Economics of Development: Strategies and Policies

Prof. Claudia Rotondi

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

The course aims to provide the tools for critically evaluating the economic theories as well as the impact of economic policies on emerging and developing countries.

Therefore, it will look at long-term world economic development, focusing on the evolution of strategies and institutional systems from theoretical, historical and empirical points of view. Special attention will be given to the structural changes emerging from different developmental factors: technology, human capital, sector transformation, institutions.

*Knowledge and understanding*

At the end of the course, students will have acquired a basic knowledge of theories, indicators, strategies used to analyse development processes. They will be capable of matching strategies with the underlying economic visions and the geo-economic and geo-political which conditioned their emergence.

*Ability to apply knowledge and understanding*

This knowledge will enable them to identify the strengths and weaknesses of the strategies implemented in cooperation projects, to historicize them, to evaluate them also on the basis of the development indicators that characterize them. They will also have at their disposal elements of knowledge useful for identifying policies best suited to the various contexts.

***COURSE CONTENT***

– The evolution of the concept of development.

– Measurement of growth and development indicators.

– Development and the international economic order over the long term.

– Growth and stagnation: theories and strategies.

– Technology and development.

– Population and development.

– Education and development.

– Health protection and development.

– Economic development and structural changes.

– Drivers of growth.

– Agricultural development and rural development.

– Debt and development aid.

***READING LIST***

*For attending and non-attending students:*

A. Szirmai, *Socio-Economic Development,* Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 2nd edition, 2015 (certain chapters).

In addition:

*Attending students:*

Class notes, texts and materials indicated during the course.

*Non attending* students are requested to refer to the lecturer’s webpage for information about the chapters of the book by Szirmai to prepare for the exam.

Other alternative or supplemental readings, if any, may be indicated by the lecturer on her webpage.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Lectures, group work, seminars for further study of development cases.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Students will be assessed on the basis of a written test and an oral test (to be conducted after the student passes the written test).

The evaluation of the written tests will be based on the relevance and correctness of answers given; particular relevance will be given to the usage of appropriate terminology and the ability in organising the topics of the course.

*Attending* students will carry out some group or individual work. In the second semester they will analyse some themes connected to the theories covered in the course. Group (or individual) work will conclude with a presentation in class and with a written report. Presentations and reports will be assessed by the lecturer and will contribute to the final mark. Oral presentations will be evaluated on the basis of clarity and effective communication; written reports on the basis of content correctness, display of logic, and students’ ability to select the most relevant elements regarding the chosen topic. Correct syntax and grammar of the presentation and the written report will also be important.

In addition to the written test to be taken on the official exam dates, non-attending students will be assessed through an oral exam focusing on the textbooks indicated in the programme. The evaluation of the oral test will be based on the relevance and correctness of the answers given with respect to the questions; particular relevance will be given to the correct definition of the concepts studied and to their presentation with appropriate terminology.

The final mark will be out of thirty, and will take into account the level of knowledge, understanding, and fluency with respect to the course topics, as demonstrated during the testing.

Further indications on assessment methods will be given by the lecturer at the beginning of the course or, for non-attending students, during office hours.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

Specific indications about the ways to study for the exam will be provided by the lecturer both in class and through consultation during office hours.

It is recommended that students pass the exam about this course if they would get set for “History and Geo-economics: Economic Development in China”.

*Prerequisites*

The course requires the ability to understand scientific texts written in English. It also requires a good knowledge of contemporary history and political geography and basic knowledge of political economy. In this perspective, students are encouraged to use supplementary study tools that the faculty provides to all students enrolled.

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.