UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Economic History - 1

2324-1-E3303M007-T1

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. In particular, the role played by the environment and the population will be addressed, to then use the cities, and in particular Milan, as an observation angle from which to observe the main transformations that have occurred from the pre-industrial age to today, with special attention to technological development from the first industrial revolution to the twentieth century, to the changes in the tertiary sector and to today's main economic problems

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 the teacher will present the results of the group activities carried out by the

students which will allow to deepen, with cooperative methodologies, topics chosen among those proposed by the teacher. The students will form groups (maximum 3 people) who, on the basis of the bibliographic and documentary indications provided, will prepare a PowerPoint presentation and a more extensive and discursive report in word.

First part of the course

Presentation of the course and introduction
1-4 Presentation of the course. Economic history and economics. Explaining the differences in development. The reasons for the adoption of an urban perspective

The role of the environment
5-6 Environmental conditioning. The turning point of agriculture. The burden of climate and disasters

Man changes everything: population and its evolution
7-9 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
10-11 Why cities are fundamental and how they evolve in the West and East. A new epidemic-proof city?

Pre-industrial Milan
12-15 Supply cities with still fragile agriculture. The manufacturing heart of the cities: guilds but not only. The urban DNA: the exchange activity and related tools

The Milan of the industrial revolution: 1815-1882
16-20 An imported revolution that begins to change the world. The first transformations of agriculture. The arrival of factories and the energy problem. The transport revolution: railways, tunnels and commercial activities. Here comes the banking and financial systems (gold standard)

The Milan of the second industrial revolution: 1882-1973
21-26 A second industrial revolution that changes everything between new clusters of innovations and business transformations. Chemical agriculture and the end of hunger. The Milan of large factories and its attractiveness. The great changes in trade and consumption. The first advance of tertiary sector

The new post-industrial Milan: 1973-today
27-32 Milan changes face. Oil shock, population decline, demographic winter, sectoral metamorphosis. The disappearance of industries and the emergence of new sectors. Expo 2015 and the touristic boom. All that glitters is gold? The many current problems: high prices, pollution, aging, etc.

Explain the resilience of Milan
33-35 Not only the environment and the economy but also culture, religion and institutions. Ambrosian Church and urban welfare. The Milanese spirit and the role of the centre. A city without a guide?

Second part of the course
I will illustrate the works carried out by the students which may concern specific insights on aspects of the evolution of Milan from the pre-industrial age to today, but also comparisons with the story and the evolution of other urban centers

Prerequisites

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

Teaching methods

Lectures. Homework by students. Registration will be available on the e-learning site

Assessment methods

Attending students have two options: the first is to take the intermediate exam and the final exam

Intermediate test
Knowledge and understanding will be assessed with a test consisting of 10 multiple choice questions (correct answer 1, no answer 0, wrong answer -0.5) and 4 open questions, chosen from the 6 that will be proposed (up to 5 points each answer). The time available will be 50 minutes. This part of the exam will have a weight of 60% and will focus on the topics covered in class by the teacher. The outline of the lessons (they are simple slides!) will gradually be uploaded to the course page on the university e-learning website: http://elearning.unimib.it/ in the statistical economic area

Final test
The test weighs 40% and consists of 6 open questions (up to 5 points per answer) regarding the second part of the course. For those who have carried out the research work by sending their presentation, the grade will be the average of what was obtained in the report and in the final test. Furthermore, those who will carry out the report will be able to choose the 6 questions to be answered from a list of 8 questions. Those who will not carry out the report will instead have 6 questions. The time available will be 50 minutes

The second possibility is to take the complete test at the end of the course
Those who do not take the intermediate test will take a final overall test consisting of 12 multiple choice questions (correct answer 1, no answer 0, wrong answer -0.5) and 6 open questions (up to 3 points per answer) which will take place at the end of the course. The time available will be 50 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 on the topics dealt with 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 | SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES | LIFE ON LAND