UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Evaluation for Decision-Making

2526-1-F8804N005

Learning area

Learning objectives

The course will enable the student to (Dublin Descriptor between parentheses):
(*1. Knowledge and understanding*) master intermediate concepts of the economics of methods supporting private and public choices;
(*2. Applying knowledge and understanding*) acquire practical core competences on tools of applied analysis and ex ante economic assessment of decisions by firms and governments;
(*3. Making judgements*) develop the ability to provide robust indications to decision-makers operating in complex and uncertain environments.
(*4. Communication*) experiment a correct and persuasive analysis presentation
(*5. Learning skills*) find reliable information sources for future autonomous analyses

Contents

The course is devoted to the analysis of economic evaluation techniques of private and public investments, including public policies. The syllabus is as follows:
a) investment project assessment,
b) cost - benefit analysis,
c) disaggregated and aggregated multi-criteria methods.

Detailed program

The syllabus is as follows:
1 course introduction
2-4 investment project assessment: financial decisions, money, time, interest rates
5-8 investment project assessment:: criteria, flows, analysis
9-10 investment project assessment:: case studies
11-15 cost - benefit analysis: theory
16-17 cost - benefit analysis: case studies
18 multi-criteria methods: theory
19 multi-criteria methods: case studies

Prerequisites

Mastery of core theoretical and methodological knowledge about economics and economic policy (texts shall be suggested to students without it), beside learning, writing and verbal communication competences. Several first-year courses are connected to this one, without being pre-requisites for it.

Teaching methods

56 hours, organised as follows:
41 hours in 14 3-hour slide-aided lectures (non-remote), in Italian.
15 hours in 5 3-hour applied teamwork case-study classes (non-remote).
weekly office hours (updated hours in the personal page / University directory), also via Webex for employed students, in Italian, English, French, or Spanish; e-mail conversations.

Assessment methods

One written essay (4000-7000 words, in Italian/English/French/Spanish), discussing a case study or a research project chosen by the student (objective 2), inclusing a self-selection of lecture contents (objective 1), following guidelines posted on the course's web page.
Students e-mail the essay to the lecturer 48 hours in advance.
On the exam's day, short oral discussion of the essay (objective 3).

Textbooks and Reading Materials

Lecture contents are discussed in the following texts as well:
- Berk J. and DeMarzo, P., *Corporate Finance*, Pearson, [ch.1-10,12] (2023);
- De Rus G., *Introduction to Cost-Benefit Analysis*, Elgar, [all] (2021).
- Munda G., *Social Multi-Criteria Evaluation for a Sustainable Economy*, Springer, [all] (2007);
- Lecture slides, applied materials and further references (guidelines, bibliographies, issues, on line documents), also for final dissertations, uploaded on the course’s teaching materials web page.
The assessment is based on the essay, not on the textbooks.

Sustainable Development Goals

INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE