# Economic History

## Prof. Andrea Maria Locatelli

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

The first module deals with the birth and developments of contemporary economics. The second module deals with the times and forms of economic development in the twentieth century, with a focus on Italian decline since the 1980s. The aim of the course is to examine the question of “modern economic development” from a historical perspective. The first module analyses the changes in economic systems from in the mid-twentieth century, focusing on the European and North American regions. The second module considers the evolution of advanced and emerging economies from the mid-twentieth century onwards, with specific attention to the Italian situation. At the end of the course, students will be able to: (i) explain development as an interaction between economic factors and the broader technological, social and political-institutional context; (ii) describe the main forces that have, over the long term, shaped current economic arrangements; (iii) apply different scales of process analysis (countries, territories, companies); (iv) distinguish the different developmental paths and models of contemporary economies; (v) discuss the strengths and weaknesses of the Italian economy; (vi) provide a factual definition of the main concepts and terms of the economy; and (vii) identify the main signs of human work and economic forces in cities and territories.

***COURSE CONTENT***

First module: *Modern economic development: convergences and variants*

1. The First Globalisation
2. Affirmation of the liberal market economy
3. The First Great Depression and Economic Nationalism
4. World War I and its consequences. The USSR between the two wars
5. The crisis of the 1930s and the new economic and social policies

Second module: *The rise of the mixed economy and the "Italian approach" to development*

1. Western economies: the new world economic order
2. The new model: the mixed economy
3. The parable of the USSR and the emergence of Asia
4. The crisis of the seventies
5. The return of the liberal economic model

*The "Italian approach" to development*

1. The mixed economy crisis and the new productive arrangements in the years of instability
2. Italy in the face of globalisation and the open issues facing the country

***READING LIST***

Students must prepare using the following texts:

*Storia economica contemporanea*, a cura di Sidney Pollard, Bologna Il Mulino.

For the Italian case, additional material will be made available on Blackboard.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Frontal lectures or distance lectures using Blackboard. Attendance at lectures is recommended and more precise information on the use of study materials can be provided to those who attend. The texts indicated in the reading list remain the basis for an organic study of the subject and constitute the essential reference for exam preparation.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

An optional interim test on the first part of the course programme is envisaged for solely those students attending lectures (for this purpose attendance in class may be monitored). The test comprises questions requiring textual answers of different length, which are aimed at verifying both students' analytical knowledge and their different levels of argumentative ability. The result of the interim test is valid for the entire academic year and will carry about 40% of the final mark, depending on the breadth of material covered in the test. Students are free to reject their interim test result, and rather cover the entire course programme in the final exam.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

Foreign students may agree a partially different programme and reading list with the lecturer, which also takes into account their language skills.

Further information can be found on the lecturer’s webpage at http://docenti.unicatt.it/web/searchByName.do?language=ENGor on the Faculty notice board.