Introduction to Economics

Code: 102277
ECTS Credits: 6

Degree	Type	Year	Semester
2500786 Law	FB	1	2

Contact

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Teaching groups languages

You can check it through this link. To consult the language you will need to enter the CODE of the subject. Please note that this information is provisional until 30 November 2023.

Teachers

Jaime Amoroso Miranda

Francesc Xavier López Andrés

Aurora Trigo Catalina

Antoni Buira Guillamet

External teachers

per determinar
per determinar

Prerequisites

None.

NOTE: Catalan language will be used in lectures of group 1, unless first-time students from other universities in Spain, where the catalan language is not one of the official languages, or students from other countries, enrol in this course. In any of these two cases, Spanish (castilian) will be used in lectures in theory classes. All students in these situations will join Group 1.

The final allocation of teaching staff to groups and seminars is to be determined.

Objectives and Contextualisation

This is a first-year, first semester subject. The course content may be considered as basic and fundamental. It will provide the main tools of economic analysis needed to understand and analyze the socio-economic performance of a society. Within this framework, this course aims at enabling students to use the basic concepts and analytical graphs developed by current economic analysis to understand the main facts that characterize an economy.

The training objectives of the subject can be summarized as follows:

1. Acquiring the basic conceptual knowledge of microeconomics and macroeconomics
2. Knowledge of the fundamental economic institutions
3. Ability to produce a reasoned, autonomous and critical analysis of current economic facts
4. Demonstrate the acquisition of knowledge through written and oral expression, both individually and in groups

The content of the course will explicitly consider issues related to gender.

Competences

- Efficiently managing information, being capable of assimilating a considerable volume of data in a limited amount of time.
- Identifying and solving problems.
- Identifying the underlying conflicts of interest in disputes and real cases.
- Integrating the importance of Law as a regulatory system of social relations.
- Managing bibliographic and documentary resources: databases, browsing, etc.
- Students must be capable of learning autonomously and having an entrepreneurial spirit.
- Students must be capable of perceiving the impact and implications of the decisions taken.
- Use different information and communication technologies.
- Working in multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary fields.

Learning Outcomes

1. Efficiently managing information, being capable of assimilating a considerable volume of data in a limited amount of time.
2. Identifying and solving problems.
3. Knowing the nature of the conflicts underlying in a market economy.
4. Knowing the ways of assessing conflicts that might inform the legal standards.
5. Managing bibliographic and documentary resources: databases, browsing, etc.
6. Possessing basic economic knowledge.
7. Relating the role of regulations in the functioning of the economic activity.
8. Students must be capable of learning autonomously and having an entrepreneurial spirit.
9. Students must be capable of perceiving the impact and implications of the decisions taken.
10. Use different information and communication technologies.
11. Working in multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary fields.

Content

1. Economics: basic issues.

What economic analysis is about. Markets and governments: mixed economies. A model: The circular flow of income. Fundamental concepts: production possibility frontier; opportunity cost. The PPF and economic growth. Trade and gains from trade; absolute and comparative advantage.

2. Markets: demand and supply.

Types of markets. Individual and col·lective demand and supply in competitive markets. Equilibrium. Shifts of supply and demand. Changes in equilibrium. Elasticity and its consequences.

3. Markets, efficiency and public intervention.

Markets, welfare and efficiency: consumer and producer surplus. Changes. Some public interventions: minimum prices, maximum prices, indirect taxation.

4. Supply: firms and costs.

Technology and the production function; marginal and average productivity. Cost functions: total cost, marginal cost, average cost; variable and fixed costs; long term and short term costs. Factor prices, productivity and costs.

5. Markets in perfect competition.

Definition of perfect competition. Production and hiring decisions: profit maximization and the supply curve in a competitive market. Changes in costs and profits. Firm closure. Shifts of the supply curve. Elasticity of supply.

6. Non-competitive markets and public policy.

Imperfect competition: monopoly, oligopoly and cartels. Equilibrium with monopoly. Effects of monopoly on welfare: loss of efficiency. Market failures: private vs common interest. Public policies towards monopolies and oligopolies. Competition policy in the European Union.

7. Market failures and public policy.

Externalities: positive and negative. Current problems: Pollution, Climate change, Pandemics. Public policies: environmental taxes, emission permits, subsidies. Public goods.

8. Fairness, Inequality and Poverty. Income redistribution.

Personal income: market and disposable. Measuring income inequality: the Lorenz curve.Absolute and relative poverty: definition and measurement. The labor market: labor demand, labor supply and wages. Capital markets. Gender, discrimination,education. Monopsony. The Tax system and redistribution: income tax and inheritance taxation. Public expenditure and redistribution.

