

27406 - World Economic History

Syllabus Information

Academic year: 2023/24

Subject: 27406 - World Economic History

Faculty / School: 109 - Facultad de Economía y Empresa

Degree: 417 - Degree in Economics

ECTS: 6.0

Year: 1

Semester: Second semester

Subject type: Basic Education

Module:

1. General information

The main objective of this subject is that the student learns some of the keys to understand the functioning and the characteristics of the economy and society. The study of history shows that current economic differences between countries and individuals, and their implications, have historical causes. In addition, economic history can be used as a "laboratory" in which to test theories and techniques proposed by economists and other social scientists.

These approaches and objectives are aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations Agenda 2030 (<https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/es/>), specifically, the activities planned in the subject will contribute to the achievement of Goal 1. End of poverty, 3. Health and wellness, 4. Quality education, 5. Gender Equality, 8. Decent work and economic growth, and 10. Reduction of inequalities.

2. Learning results

World economic history contributes to the education of the economics student through the analysis of the past. The study of the past is very useful for understanding the present and serves to understand the origins of contemporary realities. Therefore, at the end of the subject the student is expected to be able to:

1. Examine current economic problems from a historical perspective, in order to gain a better understanding of the possible evolutions of economic systems.
2. Identify and connect the relationships between the various social and economic actors in contemporary history.
3. Be able to compare economic developments and challenges that different economic regions of the world are facing.
4. Explore the historical development of economic institutions and recognize the diversity of economic experiences, along with their successes and mistakes.
5. Have the ability to express a reasoned opinion on the main issues addressed in the area, based on the collection and interpretation of relevant economic and social data.

3. Syllabus

Unit 1. Introduction. Long-term economic development. From the first hominids to the Enlightenment.

Unit 2. The industrial revolution in Great Britain (1760-1840).

Unit 3. The spread of industrialization to Western Europe - France, Belgium, Germany and Switzerland - and the United States (1840-1870). Colonialism.

Unit 4. The second industrial revolution and the first globalization (1870-1913).

Unit 5. World wars and the interwar period (1914-1945).

Unit 6. Economic expansion. The golden years and the cold war (1945-1973).

Unit 7. The world economy during the second globalization. From the oil crisis to the present (1973-2023).

4. Academic activities

The theoretical part consists of lectures (2 hours per week). The materials used in class will be provided and complementary readings will be recommended.

The practical part of the subject is divided into subgroups. The weekly classes (2 hours) will consist of two sections.

In the first one, students will work individually or in groups on texts that they have previously read. In the second one, they will perform short practices (based on small texts, statistical data, videos, primary sources, activities, etc.).

In addition, students will have to perform an individual study on a specific scenario of World Economic History, which will be presented to the teaching staff in the last weeks of the term.

The practical part is completed with two sessions of "Practices P6" (non-periodical) which will be introduced on the first day of the term.

Lectures: 30 hours

Practical classes: 30 hours

Personal Study: 90 hours

Assessment tests. 2h. The first midterm exam is held during the teaching period. The second mid-term exam is held outside of teaching period (in the morning) during the period reserved for mid-term exams. Global exams are set by the Faculty.

5. Assessment system

The subject consists of two parts: theory and practice. Each of the two parts is assessed in the final grade: Theory with 6 points and Practice (including P6) with 4 points. To pass the subject, at least half of the grade assigned to each of the parts must be obtained.

The subject will be evaluated by continuous evaluation (students assigned to this modality) or by global evaluation in the first call and by global evaluation during the second call.

Continuous assessment:

Students who choose to do so may subscribe to the continuous evaluation by which they can pass both the theory and the practical part of the subject. . Continuous evaluation requires regular class attendance since there are evaluable activities every week.

In the theory part of the subject, students with continuous assessment will take two mid-term exams (dates will be provided on the first day of class and through the virtual classroom). Each of the midterm exams consists of 40 multiple-choice questions with four options and only one valid answer. Each correct answer adds 0.25 points while each failure subtracts 0.0625.

In the practical part of the subject, students under continuous evaluation must actively participate in the activities carried out in class, in addition to reading the indicated texts each week. All activities performed in class will be subject to evaluation either by participation in the resolution of the activity or by the collection of results by the teaching staff. In addition, throughout the term there will be an individual essay that will be presented by the students in the last weeks of the term.

Students subject to continuous evaluation will be considered to have been evaluated in the first call from the moment in which they participate in one of the mid-term exams. In addition, those who fail any of the blocks (theory or practice) will have the opportunity to sit for the global exam of the first call.

Global Assessment

The global evaluation will consist of a global exam for the theory part and another one for the practical part.

The global theory exam will consist of 40 multiple-choice questions on the theoretical contents covered in the subject with four options and only one valid answer. Each correct answer adds 0.25 points while each failure subtracts 0.0625.

The global practical exam consists of 8 questions of very brief development on the topics worked in the practical part of the subject available in the virtual classroom.

Assessment Criteria:

In order to pass the subject, both the knowledge of the contents of the subject through the exams and classroom activities, and the correct exposition of the reasoning using scientific evidence (in the case of the practical activities) will be assessed. The evaluation of the students of the 5th and 6th call will be carried out by an examining board, composed of teachers of the Economic History area.