UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

History Economics - 1

2122-1-E1802M133-E1802M184M-T1

Learning objectives

The learning objective of the course is to show the complexity of economic history and in particular the interaction between economic ideas and other investigated motivations (cultural, institutional, social), which contribute to explaining economic facts. This will allow students attending the course of Microeconomics and Economic History to observe, from the first industrial revolution up to current events, the causes and effects of political and economic events and/or decisions.

Contents

The course will first indicate the links between the economy of the old economic regime and the economy of industrialization, synthetically analyzing the former especially in relation to the changes that occurred with the demographic, agricultural, industrial and transport "revolutions". Then it will illustrate the main events of the international economy during the nineteenth century and the first fifty years of the twentieth century, which appear dominated by irreversible processes of transformation of the economic and social structures of the ancient regime. They will be presented in relation to their progress in the various European contexts, and in relation to the new economic structures, with particular regard to economic institutions, financial and credit apparatus and the organization of industrial and commercial enterprises. The evolution of the world economy will then be analyzed in the second half of the 20th century with particular attention to the Marshall Plan and to European economic integration. The attention will also be focused, according to the same method, on the Italian economy, in order to highlight its peculiar growth resulting in a rapid but deferred participation in European development. The course will end with a methodological discussion that proposes an essential presentation of the main questions concerning the method of historical research.

Detailed program

1) The great economic and social changes between 1700 and 1800

1.1) The overcome of the old demographic trend
1.2) The changes in the agriculture
1.3) From the proto-industry to the factory
2) From the first industrial devolution to the second one
2.1) The national way sto the industrialization and the regional developments during the 1800
2.2) The emerging sectors, the new economic world, the new rules of the State and the bank during the 1900
2.3) The particular arrangement of the new modern enterprise: great company and management
3) The world economic integration during the second half of the 1900
3.1) The Marshall Plan and the European economic integration
3.2) From the “golden age” tot eh shock oil
3.3) The market globalization and the evolution of the EU
4) The Italian case between 1800 and 1900
4.1) From the crisis of the agricultural and commercial equilibrium to the start of the industrialization: from the early 1800 to the WWI
4.2) The bank and the State: crisis and rescue during the 1920s and 1930s
4.3) The Italian company system: the great enterprise, the medium and small enterprises and the industrial districts

5) The historical method

5.1) The economic history

5.2) The sources and their use

5.3) The “reconstruction” of the historical event

Prerequisites

Basic knowledge of the historical and political events (XVIII-XX centuries)

Teaching methods

Oral lectures. Reading materials and video-lessons are available online (e-learning): some videolessons will be remotely synchronous.

Assessment methods

Written exam in classroom with 18 questions: open questions (14) and multiple chronological questions (2) or true/false (2). Final evaluation depends on open questions for 75% .

At the end of the course and before the official examinations, optional online oral (a Historical Evening with the professor) and written (Writing during a Historical Evening with the professor) tests will be possible using the WebEx platform (see e-learning).

Textbooks and Reading Materials

Points 1, 2 and 3: V. Zamagni, Dalla rivoluzione industriale all'integrazione europea, Bologna, Il Mulino

Point 4: E. Felice, Ascesa e declino. Storia economica d'Italia, Bologna, Il Mulino, 2015 (not the first chapter); or V. Zamagni, Dalla periferia al centro: la seconda rinascita economica dell'Italia 1861-1990, Bologna, Il Mulino (latest edition) pp. 67-98;116-156;176-255;263-267;306-395; 403-406;409-428.

Point 5: C.M. Cipolla, La storia economica, Bologna, Il Mulino, 2005; or C.M.Cipolla, Introduzione alla storia economica, Bologna, Il Mulino, 2003, pp.1- 105; or C.M.Cipolla, Tra due culture. Introduzione alla storia economica, Bologna, Il Mulino, 1988, pp.1-113

Semester

Second semester

Teaching language

Italian