UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Industrial Policy Strategies and Protection of Competition - 1

2425-1-F7701M131-F7701M131-1-T1

Learning objectives

The main purpose of the course is to identify the main market structures, the analysis of the strategic behavior of companies on product policies (price discrimination, quality of goods), strategic relationships between companies and business decision analysis models in conditions of uncertainty, the second objective is the historical evolutionary analysis of the Antitrust institutions. It will be responsible for the equalization of economic conflicts: the protection of competition as a consumer protection, the protection of the company that suffers abuse of dominant positions, in other words the weak parts of the market. The third objective is to provide students with an understanding of the fundamental tools of analysis and antitrust intervention for specific competition protection actions. The course will focus on economic analysis tools for defining the relevant product market. The economic analysis tools to define the cases of "abuse of market power" will be subsequently treated. Economic models will be analyzed to define the agreements between firms restricting competition (cartels, agreements, etc.). Finally, the vertical and horizontal integration strategies used and the antitrust constraints to these behaviors will be analyzed.

Knowledge and Understanding
The course provides in-depth knowledge of the main market structures, the analysis of firms' strategic behavior in product policies (price discrimination, product quality), and strategic interactions between firms. Additionally, it offers a historical and evolutionary perspective on Antitrust institutions, highlighting their role in protecting competition and consumers.

Applying Knowledge and Understanding
Students will acquire economic analysis tools to define relevant product markets and identify cases of market power abuse. They will be able to apply economic models to assess anti-competitive agreements (cartels, collusion) and analyze vertical and horizontal integration strategies while considering Antitrust constraints.

Making Judgements
Students will develop the ability to critically evaluate the effectiveness of Antitrust enforcement tools and competition protection policies. They will be able to formulate independent assessments of the economic impact of anti-competitive practices and regulatory market interventions.

Communication Skills
The course fosters the development of skills for clearly and effectively presenting analyses of markets, anti-competitive practices, and Antitrust interventions. Through group work and discussions, students will enhance their ability to argue economic implications of regulatory decisions.

Learning Skills
Students will develop methodological skills necessary to independently explore topics related to market regulation, Antitrust policies, and economic analysis tools applied to competition.

Contents

The market is a fundamental structure for the functioning of modern western economies. On the contrary, in order to produce desirable results, interactions between subjects need a series of stable and efficient institutional references, a set of rules that ensure the protection of competition from the freedom of competition. Without the support of these rules, the essential property of the market as a specific economic institution is lost, that is, to generate a price system that allocates the economic resources to their purposes in the most efficient way possible.

Detailed program

1 Introduction-Business theory, Monopsony Monopoly Recalls

2 Monopoly, monopsony Dominated companies

3 Cartels: coordinated behaviors in oligopoly, non-cooperative oligopoly

4 Non-cooperative oligopoly, Product differentiation and monopolistic competition

5 Location Models, Price Discrimination

6 Complex methods for determining the price

7 Strategic cooperative and non-cooperative behavior

8 vertical integration Vertical Restrictions

9 Industrial structure / patents and technological innovation

10 Incomplete pricing information

11 Incomplete information on qualities

12 Ex Ante and Ex Post adjustment

13 Protection of competition: history / objectives / regulations

14 Market power and social well-being

15 The main cases of abusive conduct of competition in the European legal system

16 The definition of the relevant market / the assessment of market power

17 Collusion and horizontal agreements

18 Horizontal castings

19 Vertical restrictions

Prerequisites

Introductory courses in microeconomics and business administration

Teaching methods

In class lectures and workshops

Assessment methods

One final written exam

Textbooks and Reading Materials

1. D.W. Carlton- J.M.Perloff "Organizzazione industriale" 3° Ed., Mc Graw Hill (Terza edizione 2012). Tutto il Testo

2. M. Motta e M. Polo "ANTITRUST Economia e Politica della Concorrenza". Il Mulino, Bologna, 2005.

Semester

I Semester

Teaching language

Italian

Sustainable Development Goals

INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE