



UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

## SYLLABUS DEL CORSO

### Storia Economica d'Impresa

2526-1-E1805M005-E1805M005-2

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#### Learning objectives

The course on the economic history of business aims to illustrate to first-year economics students the development of the various forms of business in the contemporary world, starting from the First Industrial Revolution to the present day.

#### Contents

- I) The fundamental elements of historical-economic analysis: perspective, sources, and methods.
- II) The evolution of the world economy from the First Industrial Revolution to the 2000s.
- III) The key aspects of business forms, their historical contextualization, with some specific references to the Italian experience.

#### Detailed program

The course studies the growth and developmental dynamics of the most advanced economies, exploring their components (technological, institutional, organizational, financial), dynamic elements, and key transition phases. Alongside the study of the economic evolution in Europe and the Western world, the course will cover Italy's economic development from the Napoleonic era onward.

The first lessons will focus on the method of historical-economic analysis, the main theories of the evolution of economic systems, and a basic chronology of world economic milestones from the First Industrial Revolution to the 2000s. This will be followed by in-depth studies on the development of Italy's economy and society during this timespan.

A central part of the course will be dedicated to business forms in their historical determination, focusing on the time of their emergence and their spread. Special attention will be paid to how business forms have adapted over

time and space, with particular references to their competitive powers.

## Prerequisites

Basic knowledge of the main historical and political events (18th–20th centuries)

## Teaching methods

Mainly online lectures, with refining classroom lectures; some group activities.

## Assessment methods

For attending students, the assessment will be based on written papers, presented and discussed in class, and a written final test consisting of multiple-choice questions (25% the partial grade) and open-ended questions (75% the partial grade).

Non-attending students will take a written exam with open-ended questions (75% the final grade) and multiple-choice questions (25%).

## Textbooks and Reading Materials

Teaching materials prepared by the teacher.

Bibliographic insights:

- V. Zamagni, *Perché l'Europa ha cambiato il mondo*, Bologna: Il Mulino (chapters III, IV, V, VIII, XII, XIII, XIV)
- Per il caso italiano: V. Zamagni, *Dalla periferia al centro. La seconda rinascita economica dell'Italia (1861-1990)*. Bologna: Il Mulino, (only the references to the Italian Business history)
- Franco Amatori, Andrea Colli, *Storia d'impresa. Complessità e comparazioni*, Milano, Pearson (chapters II, III, V, VI)

## Semester

First Semester

## Teaching language

Italian

**Sustainable Development Goals**

NO POVERTY | QUALITY EDUCATION | DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH | INDUSTRY,  
INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE | SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES | RESPONSIBLE  
CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

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