UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

History of Globalization

2627-1-F5603M004

Learning objectives

To offer an exhaustive historical and critical introduction to the subject, in order to have students to significantly reflect upon the issues and the paths our world is evolving along, from the economic point of view. Students will be able to produce some original evaluations and autonomous judgment on the process of globalization.

Students are expected to reach a personal understanding of the complex and long-term evolution of the globalization process. This understanding is expected to include an awareness of the varied dynamics, actors and forces that have played a role inside that evolution, as well as the different views developed in order to explain the globalization process.

The intermediate and final test will consider the capacity to critically re-analyze the materials presented during the lectures or learned from the course bibliography, to utilize the proper intellectual tools within that analysis, and to effectively communicate some personal conclusions.

Contents

- Conceptualizing and interpreting globalization

- Global history and world history

- International economic spaces at the half of XIX century

- The transport revolution and the “first” globalization

- Colonialism, imperialism and the world economy

- Finance and commerce at the beginning of the XX century

- Convergence and divergence: the de-globalization during the 1920s and 1930s

- The “golden age” of capitalism

- Disrupting and reshaping the world economic order during the 1970s and 1980s

- The crisis of the socialist economies

- The third wave of industrialization in Europe and the global market

- The phases of contemporary globalization

Detailed program

During the lectures, the history of globalization will be presented as a key topic in order to reach a deeper understanding of the socioeconomic development characterizing our world.

After a methodological premise, the course will analyze the pre-global period, following the development of the three successive waves of globalization, from the end of the eighteenth century to the present century.

The search and the presentation of historical evidence will be coupled with the analysis of the problematic evolution of globalization, together with the development of the institutional structures created over time to govern the emerging complexity at the level of interrelations among different nations and regions of the planet.
Throughout the entire course, the common goal will be to help students develop their own ability to analyze and process knowledge, in part through the use of interactive tools and group work.
Particular attention will be given to developing students’ ability to understand and present the knowledge they have acquired.

Prerequisites

Standard undergraduate-level knowledge in contemporary and economic history

Teaching methods

Classroom lectures and tutorials, with downloadable materials available on the course webpage.

Assessment methods

Written exam, lasting 60 minutes. The final test includes three sets of questions. The first with closed answers (about 25% of the final evaluation) and two more sets of open questions: the second with short answers (30% of the final evaluation) mainly requiring the contextualization of historical events. The third group involves more articulated answers (about 45% of the final evaluation), in which students are asked to develop an initial framework for analysing historical events and scenarios.

A student who fails the test will be required to retake the written exam in a subsequent exam session.
No midterm exams are scheduled. Assessment tests will take place exclusively during the official exam sessions.

Textbooks and Reading Materials

1 - Andrea Colli, Franco Amatori, *The global economy. A concise history*, Routledge-Giappichelli studies in business and management, Abingdon-Torino, 2019

2 – R. C. Allen, *Global economic history: a very short introduction*,Oxford University Press, 2011.

Semester

Second semester (February-May)

Teaching language

English

Sustainable Development Goals

DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH | INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE | REDUCED INEQUALITIES | RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION | PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS