# Economic History

## Prof. Pietro Cafaro

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

The course aims to provide students with the tools to identify the most significant categories of economic rationality in historical events. At the end of the course, students will be able to independently understand and evaluate the economic and financial development of the West in the last three and a half centuries, taking into consideration significant variables such as historical demography, the role of credit institutions, of transport, international trade, liberal or protectionist policies implemented by the states, dumping and cartels, evolution in the primary sector, as well as organizational transformations of factory work from the 1st Industrial Revolution onwards.

***COURSE CONTENT***

Introduction

– Economic history: nature, object, tools and methodologies of the discipline.

– The main trends of current economic historiography.

First teaching unit

*The structural aspects of the European economy under the old regime: a static approximation*

– Demand structure.

1. Potential demand.

2. Income formation and actual demand.

– Supply structure.

1. Means of production.

2. Dynamics and means of exchange.

Second teaching unit

– Background variables.

– Endogenous stimuli and exogenous influences in the big transformation of the economic structure.

Third teaching unit:

*The great transition from the old to the new economic regime: dynamic aspects.*

*European society between the 18th and 20th centuries:*

– The typical characteristics of industrialised society.

– Distinctive characteristics of the different paths to economic structure transformations.

– Distinctive features, growth models and pace of development of the main economic areas in Europe and North America.

– Increasing interconnections and developing globalisation in world economy.

Fourth teaching unit

*The Italian case in the 1800s and 1900s (a brief analysis).*

***READING LIST***

*Non-attending students*

1. C.M. Cipolla, *Storia economica dell’Europa pre-industriale,* Il Mulino, Bologna, 1974.

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

*Attending students*

1. V. Zamagni, *Perché l'Europa ha cambiato il mondo. Una storia economica*, Il Mulino, Bologna, 2015, chapters I-VIII.

2. Reading Material published on Blackboard Platform

***TEACHING METHOD***

The course consists of lectures and group workshops. A detailed calendar of lectures including a plan and supplementary study material (which is part of the basic reading list) will be available on the *Blackboard* platform on the University website from the beginning of the lectures.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Assessment will consist of a final oral exam on the entire programme according to the reading list. The evaluation will take into consideration relevance of answers, appropriate use of specific terminology, argumentative and coherent structuring of the discourse, students’ ability to identify conceptual links and unsolved issues.

Alternatively, attending students could sit a written test with open-ended questions at the end of the course.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

There are no content-related prerequisites to attend the course, but since the discipline is a ‘special’ story, students are expected basic knowledge of general history of Italy and Europe in the medieval, modern and contemporary age, which can be gained from a high school textbook.

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.