9. Economic aggregates.

GDP: value added, national income, aggregate expenditure. Composition of the GDP. Real and nominal GDP. Price indices and cost of living. Unemployment: types and measurement. Inflation rate: definition and measurement. Public deficit and Public debt. Money.

10. Economic cycles and the economy in the long term.

Economic cycles. Economic growth in the long term. Policies. Aggregate demand and Aggregate supply. The short term: fiscal and monetary policies.

Methodology

Important Note: Teaching and assessment methods may be subject to change in case health authorities impose restrictions to the access to the Campus.

The course will consist of the following activities:

Lectures: The lecturer introduces and explains the basic concepts and graphs corresponding to each topic. Student attendance is essential.

Seminar sessions: these in-class sessions, of <u>compulsory attendance</u>, will be dedicated to concept development, problem solving, case studies and/or debates about current issues. They include class presentations by students.

Evaluation activities: There will be four activities (minimum) for that purpose. At least two of them will consist of written tests (a mid-term and a final exam).

Complementary activities: Lecturers may recommend attendance to conferences or other seminars.

Annotation: Within the schedule set by the centre or degree programme, 15 minutes of one class will be reserved for students to evaluate their lecturers and their courses or modules through questionnaires.

Activities

Title	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Type: Directed			
Lectures	19.5	0.78	3, 4, 7, 6, 11
Seminar sessions, problem solving and case studies	19.5	0.78	3, 4, 5, 2, 7, 8, 9, 6, 11
Type: Supervised			
Tutorials	0	0	
Type: Autonomous			
Assessment	5	0.2	3, 4, 1, 5, 2, 7, 8, 9, 6, 11, 10
Individual study, solving problems, preparation of essays and other recommended activities	106	4.24	3, 4, 1, 5, 2, 7, 9, 6, 10

Assessment

Assessment will be on a continuous basis along the semester. It will consist of the following activities:

1. A midterm written test (35%)

2. An end of semestr written test (35%)

3. Problems, cases, practical exercises: 30%

Professors will provide the dates of each evaluation activities at the beginning of the semester.

To pass, a weighted average grade of 5 over 10 or higher is required, AND at least a grade of 3.5 in each written test.

Re-assessment: If the weighted mean of all assessment activities is equal or greater than 3.5 points but less than 5, the student may take an exam at the date determined by the Facultat.

Misconduct: A student who cheats or tries to cheat an exam will have a 0 as a mark. A Student who submits a paper o practical in which there is evidence of plagiarism will have a 0 as a mark and will receive a warning. In case of repetition, the students will fail the subject.

Single assessment (for those students whose application has been accepted)

Theoretical exam (40%), Exercises (35%), and written review with possible oral exam of a book to be agreed with the instructor (25%).

The same re-assessment system will be applied as for the continuous assessment.

Assessment Activities

Title	Weighting	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
End of term test	35%	0	0	3, 1, 5, 2, 7, 8, 9, 6, 11, 10
Midterm test	35%	0	0	3, 4, 1, 5, 2, 7, 8, 9, 6, 11, 10
Problem solving and cases	30%	0	0	3, 4, 1, 5, 2, 7, 8, 9, 6, 11, 10

Bibliography

Mandatory Bibliography:

Each instructor will decide and communicate which parts of this text will be the basis of the evaluation:

CORE Project: "La Economía", free open e-book in Spanish. Link:
https://www.core-econ.org/project/la-economia/

Recommended Bibliography:

-Krugman, Paul & Robin Wells (2022): *Fundamentos de Economia*, Editorial Reverté. 4th Edition (5th original)

free electronic version (access UAB): https://elibro.net/es/lc/uab/titulos/105547

-Acemoglu, Daron; David Laibson & John A. List (2017), "Economía", Antoni Bosch ed..

-Mankiw, Gregory N. (2012): *Principios de economia*, 6th ed., Ediciones Paraninfo, or later editions.

-Mochón, Francisco (2009): *Economía. Teoría y Política*. Ed. McGraw-Hill.

also available through UAB library: https://elibro.net/es/ereader/uab/50180

Other resources:

1) Economic Nobel Prizes (women scientists): 2009: Elinor Omstrom:
https://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elinor_Ostrom; 2019: Esther Duflo: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Esther_Duflo

Other women Nobel Prizes: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_female_Nobel_laureates

2) Data sources: INE www.ine.es; OCDE: www.oecd.org

Software

None is required