSO

### Microeconomia e Storia Economica

1920-1-E3301M191

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#### Learning objectives

The course aims at providing the students with the fundamental conceptual skills necessary for the examination and interpretation of the main economic phenomena. The ultimate goal is the acquisition of abilities related to learning, investigation and analysis, with particular reference to microeconomics and the historical development of economic systems. Students will be able to address the specific issues of economic systems, demonstrating an understanding of the concepts contained in the introductory literature, also through the use of models that exemplify the theoretical concepts. In addition, the course aims at providing the students with the fundamental conceptual skills necessary for the examination and interpretation of the main phenomena in economic history. The ultimate goal is the acquisition of abilities related to learning, investigation and analysis, with particular reference to historical development of economic systems. Students will be able to address the specific issues of economic systems, demonstrating an understanding of their structural changes in the long run

#### Contents

The course provides an introduction to the main topics of Microeconomics. More specifically, the course will examine the economic behavior of households and firms, the functioning of different types of markets (perfect competition, monopoly, monopolistic competition, oligopoly) and problems related to the absence of markets (asymmetric information, externalities and public goods). The course provides also the basic elements of historical-economic research, economy in pre-industrial Europe, why was the England first, industrial revolution and industrious revolution, the second industrial revolution and the Italian case of development

## **Detailed program**

Microeconomics:

1. The Market Economy
2. Consumer Choice, Comparative Statics and Demand, Price Changes and Consumer Welfare, The Household as Supplier, Choice under Uncertainty
3. The Firm and Its Goals, Technology and Production, Costs
4. The Price-Taking Firm, Equilibrium in Competitive Markets, General Equilibrium and Welfare Economics
5. Monopoly, More on Price-Making Firms, Oligopoly and Strategic Behaviour, Game Theory, Asymmetric Information, Externalities and Public Goods

Economic history:

1. The historical method
2. The "mystery" of development
3. From the ancien regime to industrialization
4. The British "revolutions": industrial, demographic, agricultural, transport
5. The spread of development: the international economy between the mid nineteenth and mid-twentieth century
6. The second industrial revolution, the financial and credit system, the forms of enterprise
7. The Italian case of development

## **Prerequisites**

Basic knowledge of mathematical analysis

Basic calculus

Basic knowledge of the historical and political events (XVIIIth-XXth centuries)

## **Teaching methods**

Lectures. Classes

## **Assessment methods**

Economic History

Written midterms during the course or oral examination at the end of the course. The tests aim at assessing students' understanding of the topics covered in the course using the learned tools.

Microeconomics

Learning outcomes will be assessed through a written exam (2 midterm evaluations or a final exam). Students are expected to answer 18 multiple choice questions and to solve 2 exercises with questions. They have to demonstrate awareness of the topics covered in the course using the learned tools.

## **Textbooks and Reading Materials**

Microeconomics: M.L. KATZ & H.S. ROSEN, *Microeconomics*, fifth edition, McGraw Hill, 2015.

Economic history: L. Mocarrelli, M. Rota, D. Strangio, *Lo sviluppo economico. Un viaggio con più naufraghi che naviganti?*, Milano, Mondadori, 2017

E. Felice, *Ascesa e declino. Storia economica d'Italia*, Bologna, Il Mulino 2015

## **Semester**

First semester (Economic history)

Second semester (Microeconomics)

## **Teaching language**

Italian

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