

30614 - The Spanish Economy

Información del Plan Docente

Academic Year	2017/18
Faculty / School	109 - Facultad de Economía y Empresa
Degree	432 - Joint Law - Business Administration and Management Programme
ECTS	6.0
Year	3
Semester	Second semester
Subject Type	Compulsory
Module	---

1.General information

1.1.Introduction

Brief presentation of the course

The contents of the course "Spanish economy" are basic in the training of a student of the degree in Business Administration and Management. The course is part of the module "Economic context and public intervention", is defined as compulsory and is worth 6 ECTS.

It combines theory and practice and aims to offer a global view of the Spanish economic structure and how it compares with the international context.

1.2.Recommendations to take this course

The approach of the course "Spanish Economy" is both theoretical and practical. To be successful, the students are recommended to work on it steadily, which implies attending lectures and seminars on a regular basis, solving the proposed exercises, working in teams and supporting their work with the use of statistical sources. There are no prerequisites for this course, although the knowledge acquired in related courses in Macroeconomics, Statistics and Mathematics will be helpful.

1.3.Context and importance of this course in the degree

"Spanish economy" is taught in the second semester of the second year of the degree in Business Administration and Management. It is the only subject in the degree that relates strictly to the Spanish economy, and it will certainly help the student to better deal with further courses.

1.4.Activities and key dates

The activities and key dates will be communicated via the e-learning platform (ADD) of the Universidad de Zaragoza and at the presentation for each group at the beginning of the second semester.

The official hours and dates of the final exams can be found on the web pages of the centres at which the course is offered.

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2.Learning goals

2.1.Learning goals

The student, in order to pass the course, will have to show her/his competence in the following skills:

Understands the concepts and theories that explain and analyse the main factors of growth for the Spanish economy

Understands the concepts and theories that explain and analyse the main productive sectors in the Spanish economy

Correctly uses economic and statistical indicators

Handles and properly interprets the reports from the main national and international economic institutions

Delimits the gross domestic product components with precision

Integrates the knowledge acquired so that it allows the elaboration of satisfactory advice to firms and institutions on the analysis of the Spanish economic situation

Applies the course contents to the resolution of cases or practical exercises from economic reality

Takes decisions following the conclusions derived from the analysis in the course

Adapts the acquired knowledge to new situations, new scenarios or, in general, to the economic situation of Spain at different moments in time

2.2.Importance of learning goals

The skills acquired through "Spanish Economy" are critical for the full development of the professional activity of a graduate in Business Administration and Management because the evolution of the national economy is key to any business activity. It is crucial for the student to learn to adapt her/his knowledge to new situations, given the changing nature of the economic environment.

3.Aims of the course and competences

3.1.Aims of the course

The expected results of the course respond to the following general aims

The aim of the course is to know, analyse and interpret the Spanish economy in the medium and long term, providing the student with a joint vision of the different economic and institutional aspects.

To do this, the contents are divided into three modules. The first analyses the process of economic growth and, more specifically, the growth determinants in the Spanish economy. The second focuses on the analysis of productive sectors and the evolution of competitiveness, which includes its relationship with the Spanish foreign sector. The third deals with institutional aspects: the labour market, the financial market, the public sector and the effects of European monetary integration on the Spanish economy.

3.2.Competences

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After completing the course, the student will be competent in the following skills:

Writing advisory reports on specific situations related to markets, economic sectors and organizations or firms

Understanding and applying professional criteria and scientific rigour/precision to the solving of economic, firm or organizational problems

Ability to analyse and synthesize

Searching for and assessing information from a variety of sources

Being autonomous in his/her learning and training

Applying knowledge to practice

4. Assessment (1st and 2nd call)

4.1. Assessment tasks (description of tasks, marking system and assessment criteria)

The student will prove that he/she has achieved the expected learning results by means of the following assessment tasks:

The student may choose one of the following options in both sittings

Option A)

The student is offered the possibility of doing a set of exercises weekly during the practical classes (3 points) and a global test at the end of the semester (7 points).

It will be necessary to hand in a minimum of practices throughout the semester, equivalent to two thirds of the proposed activities, in accordance with the timetable to be set at the beginning of the semester.

