UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Economic History and Microeconomics

2627-1-E1806M004

Learning objectives

The course provides students with the conceptual tools necessary for the examination and interpretation of the main economic phenomena. The final aim is the acquisition of skills related to learning, investigation and analysis, with particular reference to microeconomics and the historical development of economic systems. The students learn to face the problems of the economic systems, demonstrating the understanding of the concepts expressed in the basic literature, also through the recognition of models that exemplify the theoretical concepts. The course also provides students with the conceptual tools and information necessary for the examination and interpretation of the main historical-economic phenomena.
At the end of the course, students are expected to be able to understand the mechanism that lead to market prices, and their role in determining market outcomes, evaluating the consequences in terms of efficiency and equity.

Contents

Global History
Evolution of trade and technolgy
Evolution of markets
Functioning of markets and market structures

Detailed program

Microeconomics

1. The concept of market, demand and supply functions
2. Endogenous and exogenous variable and comparative static methods

3. Modeling of rational behavior of agents, and specifically:
   a. Utility maximization
   b. Individual demands
4. Trade and surplus from trade
5. Production function and modeling rational production decisions
6. Forms of market organization and their role

Economic History
I) The basic elements of historical-economic research;
II) 1760-1830: From the Industrial Revolution to the foundation of Belgium
III) 1830-1869: from Belgium to the opening of the Suez Canal
IV) 1869-1914: from Suez to the Great War
V) 1915-1947: the infra-war period
VI) 1948-1973: Marshall Plan- first oil crisis
VII) 1973-1992: from the oil crises to the Maastricht Treaty
VIII) The Global World

Prerequisites

Microeconomics :
Calculus
Constrained optima

Economic History
Basic knowledge of contemporary history, at secondary school level

Teaching methods

Microeconomics
Blended Elearning

Economic History
Oral lectures

Assessment methods

Microeconomics

For attending students the final evaluation is the average between

1. two partial written exams each consisting of two theoretical questions and one exercise, which totally will count for 80%
2. a online discussion forum that will count for 20%

For non-attending students the final evaluation will be based on a written examination consisting of four theoretical questions and an exercise.

Economic History
Written final test

The students are strongly suggested to attend the course.

Textbooks and Reading Materials

Microeconomics
Edgar K. Browning Mark A. Zupan “Microeconomia: Teoria e Applicazioni”, Pearson, 2021.
Mario Gilli “Esercizi svolti di Microeconomia”, Pearson 2023.

Economic History
V. Zamagni, “Perché l'Europa ha cambiato il mondo. Una storia economica”, Bologna, il Mulino, 2024.

Semester

Second semester

Teaching language

Italian

Sustainable Development Goals

GENDER EQUALITY | DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH | REDUCED INEQUALITIES | CLIMATE ACTION