# 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 course is divided into two modules. The first one, will introduce economic development from its 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 during the second 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 about 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 an approach that is not focused on the mere description of historical events, but on the open issues and the responsibilities of the different actors.

***COURSE CONTENT***

Module 1: *The modern economic development: similarities and differences*

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

Module 2. *The rise of a mixed economy and the ‘Italian road’ to development*

1. The consequences of World War II and the Reconstruction
2. Western economies: from the ‘golden age’ to a new instability
3. The European integration process
4. The rise and fall of the USSR and the emerging Asia

*The ‘Italian road’ to development*

1. The origins: the launch of industrialisation between the 19th and the 20th century
2. World War II and the Reconstruction
3. Structural transformations of the 1950s and 1960s
4. The crisis of the mixed economy and new forms of production during the years of instability
5. Italy and globalisation: open issues

***READING LIST***

Textbooks of reference:

V. Zamagni, *Perché l’Europa ha cambiato il mondo. Una storia economica*, Il Mulino, Bologna, 2015.

P. Battilani - F. Fauri, *L’economia italiana dal 1945 a oggi*, Il Mulino, Bologna, 2014.

Further material will be made available on Blackboard.

The lectures and the notes taken in class are very useful to get an in-depth understanding of the course content. However, in order to prepare for the final exam, students will have to study the textbooks of reference indicated in the reading list.

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).

Class attendance is highly recommended. There will be no differences between the students who can attend classes and the ones who can’t. However, attending students will have access to more specific information on the reading list.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Frontal lectures in class or remote lectures on Blackboard.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

During the final exam, students will be tested not only on their knowledge of qualitative and quantitative data, but also on their ability to explain the correlation between different historical processes using the key concepts and categories of Economic History.

The final exam will cover both modules, and it will consist in a written test with open-ended questions. In case the current Covid-19 health emergency should persist, the written test will be replaced by an oral exam. Further information will be promptly notified to students. Given the peculiar structure of the course, there will no interim test.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

In order to get the most out of this course, students should have a basic knowledge of the European and Italian history of the 19th and the 20th century, which is usually acquired during the last two years of high school. Otherwise, they are invited to consult a history textbook in order to fill in knowledge gaps (for further information on the textbook, please contact the lecturer).

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.