UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Economic History - 2

2223-1-E3301M191-E3301M192M-T2

Learning objectives

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 the basic elements of historical-economic research, focusing on the reasons of devolopment in a long run perspective starting from the beginning of agricultural activity onward with special regards to the role played by the environment, the evolution of agriculture, the technological development from the fisrt industrial revolution until nowadays, the changes in tertiary sector and the main current economic issues. A special focus will be devoted to a comparison between the path of development of the Western world and China. The final part of the course will deal with the Italian case of development

Detailed program

The course is divided into two parts

1. The first includes lectures by the professors and covers about two thirds of the course, reaching the period of interruption of the lectures for the carrying out of the intermediate tests. During the week dedicated to the intermediate tests, a multiple-choice and open-ended test will be held
2. In the second part of the course, students will be able to participate in group activities that will allow them to

deepen, with cooperative methodologies, topics chosen from those proposed by the teacher which will then be exposed in the classroom. Students will form groups (3-5 people) which, on the basis of the bibliographic and documentary information provided, will prepare and present a Power Point presentation accompanied by a short abstract in English. To upload the report files, I will use the e-learning homework function where you will also find instructions on how to build the report

First part of the course

Presentation of the course and introduction
1-3 Presentation of the course. Economic history and economics. Explaining the differences in development. Europe and China: two poles of development in the very long run

The role of the environment
4-5 Environmental conditioning. The turning point of agriculture. The burden of climate and disasters

Man changes everything: population and its evolution
6-9 Long-term trend, pre-industrial age, Malthus and the demographic transition, the twentieth century, the current situation, what prospects for the future?

An extraordinary engine: cities
10-12 Why cities are fundamental and how they evolve in the West and East. A new epidemic-proof city?

Man changes everything: technical progress and economic sectors
13-15 Agriculture from traditional activity to the nineteenth-twentieth century revolution. The great West-China difference
16-20 The heart of change: industry from the pre-industrial age to today, the first, second and third industrial revolution
21-22 Trade also changes: from the pre-industrial age to today
23-24 Producing and exchanging is not enough: money and means of payment, banks, gold standards and financial systems

Explain success beyond technology
25 Cultural aspects and their radical transformation
26 A crucial point: the institutions
27 States, political regimes, norms and education

Second part of the course dedicated to presentations
(each hour of lessons includes a theme (which integrates and completes what was previously illustrated by the professor), to which three reports are dedicated)

Development outside the West
28 Russia
29 China
30 Japan

Development but not for everyone
31 Development and divergence
32 Africa and its persistent difficulties
33 Lights and shadows of globalization

The North of the world also has its problems
34 The disappearance of work?
35 A growing inequality: income and gender inequalities
36 A problem that unites all of them: the environmental question

The Italian case of development
37 History, templates and summary data
38 The productive sectors
39 Problems in the long run

40 Conclusions

Prerequisites

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

Teaching methods

Lectures. Presentations. Registration will be available on the e-learning site

Assessment methods

There are three verification methods for attending students

1. Intermediate exam + Presentation in the classroom + Final exam
   Intermediate test
   Knowledge and understanding will be assessed with a test consisting of 20 multiple choice questions (correct answer 1, no answer 0, wrong answer -0.5) and two open questions, chosen among the three that will be proposed (up to 5 points each answer). The time available will be 35 minutes. This part of the exam will have a weight of 50% and will focus on the topics covered in class by the professor. The trace of the lessons (they are simple schemes!) will gradually be uploaded to the course page on the university's e-learning site: http://elearning.unimib.it/ in the economic statistical area

Presentation in the classroom
The presentation in the classroom, lasting a maximum of fifteen minutes and with a maximum score of 30/30, will be assessed on the basis of five parameters:
a) originality and innovativeness (ability to develop the proposed theme in an original way with respect to the literature and documentation used)
b) clarity and effectiveness (style, language)
c) quality and clarity of the abstract (in presenting the objectives, the sources used, the results obtained)
d) consistency between the sources used, the analysis and the proposed summary
e) coherence between research questions and analysis
This part of the exam will have a weight of 30% of the final grade

Final test
It is a test consisting of 6 open questions, chosen from the eight that will be proposed (up to 5 points for each answer). The time available will be 40 minutes. This part of the exam will have a weight of 20% and will focus on the topics presented in the reports

2. Intermediate exam + Final exam
   Those who will take the intermediate test but will not carry out the report and the presentation will take a

final test consisting of 6 questions open questions (up to 5 points for each answer). The time available will be 40 minutes. This part of the exam will have a weight of 50% and will focus on the topics presented in the reports

3. Complete test
   Those who do not take the mid-term test, the report and the presentation in the classroom will take an overall final test consisting of ten multiple choice questions (correct answer 1, no answer 0, wrong answer -0.5) and ten open questions (up to two points for answer) which will take place at the end of the course and will focus on both the teacher's lectures and classroom presentations. The time available will be 40 minutes

Exam for non-attending students
Non-attending students will take a written test consisting of ten multiple choice questions (correct answer 1, no answer 0, wrong answer -0.5) and ten open questions (up to two points per answer) which will take place at the end of the course and will focus on the topics covered in the two books indicated as reference texts

Textbooks and Reading Materials

L. Mocarelli, 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

Teaching language

Italian

Sustainable Development Goals

ZERO HUNGER | GENDER EQUALITY | INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE | REDUCED INEQUALITIES | LIFE ON LAND