UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

The Economics and History of European Integration

2324-2-F5602M015

Learning objectives

The course consists of two modules (4 CFU each one) devoted to the analysis of the economics and history of European integration
The first module (History) aims to highlight the stages that led to the construction of the current European economic order.
The second module (Economics) aims to offer the basic know how in economics, both the micro and macro levels, for analysing and studying the different steps of the European Integration

Contents

The first module, after a brief summary of the previously models of European integration existing from the half of the 19?? century to the second world war, the course explains the reasons and the modalities of the foundation of the first European institutions and policies (ECSC, EEC, Euratom, CAP, EIB) and the economical and financial context where they operated (gold exchange standard and golden age). Then it illustrates the changes of the 1970s (the end of the gold exchange standard, the shock oil and the creation of the EMS) and the increase in number of EEC' countries until the Unique Act and the Treaty of Maastricht. Finally it shows the steps of the creation of the EMU and the positive and negative aspects of the new EU at the beginning of the new millennium: in particular face to the perspective of the further enlargement to the Eastern Europe and in a context of strong globalization of world markets where there exist new great competitors as the BRICS.
The second module aims to provide the basic economic tools, at the micro and macro level, to analyse the complex process of European integration. Particular attention is paid to models interpreting preferential liberalisation, growth, foreign trade, economic and monetary union and related policies. From year to year, some in-depth studies are selected to bring students to the frontier of research in International Economics, while offering a concrete application of the theoretical tools studied in class.

Detailed program

In the first module these items will be analysed during the lessons
a) The economic integration in Europe from the 19th century to the mid of 20th century (notes);
b) The first essays of economic integration after the second world war;
c) The birth of the ECSC (European Coal and Steel Community) and the EEC (European Economic Community);
d) The International Monetary System until the crisis of the system of Bretton Wood;
e) The birth of the European Monetary System and the first enlargement of the EEC;
f) The problems of the European Monetary System and the crisis in 1992;
g) The Maastricht Treaty and the Monetary and Economic Union
h) The European agriculture and the CAP (Common Agricultural Policy), the European industrial policy and the new rules on the concurrency and protectionism in the new EU;
i) The new Millennium: the enlargement to Eastern European Countries and the problems connected to the world economic crisis and Brexit (notes)

The second module discusses many aspects regarding the European integration process, and it is made up of four main parts:
A - Microeconomics of the European Integration - Market Size and Scale Effects, Economic Integration, Labour Markets and Migration, Location Effects, Economic Geography and Regional Policy, EU Competition and State Aid Policy
B - Macroeconomics of the European Integration - Optimum Currency Areas, Fiscal Policy and the Stability Pact, The European Monetary Union, The Euro Area Crisis
C - Banking Union
D - Climate Change and the Green New Deal

Prerequisites

1 - Having passed the course of Economic History (or similar) during the three-year degree. Knowledge of microeconomics and macroeconomics syllabuses typical of bachelor's degrees in economics.
2 - Knowledge of microeconomics and macroeconomics syllabuses typical of bachelor's degrees in economics.

Teaching methods

The first module is in blended-learning - Oral lectures or video lesson (14 hours), blended-learning (14 hours)
The second module will be held in e-learning mode (28 hours).

Assessment methods

About the first module: a) For students attending the course: Written exam with 16 open questions (everyone 2 points) - Series of questions at home within a deadline (forum) - The final evaluation depends on written exam (60%) and homework research (40%); b) For not attending students: Written exam with 16 open questions (everyone 2 points)
About the secnd module: written exam with 6 open questions.

Textbooks and Reading Materials

The first module is in blended-learning: reading materials are available on-line (e-learning)
For not attending students: Gilbert M., “European Integration: A Concise History”, Rowman & Littlefield Pub Inc., 2011
For the second module: 1. R. Baldwin and C. Wyplosz - *The Economics of European Integration* 6th ed., Mc Graw Hill Education, 2023;
2. M. Brunnermeier, H. James, and J-P Landau - *The Euro and the Battle of Ideas*, Princeton University Press, 2016

Semester

First semester: October-November
First semester: November-December

Teaching language

English

Sustainable Development Goals

QUALITY EDUCATION | DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH | RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION | PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS