# **Economic History**

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

The course aims to analyse the ‘modern economic development’ from a historical perspective. The first module will introduce the transformations of economic systems from their origins in the pre-industrial society to the 1950s, with a focus on Europe and North America. The second module, instead, will explore the evolution of advanced and emerging economies starting from the first half of the 20th century, with a focus on Italy. At the end of the course, students will be able to: (i) explain the concept of development as a form of interaction between economic factors and a broader technological, social, political, and institutional context; (ii) describe the key forces that have defined, in the long term, the current economic situation; (iii) focus on different variables to analyse economic phenomena (nations, territories, enterprises); (iv) distinguish the different development pathways and models followed by contemporary economies; (v) discuss the strengths and weaknesses of the Italian economy; (vi) provide an accurate definition of the key concepts and terms of economy; (vii) identify the most relevant signs left by human work and economic forces in different cities and territories. Finally, the course aims to help students develop their independent thinking skills through the exploration of different points of view, and the adoption of a cognitive approach focused on the issues experienced and the role played by different actors.

***COURSE CONTENT***

Module 1

1. *The modern economic development: similarities and differences*
2. Europe during the Middle Ages and the Early Modern period
3. The British Industrial Revolution and its imitation by the other European countries
4. The Second Industrial Revolution: new competitors and new actors
5. Origins of the international economy
6. World War I and its consequences. The Ussr between the two wars
7. The Great Depression and the new economic and social policies

Module 2

1. *The Italian economic development*
2. The beginning of Italian industrialisation in 19th-20th centuries
3. World War II and the Reconstruction
4. Structural transformations of the 1950s and 1960s
5. The crisis of the mixed economy and new forms of production during the years of instability
6. Italy and globalisation: open issues
7. *The Western economic changes after mid-20th century and the globalization*
8. The consequences of World War II and the Reconstruction
9. From the ‘golden age’ to a new instability
10. The European integration process
11. The rise and fall of the USSR and the emerging Asia

***READING LIST***

Students will have to study the following materials of reference:

* Letters a) e c): V. Zamagni, *Perché l’Europa ha cambiato il mondo. Una storia economica*, Il Mulino, Bologna, 2015
* Letter b): essays and other material that will be made available on Blackboard.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Frontal lectures. supported by slides and other materials on Blackboard.

At the beginning of the course students will be informed, in class and on BlackBoard, about the implications of attending class (at least 70 per cent of the lessons) or non-attending.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

During the course, attending students (meaning at least 70 per cent of lectures) will have the possiblity to take an optional interim test, based on the first part of the programme. It will consist in a written exam, with open-ended questions requiring either long or short answers; in this way, students will be tested either on specific concepts or on their argumentative skills. The results obtained in the interim test (expressed in thirtieths) will determine part of the final mark; the precise percentage will be promptly notified to students, and it will be determined by the number of topics covered by the test. Students who refuse the mark obtained in the interim test will have to take the whole exam at the end of the course. The final exam will combine oral and written exercises, except during the official exam session in September, where students will have to take an oral exam. Further information will be made available before the official exam sessions.

The final exam aims to test not only students’ knowledge of the topics explained in class, but also their ability to find links between them, and explain economic phenomena using the key concepts and categories created by economic history, economics, and other social sciences.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

International students are invited to contact the lecturer in order to agree upon a different course programme and a more suitable reading list (in terms of language skills).

***OFFICE HOURS***

Office hours and places for receiving students are indicated on the teachers’ page on the university website.

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.