UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Global Economy and Services

2425-1-F6302N060-F6302N052M

Learning objectives

Services have transformed national economies on a massive scale and today the services sector is the fastest-growing economic segment, generating more than two-thirds of economic output, attracting over two-thirds of foreign direct investment, and providing almost two-thirds of jobs in both developed and developing countries. Just as services have come to dominate many national economies, they are playing a bigger role in the global economy as well. Services that were once difficult to trade, because they could only be delivered in person, are becoming far easier to trade because they can be delivered digitally. Of course, some services, such as taxis, hotels or hair salons, will continue to be delivered locally and require a physical presence, though companies such as Uber and Airbnb demonstrate how even these sectors can be transformed by new internet-based business models. Other services, such as retailing, software development, or outsourced business processes, are now being “de-localized” and “globalized” to an extent and on a scale that may surpass the most globe-spanning multinational goods manufacturers. This course focuses on the economics of services and the ongoing globalization of services – why it is happening, how it is affecting economies, and where new policy approaches are needed.

Contents

- The economics of Services
- Globalization of the service sector
- Policy issues

Detailed program

1. The Economics of services

- The nature of services
- The role of services in production processes
- The role of services in the modern economies

2. The globalization of services

- The evolution of international trade: from non tradeable to tradeable services
- Foreign direct investments
- Global value chains

3. Policy issues

- Barriers to trade in services
- Trade and investment liberalization policies

Prerequisites

Basic concepts of micro- and macroeconomics, which can be acquired through the attendance at introductory courses of economics.

Teaching methods

Face to face lessons (about 40% of total classes)
Teamworks in class (about 60% of total classes) aiming at measuring the economic importance of the services sectors, its degree of internationalization, off-shoring and other economic characteristics of the phenomena discussed during lessons.

Assessment methods

The written exam consists of multiple choice questions and at least one open questions aimed at assessing students' ability to use the analytical and conceptual tools illustrated during the course.

Continuous assessment is ensured through group assignements, whose aim is to assess the students' ability to apply the conceptual and theoretical concepts discussed in class to case studies referring to the development of the service economics in different countries.

The final grade is the weighted average of the grade of the final test (70%) and of the group works (30%)

Textbooks and Reading Materials

Class slides and readings – i.e. articles on specific topics. - represent the teaching materials of the course. The class slides are posted week by week on the website of the course; selected readings are announced week by week. All class slides and readings are compulsory exam materials and have to be carefully prepared for the exam

independently from the time allocated to them in class.

Semester

second semester.

Teaching language

Italian

Sustainable Development Goals

INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE