**The Dynamics of the Global Economy**

Prof. Giovanni Gregorini

***Text under revision. Not yet approved by academic staff***

***COURSE AIMS AND INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES***

*Aims*

The aim of the course is to introduce the main issues within contemporary society associated with the emergence of global capitalism.

Starting with the analysis of current critical issues, the course will review and discuss the historical roots behind modern economic development, including in terms of major shifts concerning institutions, politics, culture and economic thought.

**Intended learning outcomes**

*Knowledge and understanding*

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- identify the various protagonists, social and institutional, that have contributed to the dynamics of contemporary capitalism;

- recognise the stages of modern economic development in terms of how they shaped the development of modern society, both in form and substance;

- distinguish between the various factors, including and especially relating to the system, that have influenced the functioning of national economies over the course of time;

- understand the inherent limits to the functioning of the market economy in terms of instability and inequality.

*Ability to apply knowledge and understanding*

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- make strategic economic choices based on the relevant historical context and institutional framework;

- consider decision-making situations, both ordinary and extraordinary, recognising the need for a multicausal approach to issues;

- assess the importance of the social and cultural variables, as they evolved historically, in shaping the operating mechanisms of the market, even at a local level;

- implement innovative activities in every economic sector, with greater awareness of directly and indirectly related human aspects and environmental issues.

***COURSE CONTENT***

1. The great themes of historical research in modern economic development

2. A long-term perspective on the world economy

3. Convergences and divergences in the transformations of the international economy

4. Criticisms of contemporary capitalism

5. The price of inequality and contradictions of the welfare society

***READING LIST***

A text chosen from:

Kenneth Pomeranz, *La grande divergenza. La Cina, l’Europa e la nascita dell’economia mondiale moderna*, Il Mulino, Bologna, 2004

Ronald Findlay, Kevin H.O’Rourke*, Potere e ricchezza. Una storia economica del mondo*, (Eds.) Giuseppe Conti e Maria Carmela Schisani, De Agostini, Novara, 2017

***TEACHING METHOD***

The course comprises 30 hours of lectures, which will incorporate specialist material - including audiovisual - for each section of the course; the teaching approach involves active, participatory learning.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Oral exam, consisting in a selection of questions on the five parts of the course content. Each question will have the same importance in the definition of the final mark.

Assessment criteria: accuracy of answers (1/4 of the final mark, expressed in thirtieths), use of appropriate terminology (1/4 of the final mark, expressed in thirtieths), ability to use argumentation to create a structured and coherent argumentation (1/4 of the final mark, expressed in thirtieths), and capacity to identify conceptual connections and open issues (1/4 of the final mark, expressed in thirtieths).

In order to prepare for the final exam, students will have to study the teaching material indicated in the reading list. In addition, during the course, students will have the possibility to submit an individual or a group assignment focused on a topic that must be previously approved by the lecturer. This will allow them to increase their final mark of a maximum of 4 points.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

Students require solid knowledge of modern history and of the contemporary world.

Further information can be found on the lecturer's webpage at http://docenti.unicatt.it/web/searchByName.do?language=ENG or on the Faculty notice board.