UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Economic History

2627-1-E1808M005

Learning objectives

The course will familiarize the first-year students with the formation of the contemporary world, starting from the first Industrial Revolution to nowadays. According to the learning objectives of the degree course, the analysis of the evolution across time of the market dynamics, of the productive systems and, broadly, of the economic structures at a global level will supply the basic knowledge in order to understand the various factors that historically affected, and still affect, the functioning of the banking, insurance, and financial systems.
With reference to the Dublin Descriptors and the learning objectives of the degree programme, this will enable students to enhance their knowledge and understanding of macroeconomic phenomena from a diachronic perspective, learn how to apply the knowledge they have acquired in professional contexts, and develop independent judgment, particularly with regard to the complexity of socio-economic phenomena.

Contents

I) The basic elements of the historical-economic analysis: perspectives, sources, and methodology
II) The evolution of the world economy from the first Industrial Revolution to the 21st century
III) The structural characteristics of the Italian economy across time: production, market, and the role of public institutions.

Detailed program

The course will analyse the processes of growth/development of the world economies, observing their various elements (technology, institutions, organization of the production and of the market, the financial sector), the changes across time, and the main steps of the shift from an economic state to another.

The course will be in taught class. A first part will cover the method and concepts of historical-economic analysis and the main theories on the evolution of economic systems. Then, we will observe the evolution of the world economy from the first industrial revolution to the 2000s. The sequence of topics will be as follows:

- Economic history: methods, concepts and problems
- The birth of modern industry (18th-19th centuries): the Industrial Revolution in England and Europe
- Global developments in 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 the First World War: 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 divided in two blocks, the economic boom and the years of the oil crises
- The 90s and the new millennium: changes in global economic balances, the failure of the consumer society, towards a third globalization

After the first half of the course there will be an intermediate test on the topics discussed until that moment. Then, there will be a final test on the second half of the programme. The students can prepare the tests using the textbook indicated in the section "Textbooks and reading materials". If the students **attend the lessons in person the study of the textbook is not necessary**.

Prerequisites

Knowledge of the main historical-political events from the eighteenth to the twentieth century.

Teaching methods

Thelessons will be of a delivery nature and will take place in classroom lecture mode. The lessons will substitute the study of the textbook. The Professor will pay particular attention in the interaction with the students in the classroom and in their involvement in the lessons.

Assessment methods

The assessment methods can be two (according to students' choice):

- an intermediate test on the first half of the programme and a final test on the second half of the programme;
- a final test on the entire programme.

Both the intermediate test and the final ones will be on the contents of the textbook that will be explained in classroom by the Professor: this means that the students who attend the lessons can avoid the study of the textbook. The contents of the textbook must be integrated with the slides used by the Professor during the in-person lessons.

- if the student choose the intermediate test plus the final test, the two exams will include each one one open question (maximum ten lines of answer, maximum 5 points) and 10 multiple choice questions (1 point per

question, total 10 points).
The sum of the points obtained in the intermediate test (max 15 points) and in the final test (max 15 points) will be the final evaluation.

- if the sutdent choose a single final test on the entire program, the exam will include three open questions (maximum 5 lines per answer, 5 points per question, maximum 15 points) and 15 multiple choice questions (total 15 points).

The students can refuse the evaluation both of the intermediate and of the final tests and they can repeat the exam in every session of the academic year without any restriction.

The tests can be in English for non-Italian speaking students.

Textbooks and Reading Materials

Non-native Italian speaking students are invited to contact the Professor, if necessary, in order to find alternative textbooks in English.

**Mandatory textbook ** (for non-attending students):

- L. Neal-R. Cameron, Storia economica del mondo. Dalla preistoria a oggi. Bologna: Il Mulino (capitoli 1, 7-16)
- The slides used by the Professor during the in-person lessons, that will be uploaded in the e-learning page of the course.

For the students who attend the lessons in classroom, the study of the mandatory textbook for the test is superfluous.

Semester

Second semester

Teaching language

Italian

Sustainable Development Goals

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