The overall test consists of a written test that includes theoretical and practical parts to be held on the dates indicated in the academic calendar. For this option to be valid, students must obtain a minimum score of 3 points in the overall test.

Option B)

The student is entitled to take a global test (10 points) consisting of a written test to be held on the dates indicated in the academic calendar approved by each centre in which the degree is offered. As in the previous option, the practices are evaluable material in the final test, but the student who chooses option B on this test will have to answer more questions than students who choose for option A.

Valuation criteria

The mark for students choosing option A will be calculated as follows:

- Examination questions may combine open and multiple choice questions (maximum 7 points). In the case of open-ended questions, three aspects will be assessed: the structure and clarity of the content, the completeness of the

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content and the absence of formal errors. For this option to be valid, students must obtain a minimum score of 3 points in the overall test.

- Individual weekly practical exercises during the class period (maximum 3 points). The practical activities will be assessed taking the following into account: the degree of confidence with which the work responds to the questions posed, the absence of formal errors, clarity and order in the presentation of the results and reflection and brainstorming that is behind of every task

The mark for students choosing option B will be calculated as follows:

- Examination questions may combine open and multiple choice questions (10 points maximum). In the case of open-ended questions, three aspects will be assessed: the structure and clarity of the content, the completeness of the content and the absence of formal errors.

5. Methodology, learning tasks, syllabus and resources

5.1. Methodological overview

The learning process that has been designed for this course is based on the following activities:

In the process of learning, different teaching methods will be used including lectures. More participatory techniques by the student training will be also used. This second type of activities allows student involvement in the learning process and lets the teacher notice the problems and concerns that may arise in the various topics.

In addition to the scheduled classes, the student must make an effort to manage and be familiar with the basic content of the course with the continued help of the textbook "The Spanish Economy"

5.2. Learning tasks

The programme offered to the students to help them achieve the learning results includes the following activities :

Lectures: with the main objective of conveying the fundamental concepts of the subject, so that goals set by the teacher are achieved. The lecture is expected to be participatory and to encourage debate and clarify issues and questions based on the student handbook, the supporting literature for the course and materials provided in the Digital Platform (ADD).

Resolution of problems and presentation of case studies, preparation and presentation of papers, discussion topics, and readings.

Tutorials and evaluation that allow a more direct and personal support to students in order to monitor tasks, prepare and produce reports, answer questions and guide them in the study and resolution of exercise activities. These tutorials may be individual or in a group.

Course syllabus

Contents are divided into three modules that are distributed between lectures and seminars in a parallel and complementary way, as follows:

MODULE I: THE SPANISH ECONOMY AT THE START OF THE XXIst CENTURY

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Lesson 1. The present-day Spanish economic situation

Seminar. Economic indicators and statistical sources

Lesson 2. The process of economic growth

Seminar. Determinants of economic growth

MODULE II: PRODUCTIVE STRUCTURE AND COMPETITIVENESS

Lesson 3. The productive structure

Seminar. Productive sectors in perspective

Lesson 4. Foreign trade

Seminar. Internationalization

MODULE III: INSTITUTIONAL ASPECTS

Lesson 5. Labour market

Seminar. Unemployment

Lesson 6. Financial system

Seminar. Crisis in the financial system

Lesson 7. Public sector

Seminar. Income distribution

Lesson 8. Spain in the Economic and Monetary Union

Seminar. The recent economic situation

5.3.Syllabus

5.4.Course planning and calendar

Calendar of actual sessions and presentation of works

The timing of the sessions will be announced on the website of the Faculty and the practices and other activities will be

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communicated by the teacher

Training and assessment activities	Distribution	Credits
CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES		2.4
Lectures	Weekly sessions of 2 hours	1.2
Practical classes	Weekly sessions of 2 hours (divided into groups)	1.2
NON-CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES		3.6
Group tutorials	8 activities of 2 hours	0.64
Final tests	1 exam, 2 hours	0.08
Individual work, including preparation of exams	72 hours	2.88

5.5. Bibliography and recommended resources