# Economic Geography

## Prof. Guido Lucarno

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

*Knowledge and understanding*. The course aims to introduce the key concepts, tools, and methods of economic geography, and explain the mechanisms at the basis of spatial distribution and their role in the evolution of the contemporary world. In particular, it will focus on the function of the main types of cultural assets, conceived as resources in the different processes of economic development - especially in the field of tourism - on the regional and global level.

*Ability to apply knowledge and understanding*. At the end of the course, students will be able to identify and describe, with a high degree of autonomy, the distribution of different phenomena on the surface of the Earth, explain their evolution and the interactions among them, space and human communities, and apply the best methodologies to understand how the evolution of these phenomena works, especially in terms of space and environment.

***COURSE CONTENT***

After an introduction to the global economic geography, the course will investigate topics around the geography of tourism, with reference to the enhancement of cultural, material and intangible assets, the spatial distribution of resources and their interaction with the territory, and the touristic methodologies of territorial analysis. Numerous examples and case studies will be discussed and specific testimonials on the subject will be presented in class.

The course, lasting 60 hours, is divided as follows:

General part (12 hours)

1. The partitions of geography
2. An introduction of the evolution of the world economy up to the present day
3. The analytical tools and methods of economic geography, resources, sustainability

Specific part (48 hours)

1. An introduction to tourism geography and the transport systems in the field of tourism
2. The role played by cultural heritage in the promotion of a specific tourist region
3. Tools and methods for analysing tourist regions in relation to the provision of cultural heritage
4. Case studies

***READING LIST***

For the general part: handouts and slides that can be downloaded from the Blackboard platform.

For the specific part:

P. Innocenti, *Geografia del turismo*, Rome, Carocci, 2014 (only the parts indicated in class).

G. Lucarno, *Geografia e tecnica dei trasporti*, Milano, Vita e Pensiero, 2011 (only the parts indicated in class).

The sections of the textbooks that students will have to study for the final exam, will be indicated in class and on Blackboard. In addition, beside the lecture notes, students will have to study the course packs and the teaching material published on Blackboard. For this reason, students are invited to get a username and a password to access the platform.

Further handouts and slides that can be downloaded from the Blackboard platform.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Frontal lectures and practical classes, supported by the use of slides and documentary material. Students are strongly invited to actively participate in class and carry out a critical interpretation of the case studies analysed during the lectures. The participation of testimonials is scheduled.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Oral exam, based on the topics listed in the course content. Students will be tested on their knowledge of the subject, the ability to analyse and interpret relevant issues and case studies – also on the basis of the ones explained in class –, the ability to identify the geographical interactions between the territory and different phenomena, the correlations between the causes and the effects of geographical-economic phenomena, and the ability to apply geographical tools and methods to the analysis of case studies. In addition, the final mark will take into account also the use of an appropriate terminology, and the ability to interpret, with a high degree of autonomy, the case studies proposed by the lecturer.

Non-attending students will have to study a different reading list, that will be made available on Blackboard during the course.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

In order to get the most out of this course, students should have a basic knowledge of world regional geography and contemporary history, and be able to read cartographic representations. The use of a good atlas is highly recommended.

*Important:* in the event that the health emergency should continue, both teaching activities and any forms of learning monitoring, both in progress and final, will be provided also remotely through our University's BlackBoard platform, the Microsoft Teams platform and any other tools envisaged and notified at the beginning of the course, so as to ensure the full achievement of the formative objectives set out in the study plans and, at the same time, the safety of our 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.