UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Political Economy - A-L

2526-1-E1402A006-AL

Learning objectives

At the end of the course, the student will have learned the simplest models of microeconomic and macroeconomic analysis. In particular, the following learning objectives are identified:
a) Knowledge and understanding: Acquire a preliminary knowledge of the fundamental models of microeconomic and macroeconomic analysis, understanding the principles that govern the functioning of markets and economic dynamics.
b) Application and analysis:
Apply the learned models to interpret and evaluate the consequences of different market structures, regulatory interventions and fiscal and monetary policies, developing a critical approach to the preliminary analysis of economic situations.
c) Synthesis, evaluation and communication:
Be able to summarize the key elements of economic models, and be able to communicate the basic insights of the comparative statics of models to concrete economic problems.
d) Independent learning:
Develop an autonomous and critical approach to the main economic themes, which favors continuous updating and the integration of new knowledge and skills through the critical reading of contemporary economics.

Contents

The course introduces the fundamentals of economic reasoning.

The first part of the course studies the fundamentals of microeconomics: markets, the theory of supply and demand, the main forms of markets and market failures.

The second part studies the fundamentals of macroeconomics: macroeconomic variables, fiscal and monetary policies in the short and medium term, growth theory, international trade and the open economy.

The presentation of the theoretical models is accompanied by practical sessions of exercises and review of the topics covered and applied lessons, in which the models studied are immersed in the reality of some of the main contemporary economic challenges.

Detailed program

MICROECONOMICS:

· The supply and demand model: market equilibrium, elasticity, public interventions.

· The theory of demand: from individual choices to market demand

· The theory of supply: from company choices to market supply

· Market forms: The price-taker firm and perfect competition; market power and monopoly; strategic interaction and oligopoly

. Market failures: public goods and externalities

. Applied microeconomics: tax system, inequality; market regulation; environmental economics.

MACROECONOMICS:

· National accounts

· Aggregate supply and demand: inflation and unemployment

· The market of goods and the financial markets; the IS-LM model

· Economic growth

· International trade, open economy and exchange rates

· Applied macroeconomics

Prerequisites

None.

Teaching methods

In-presence and remote lessons (DE/DI), exercises and interactive classroom activities.

Assessment methods

The exam is ONLY WRITTEN (except for the possibility of taking an optional oral exam as per university regulations). It consists of open-ended questions and exercises. The understanding of the topics and the ability to apply the acquired skills to solve simple numerical problems are assessed.

OPTION 1 (recommended)
Two partial tests, each on half of the exam program, with theoretical questions and exercises
Each partial test consists of 7 theoretical questions (format: true/false with mandatory explanation of the answer) + 2 exercises.
The exam is passed if the student obtains at least 16 in each test and at least 18 on average between the two tests.

OPTION 2
A general test on the entire program. The general test consists of 14 theoretical questions (format: true/false with mandatory explanation of the answer) + 4 exercises.

Textbooks and Reading Materials

Samuelson, Norhaus, Bollino, “Economia”, McGraw Hill, 2023.
Slides and lesson notes (elearning platform).
Exercises (elearning platform).

Sustainable Development Goals

NO POVERTY | DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH | REDUCED INEQUALITIES