UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Fundamentals of Economics

2122-2-E1501N095

Learning objectives

The course aims at illustrating the fundamental notions used in economics to explain the behaviour of economic agents and market performances.

By the end of the course the student:

- (knowledge): i) Will be able to understand the main microeconomic theories and use them to describe the behaviour of consumers, producers and their interaction within different markets; ii)

- (application) Will be able to interpret, trough micro and macro economic lenses, the main economic evidence, and: i) apply the theory and to determine and study how the interaction among economic agents allows to reach different market equilibria (or disequilibria); ii) will be able to assess the effects of different market structures on the total welfare of the economy, and to evaluate their efficiency; iii) will be able to understand the main national economic evidence and to compare it with other markets and Countries, with particular emphasis on the role of Institutions

The course will provide skills and competences required to profitably attend more advanced economic courses and to learn the extensions and implications of the theories developed in this course.

Contents

The course addresses, in an introductory way, the main topics in the functioning of the economic system concerning decisions made by agents and institutions that operate in it.

Detailed program

Part I

Introduction

– Principles and models in Economics (Chapters 1 and 2)

Consumer choices

– Individual choices and Labour supplu (Chapter 3)

– Interactions (Chapter 4)

Theory of the firm - production

– Industrial organization and the theory of the firm (Chapter 6 and 7)

Equilibria in perfect competition

– Demand and Supply in different markets (Chapter 8).

Part II

Markets, efficiency and Institutions

– Welfare and efficiency in competitive markets (Chapter 5)

– Efficiency and Public Policies (Chapter 12)

– Fiscal policies: when and why (Chapter 14)

– Monetary policies: when and why (Chapter 15.8)

– Banks and credit market (Chapter 10 - first part)

Prerequisites

Sufficient math and logic skills; comprehension and communication skills (written and oral)

Teaching methods

Lectures, real-life applications and case studies

Assessment methods

Written exam to be taken into IT lab, single exam on the full program.

Structure:

- 10 multiple choice (0-2 each) (20 minutes) for extensive knowledge assessment
- 3 open ended questions (0-4 punti each) (40 minutes) for intensive knowledge assessment

Total duration: 60 minutes

Optional oral exam: 1 open question (0-4 points) can give right up to 3 extra point on the final or score, or it can reduce the final score by 3 points in case of wrong reply

Textbooks and Reading Materials

Version ebook: The CORE team, Economics , e-book available at https://www.core-econ.org/the-economy/index.html