# Business Economics

## Gr. A-B: Prof. Marco Confalonieri; Gr. C-De: Prof. Elisa Raoli; Prof. Mario Daniele; Gr. Di-La: Prof. Elisabetta Clerici; Gr. Le-O: Prof. Paolo Russo; Gr. P-Sa: Prof. Mario Molteni; Prof. Andrea Mezzadri; Gr. Sb-Z: Prof. Donatella Depperu

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

The course has two basic instructional objectives:

a) to ensure the students grasp the fundamental principles and nomenclature of business economics, by adopting an analytical perspective that accents the interdependence between transactions and values;

b) to ensure the students master the logic of accounting reports and the double-entry method.

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

* know the nature and objectives of the institutions and companies, their structure and operating model, as well as the relationship between the operations system and the value system;
* possess a basic knowledge for understanding the managerial and organisational needs of companies;
* apply the logic of accounting records and the collection and value classification method, both in elementary accounting surveys and in the construction of summary tables;
* possess a basic knowledge for reading and interpreting accounting documents in order to understand the income, assets and financial situation of companies;
* use a technical language to communicate their acquired knowledge clearly and effectively.
* possess useful skills for further study in economics and business courses.

***COURSE CONTENT***

The *first part* of the course will introduce several basic concepts relative to (i) the institutions through which individuals carry out economic activity and (ii) companies. A description of company structure will be followed by a discussion of the main problems involving the institutional framework.

The *second part* of the course introduces the study of assets and the labour force.

The *third part* identifies the premises for the formation of values, and presents the initial definitions of income, equity capital, and working capital. It reviews various methods used in calculating earnings, and in constructing tables summarising key corporate data.

The *fourth part* of the course tackles the study of management.

The *fifth part* of the course deals with personnel and organisations.

A special section of the course consisting of a series of exercises is designed to facilitate the student's learning of the logic of accounting entries and the double-entry method. This instructional work is aimed at rounding out the teaching in Business Quantitative Methods and Calculations (second year course) and is covered for the purpose of outlining basic concepts for the review, preparation and interpretation of financial statements.

***READING LIST***

**Groups (A-B), (Di-La), (P-Sa) and (Sb-Z):**

G. Airoldi-G. Brunetti-V. Coda, *Corso di Economia aziendale,* Il Mulino, Bologna, 2020 [1.1, 1.2.1, 1.3, 2.1, 2.2.1, 2.2.2, 2.2.3, 2.2.4, 3.1, 3.2.1, 3.2.2, 4.1, 4.2.1, 4.2.2, 5.1, 5.2, 6.2, 6.3, 6.4, 6.5.1, 6.6, 7.1 (excluding "*I flussi di cassa e l’equilibrio monetario*"), 9.1.1, 9.1.2, 9.2, 9.3, 11.2, 11.3, 11.4, 11.5, 12.1 (excluding pages 414-417), 14.1, 14.2, 15.1, 15.2, 15.3, 15.4, 15.6, 15.7, 16.2, 16.3, 18.1, 18.2, 18.3.1, 18.4].

A. Cerri-M. Daniele, *Appunti di Contabilità e bilancio,* Educatt*,* 2020.

**Groups (C-De) and (Le-O):**

P. Russo, *La Ricchezza. Cos’è. Come si produce. Come si misura*, Milano, 2017. [In particular, the paragraphs indicated in the Syllabus, that will be made available on the Blackboard page at the beginning of the course, will be the subject of examination].

A. Cerri-M. Daniele, *Appunti di Contabilità e bilancio*, Educatt, 2020.

***TEACHING METHOD***

The course will mainly be taught through lectures, which will be supplemented by experts' presentations and by discussion of case studies. The work done in the classroom is also supplemented by a special series of exercises to facilitate the student's grasp of the logic for accounting entries and the double-entry method.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

The business economics exam consists of a written test:

a) designed to ascertain the student's comprehension of the logic underlying the reporting of accounting data and the double-entry method (applied section);

b) aimed at evaluating the student's understanding of the other topics indicated in the study guide (theoretical section).

The rules for the examination are the same for all groups.

Students receive a passing mark provided that:

* they prove their knowledge of and ability to apply the logic of accounting record and the method of double-entry bookkeeping. It is here pointed out that, in order to be awarded the passing mark for this part of the exam, students shall develop thoroughly the practical part of the exam without making more than two serious mistakes. If this part of the exam does not reach the passing mark, the whole exam will be considered failed, also in the event that the answers to all the other questions reach the passing mark;
* they prove their knowledge, even at an elementary level, of each topic listed in the the Faculty Guide (theoretical part).

The theoretical questions included in the exam concern single subjects related to the topics listed in the Faculty Guide; students shall thus deal with questions that require a greater or lesser level of detail.

Since every single topic listed in the Faculty Guide represents a fundamental issue related to the Business Economics field, any exam denoting a complete lack of knowledge of any of the concerned themes will not receive the passing mark.

If a theoretical question does not receive the passing mark, however, the overall assessment of the exam may be successful, provided that the concerned failed answer does not denote a total lack of knowledge of the concerned theme and provided that the answers to the other questions, including the practical part, receive an overall passing mark.

Students may choose to take the Business Economics exam in two separate parts: an interim written test and a final written test. For this purpose, students must receive a minimum score equal to 18/30 in both parts. The interim test assesses students on topics studied in the first 11 lectures and the first three practical classes.

This test, when positive, is valid only until the exam session January-February 2023.

If students do not pass the final exam in the January- February 2023 exam session, the interim test results become invalid and students must take the exam fully.

In the January-February 2023 exam session students can take the final exam only once.

If students do not pass the final exam in the January- February 2023 exam session, the interim test results become invalid and students must take the exam fully.

The interim test will be considered null also in the case when students decide to take the entire final exam (answering 6 questions), independently of the mark obtained in the interim test.

For students willing to sit the interim test, the final mark of the exam results from the weighted average between the interim test mark (carrying a weight equal to 40%) and the mark of the final test (carrying a weight equal to 60%).

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

The detailed course syllabus, will be distributed in class at the start of the course, and will be posted on the Blackboard web pages under "Business Economics Syllabus for 2022-2023 academic year".

Regular class attendance is strongly recommended.

In case the current Covid-19 health emergency does not allow frontal teaching, remote teaching will be carried out following procedures that will be promptly notified to students.

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.