# Economic History

## Prof. Ilaria Suffia

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

The course aims to analyse the timing and the factors of modern economic development, identify the long-term roots of the current economic order, and explain the interactions among the different economic actors (nations, territories, and companies, institutions), as well as the interconnections among the economic, the technological, the social, and the political-institutional sphere.

The course will consist in two units. The first one will introduce the development of the European and the global economy, from the pre-industrial era to the outbreak of World War II; in addition, it will analyse the historical events related to the economic systems of the Italian peninsula during the same period. The second unit, instead, will present the economic developments of the most relevant countries from World War II to the last decades of the second millennium, with a focus on the economic history of Italy from the devastations of World War II to the adoption of the Euro.

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

1. identify the long-term economic developments of the most industrialised nations, until the 1990s;

2. use their newly acquired skills to get a better understanding of complex economic phenomena, including the most recent ones;

3. use an appropriate terminology – both in written and oral presentations – when expressing their point of view on complex subjects, like the transformations of the different economic systems;

4. develop their learning skills, and get ready to pursue further studies in this field;

5. carry out, with a high degree of autonomy, historical analysis of economic facts, and therefore get a better understanding of the latest events.

***COURSE CONTENT***

Unit 1. *From pre-industrial economy to the first crisis of capitalism*

a) The global context:

1. Pre-industrial economy between the great and the little divergence.

2. The English industrial revolution.

3. The “modern economic development”; the European and North American industrialisation.

4. The origins of international economy.

5. An overview of world economy during the 20th century.

6. World War I and the expansion during the 1920s. The origins of the economy of the Soviet Union.

7. The Great Depression, the answers to the crisis, and the new economic and social policies.

b) The Italian example:

1. The origins and the features of the balance between agriculture and trade, and the decline of a long-term economic order.

2. The economic take-off during the Giolitti era, and the tragedy of war.

3. The struggles of the 1920s.

4. The Great Depression, the entrepreneurial State, and the creation of a mixed economy.

Unit 2. *The rise and fall of mixed economies*

a) The global context:

1. World War II and the creation of a new economic order for market systems.

2. The long period of prosperity of Western economies (1950-1973).

3. The crisis of the mixed economy and the return of liberalism in the first industrialised countries.

4. The new globalisation and its effects.

b) The Italian example:

1. The devastating effects of World War II, the entrance of Italy in the Western Bloc, and the reconstruction.
2. The Western choice: the entrance of Italy in the ‘American’ system and the reconstruction.
3. The great development: the structural transformations during the 1950s and the 1960s.
4. The so-called ‘*drammatici anni Settanta*’ (the dramatic 1970s) and the temporary economic recovery of the 1980s.
5. The resilience of the Italian entrepreneurial system after the Euro.

***READING LIST***

Students are invited to study the following textbooks:

- Module One, point a) and Module Two, point a) of the programme:

F. Amatori-A. Colli (a cura di), *Il mondo globale. Una storia economica,* Giappichelli, Turin, 2017.

- Module One, point b) and Module Two, point b) of the programme:

Reading will be indicated at the beginning of the course and posted on Blackboard.

Any additional reading will be available on the course page on Blackboard.

Information regarding examination topics and the reading list will be provided during the course.

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 indicated in the reading list.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Frontal lectures in class or remote lectures on Blackboard.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

The final exam aims to assess the knowledge of the topics explained in class and in the textbooks of reference. In particular, students will be tested on their ability to carry out a historical analysis of complex economic phenomena and their interconnections with other social sciences.

For those who have reached the requirements of the course in terms of participation in the lessons is reserved a written interim test. The test is optional and might include both close and open ended questions of different lenght, to assess both students’ knowledge and their different levels of argumentative skills. The results of the interim test will be expressed in thirtieths and will affect the final mark by a percentage which will be specified at the time of the test, according to the size of the test itself. The final examination will take place in person, it will be be both written and oral; the arrangements will be communicated in good time before each session.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

In order to get the most out of this course, students should have a good knowledge of the most relevant events of the Italian and the global history of the last two centuries.

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). Please note that the prerequisite mentioned above also applies to international 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.