



UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

## COURSE SYLLABUS

### History of Globalization

2122-1-F5602M006

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#### Learning objectives

To offer an exhaustive historical and critical introduction to the subject, in order to have students to significantly reflect upon the issues and the paths our world is evolving along, from the economic point of view. Students will be able to produce some original evaluations and autonomous judgment on the process of globalization.

Students are expected to reach a personal understanding of the complex and long-term evolution of the globalization process. This understanding is expected to include an awareness of the varied dynamics, actors and forces that have played a role inside that evolution, as well as the different views developed in order to explain the globalization process.

The intermediate and final test will consider the capacity to critically re-analyze the materials presented during the lectures or learned from the course bibliography, to utilize the proper intellectual tools within that analysis, and to effectively communicate some personal conclusions.

#### Contents

- Conceptualizing and interpreting globalization
- Global history and world history
- International economic spaces at the half of XIX century
- The transport revolution and the “first” globalization
- Colonialism, imperialism and the world economy

- Finance and commerce at the beginning of the XX century
- Convergence and divergence: the de-globalization during the 1920s and 1930s
- The “golden age” of capitalism
- Disrupting and reshaping the world economic order during the 1970s and 1980s
- The crisis of the socialist economies
- The third wave of industrialization in Europe and the global market
- The phases of contemporary globalization

## Detailed program

During the lessons, the history of globalization will be presented as a key topic in order to reach a deeper understanding of the socioeconomic development characterizing our world.

After a methodological premise, the course will analyze the pre-global period, following the development of the three successive waves of globalization, from the end of the eighteenth century to the present century.

The search and the presentation of historical evidence will be coupled with the analysis of the problematic evolution of globalization, together with the development of the institutional structures created over time to govern the emerging complexity at the level of interrelations among different nations and regions of the planet.

## Prerequisites

Standard undergraduate-level knowledge in contemporary and economic history

## Teaching methods

Classroom lectures and tutorials, with downloadable materials available on the course webpage.

## Assessment methods

Written exam, which includes three sets of questions. One with closed answers (about 25% of the final evaluation) and two sets of open questions: the first with short answers (30% of the final evaluation) and the second requiring more articulated answers (about 45% of the final evaluation).

## Textbooks and Reading Materials

1 - Andrea Colli, Franco Amatori, *The global economy. A concise history*, Routledge-Giappichelli studies in business and management, Abingdon-Torino, 2019

2 – R. C. Allen, *Global economic history: a very short introduction*, Oxford University Press, 2011.

**Semester**

Second semester

**Teaching language**

English

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