

COURSE SYLLABUS

Principles of Economics

2324-2-E1601N091

Corso di laurea in Scienze dell'Organizzazione, 2nd year (Dipartimento di Sociologia e Ricerca Sociale)

Instructor

Luca J. Uberti (Department of Economics, Management and Statistics, DEMS)

Learning objectives

Main learning outcome:

- Acquire the basic principles and concepts of micro- and macro-economics.

Secondary learning outcomes:

- Improve business English language skills, including understanding, speaking and writing (all lectures, seminars and references are in English).
- Apply elementary mathematics and statistics to the modelling of basic economic processes and phenomena.

Course structure

8 CFU, 58 hours, thus organized:

- Lectures ('didattica erogativa'), 42 hours (6 CFU), ca 14 sessions (Luca J. Uberti)
- Seminars ('didattica interattiva'), 16 hours (2 CFU), delivered by another instructor (TBC)

Contents

Introduction to micro-economics (utility and consumer theory; production, costs and profits);

Introduction to macro-economics (growth, fluctuations, monetary and fiscal policy)

Detailed structure

WEEK 1: *Introduction to economics*

- Scarcity, choice and economic systems
- Markets, prices and supply & demand models

WEEK 2: *Consumers and firms*

- Utility and consumer theory
- Production, costs, and profit maximization

WEEK 3: *Equilibrium and competition*

- Perfect competition and efficiency
- Imperfect competition and monopoly

WEEK 4: *Labour and Capital*

- Labour markets
- Capital and financial markets

WEEK 5: *Long-run macro: economic growth and development*

- GDP and national accounts
- Growth models

WEEK 6: *Short-run macro: fluctuations and policy*

- The IS-LM model of the short-run
- Fiscal and monetary policy

WEEK 7: *Revision, extensions and catch-up*

- Catch-up, additional topics and Q&A
- Exam strategy and mock exams

Please note that the detailed structure is subject to revisions closer to the start date of the course, as well as during the course itself.

Prerequisites

- Understanding (listening and reading), speaking and writing of elementary English.
- Algebra and basic notions of calculus.

Teaching methods

- Lectures and video-lectures with exercises and applications
- Seminars with student presentations and class discussions

Assessment methods

A single final exam consisting of:

- A written exam made up of multiple-choice and open questions (1st session)
- OR
- An oral exam in English (all subsequent sessions)

Failing an exam does not make students ineligible to retake the test on the following exam date. The instructor reserves the right to revise the choice of assessment methods closer to the start date of the course.

Textbooks and Reading Materials

- Textbook: Liberman M., Hall R.E. (2013), *Principles and Applications of Economics*, International Edition, 6th Edition, Cengage Learning
- Articles from: *Financial Times* and *The Economist*.
- Slides and any additional references or solved exercises posted on e-Learning

Please note that the instructor reserves the right to change the textbook closer to the start date of the course.

Sustainable Development Goals

Decent work and economic growth