UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Economic History - 1

2526-1-E1806M004-E1806M004-2-T1

Learning objectives

The economic history course aims to illustrate to students the formation of the contemporary world, starting from the first industrial revolution up to the present day. In accordance with the educational objectives of the course of
study, the analysis of the evolution over time of markets, production systems and, more generally, of economic structures at the global level will provide students with the basic knowledge to understand and interpret the multiple factors that have historically determined and determine the functioning of banking, insurance and financial systems.

Contents

I) The basic 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 structural features of the Italian economy over time: from production, to the market, to finance, to the role of public institutions.

Detailed program

The course involves the study of the growth/development dynamics of the different world economies, investigating their components (technological, institutional, organizational, financial), dynamic elements and the main transitions from one stage to another.
After an initial part on the method of historical-economic analysis, the main theories on the evolution of economic systems and the basic concepts used in the course, the world economic evolution over the long period will be analyzed.

Topics will be as follows:
Economic history: methods, concepts and problems
The birth of modern industry (18th-19th cent.): the Industrial Revolution in England and Europe
The global developments of industrialization: population, resources, technology
Institutions and industrial development: banking and financial systems and the role of the state
The international economy from the mid-nineteenth century to World War I: from free trade to protectionism, the development of the gold standard, the first globalization
Between the development of new production and consumption systems, economic crises and conflicts: the international economy in the period 1914-1945
The reconstruction of the world economy between 1945 and 1989: the world split in two, the economic boom and the years of the oil crises
The 1990s and the new millennium: changes in world economic balances, the failure of the consumer society , toward a third globalization
A midterm test on the topics covered up to that point is scheduled halfway through the course. This will then be followed by a final test on the remaining part of the program. Students should prepare themselves by studying the textbook listed in the “Reference Texts” section of the Syllabus. For those attending classroom lectures, the study of the textbook will not be necessary.

Prerequisites

Basic knowledge of historical events (18-20th centuries)

Teaching methods

Lectures will replace textbook study. Special attention will be paid to interaction with students and their involvement in the classroom.

Assessment methods

Testing modes can be done in two ways (student's choice):
a midterm test on the first half of the program and a final test on the second half of the program;
a single final test on the entire program.
Both the midterm and the final test will cover the contents of the textbook, explained in class by the lecturer (this means that for those who attend the study of the textbook is superfluous).
if one opts for the two partials (midterm+final test) the two assignments will each consist of 1 open question with a maximum of 10 lines of answer (5 points) and 10 multiple choice questions (total 10 points). The sum of the scores obtained in the midterm (max 15 points) and final test (max 15 points) will give the final grade. If you opt for a single final test on the entire program the test will consist of three open questions with maximum 5 lines per answer (5 points per question, total max 15 points) and 15 multiple-choice questions (total max 15 points). Students will be given the opportunity to reject both the grades of the partials (of both or only one, either the intermediate or the final) and the grade of the single final test, with no restrictions of sessions in which to repeat the test.

Textbooks and Reading Materials

L. Neal, R. Cameron, *A Concide Economic History of the World*, 2002

Semester

Second Term

Teaching language

Italian

Sustainable Development Goals

NO POVERTY | ZERO HUNGER | AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY | DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH | REDUCED INEQUALITIES | SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES | RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION | CLIMATE ACTION | PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS