

Spanish Economy

Code: 102320
ECTS Credits: 6

2025/2026

Degree	Type	Year
Business Administration and Management	OB	2
Economics	OB	2

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Teachers

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Teaching groups languages

You can view this information at the [end](#) of this document.

Prerequisites

Students are required to have acquired basic knowledge from the subjects "Introduction to economics" (in particular, macroeconomics) and "International economics" (in particular, the part covering Instruments in Applied Economics).

Objectives and Contextualisation

This is a compulsory course, taught during the first semester of year two.

The main goal of the course is to gain knowledge on the Spanish economy mainly from a macroeconomic point of view. The recent evolution and the current situation of the Spanish economy is explained in an international economic context. Attention is devoted to the trajectories of key macroeconomic variables and the accompanying economic policy measures. Students are introduced to the main economic features of the Spanish economy and the interpretation of its developments through the lens of basic theoretical concepts and analytical tools. The analysis from a gender perspective will be included in the relevant topics of the programme.

The objectives of the course are the following:

1. Increase the students' interest for the study of the economy.
2. Increase the students' knowledge of the general functioning of the economy, its different markets, and its economic institutions.
3. Application of the economic analysis to specific realities.
4. Achievement of a better empirical comprehension of economic dilemmas.
5. Uncover the social dimension of the economy and its relationship with welfare.
6. Stimulate students express their progress in written work, oral communication, and the identification and processing of the relevant information related to the course.

Competences

Business Administration and Management

- Capacity for adapting to changing environments.
- Capacity for independent learning in the future, gaining more profound knowledge of previous areas or learning new topics.
- Capacity for oral and written communication in Catalan, Spanish and English, which enables synthesis and oral and written presentation of the work carried out.
- Demonstrate initiative and work individually when the situation requires it.
- Demonstrate knowledge of the structure of institutions and the state, their evolution and the consequences of possible changes, to be able to make a positive contribution to the debate about the role they play in current society.
- Identify the economic agents that make up an economy, understanding how they have been interrelated to date, how they are currently interrelated and forecast futures according to new circumstances and their influence on a specific company.
- Know how to handle the analytical framework and empirical knowledge that is offered by the economy on international relations and the most important economic areas.
- Organise the work in terms of good time management, organisation and planning.
- Select and generate the information necessary for each problem, analyse it and take decisions based on that information.
- Work well in a team, being able to argue proposals and validate or reject the arguments of others in a reasoned manner.

Economics

- Capacity for adapting to changing environments.
- Capacity for independent learning in the future, gaining more profound knowledge of previous areas or learning new topics.
- Demonstrate initiative and work individually when the situation requires it.
- Demonstrate knowledge of the structure of institutions and the state, their evolution and the consequences of possible changes, to be able to make a positive contribution to the debate about the role they play in current society.
- Know how to handle the analytical framework and empirical knowledge that is offered by the economy on international relations and the most important economic areas.
- Organise the work in terms of good time management, organisation and planning.
- Select and generate the information necessary for each problem, analyse it and take decisions based on that information.
- Show motivation for carrying out quality work and sensitivity to the consequences for the environment and society.
- Students must be capable of applying their knowledge to their work or vocation in a professional way and they should have building arguments and problem resolution skills within their area of study.

- Students must be capable of collecting and interpreting relevant data (usually within their area of study) in order to make statements that reflect social, scientific or ethical relevant issues.
- Students must be capable of communicating information, ideas, problems and solutions to both specialised and non-specialised audiences.
- Students must develop the necessary learning skills in order to undertake further training with a high degree of autonomy.
- Students must have and understand knowledge of an area of study built on the basis of general secondary education, and while it relies on some advanced textbooks it also includes some aspects coming from the forefront of its field of study.
- Value ethical commitment in professional practice.
- Work well in a team, being able to argue proposals and validate or reject the arguments of others in a reasoned manner.

Learning Outcomes

1. A capacity of oral and written communication in Catalan, Spanish and English, which allows them to summarise and present the work conducted both orally and in writing.
2. Analyse the role of international institutions in the economy.
3. Assess ethical commitment in professional activity.
4. Assess the functioning and current situation of the Spanish economy.
5. Capacity to adapt to changing environments.
6. Capacity to continue future learning independently, acquiring further knowledge and exploring new areas of knowledge.
7. Demonstrate initiative and work independently when required.
8. Demonstrate motivation regarding the quality of the work performed and sensitivity regarding the consequences on the environment and society.
9. Describe the main economic agents making up the Spanish and Catalan economy.
10. Examine the influence and the role of Spanish public institutions in the economy.
11. Identify the role of the public sector in the Spanish economy.
12. Interpret the economic globalisation process and its consequences for the Spanish economy.
13. List the main characteristics of the labour market in Spain.
14. Organise work, in terms of good time management and organisation and planning.
15. Perform an economic analysis of integration processes, in general, and of the European integration process, in particular.
16. Select and generate the information needed for each problem, analyse it and make decisions based on this information.
17. Students must be capable of applying their knowledge to their work or vocation in a professional way and they should have building arguments and problem resolution skills within their area of study.
18. Students must be capable of collecting and interpreting relevant data (usually within their area of study) in order to make statements that reflect social, scientific or ethical relevant issues.
19. Students must be capable of communicating information, ideas, problems and solutions to both specialised and non-specialised audiences.
20. Students must develop the necessary learning skills in order to undertake further training with a high degree of autonomy.
21. Students must have and understand knowledge of an area of study built on the basis of general secondary education, and while it relies on some advanced textbooks it also includes some aspects coming from the forefront of its field of study.
22. Work as part of a team and be able to argue own proposals and validate or refuse the arguments of others in a reasonable manner.

Content

Topic 1. The Spanish economy in the 1990s and the entry into the Economic and Monetary Union (EMU)

Topic 2. The continuity of the new growth pattern of the Spanish economy in the 2000s. The ECB monetary policy. The real estate bubble.

Topic 3. The growing external imbalance. Structural weaknesses of the Spanish economy. The current account balance. The growth of private debt.

Topic 4. The financial crisis and economic recession in 2008-2013. Policy responses to the crisis: from expansive policies to austerity. The debt crisis and the bailing out of the banking system.

Topic 5. The European sovereign-debt crisis. Stability problems in the EMU. Institutional and policy responses. Towards a European banking and fiscal union.

Topic 6. 2014-2021: The economic recovery and the COVID crisis. Growth with external balance. The COVID pandemic impact on economic activity and the response of the European Commission: The Stability Pact suspension and the Next Generation Funds. The ECB role.

Topic 7. 2022-2025: Recent developments and current state of the economy. Inflation and monetary policy. The new role of the ECB. The Stability Pact reactivation in 2024. Stagnation in Europe, economic resilience in Spain. Medium- and long-term challenges.

Topic 8. Public Sector: overview of the Spanish public sector. Main sources of public revenue. Main sources of public expenditures. Public deficit and debt. Mechanisms of debt financing.

Topic 9. The funding system of the Autonomous Communities. The regional decentralization process.

Topic 10. The financing of the public pensions system. Structural reforms.

Topic 11. Labourmarket I: Demographic trends and migration flows. Active population: evolution, age and gender differences.

Topic 12. Labour market II: Employed and unemployed population characteristics (age, gender, studies). Occupation determinants. Unemployment causes. Wage setting mechanisms and wage gaps. Labour market reforms. The role of furlough schemes during the crisis.

Topic 13. Functional, personal and territorial income distribution

Activities and Methodology

Title	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Type: Directed			
Case studies and exercises	17	0.68	2, 15, 4, 1, 6, 9, 13, 10, 11, 12, 8, 14, 16, 22
Lectures	32.5	1.3	2, 15, 4, 5, 1, 9, 13, 10, 11, 12, 8, 3
Type: Supervised			
Essay on current economic events	10.5	0.42	2, 15, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 13, 10, 11, 12, 8, 14, 16, 22, 3
Office hours	2	0.08	2, 15, 4, 9, 13, 10, 11, 12, 8, 3
Type: Autonomous			
Study and recommended activities	83.5	3.34	2, 15, 4, 1, 6, 9, 13, 10, 11, 12, 8, 14, 3

The teaching methodology consists on:

Lectures. Standard lectures in class. Class attendance is essential, but needs to be complemented with personal work at home.

Essays on current events and case studies. Students may be asked to work in small groups for some of these, which may include discussions, presentations and specific analyses on key issues, as well as the treatment of statistical information sources. Some tutorials may take place at the computer room.

Self-learning activities. Complementary to the course. The student is supposed to dedicate enough time and effort to understand and assimilate the contents of the course through reading and studying the notes, texts and other materials suggested by the lecturer, and through the completion of the exercises or essays indicated during the course.

The proposed teaching methodology may undergo some modifications according to the restrictions imposed by the health authorities on on-campus courses.

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.

Assessment

Continous Assessment Activities

Title	Weighting	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
1. Mid-term exam	40%	1.5	0.06	2, 15, 4, 5, 1, 6, 9, 10, 12, 8, 21, 20, 19, 3
2. Final exam	40%	2	0.08	2, 15, 4, 5, 1, 6, 9, 13, 10, 11, 12, 8, 14, 21, 20, 19, 16, 3
3. Essays/assignments on current economic issues, class attendance and participation	20%	1	0.04	2, 15, 4, 1, 6, 7, 9, 13, 10, 11, 12, 8, 14, 19, 17, 18, 16, 22, 3

Assessment will be carried out continuously throughout the course, in accordance with the following criteria:

1. Mid-term exam: 40%
2. Final exam (second part): 40%
3. Essays/assignments on current economic issues, class attendance and participation: 20%.

The evaluation of the theoretical content of the subject will be carried out through two written tests. The first one will take place in the middle of the term and the second in the date set by the Faculty for the final exam. Each of the tests has the same weight in the final assessment (40%).

Therefore, the average grade of the subject is obtained as: 40% (grade of the first test) + 40% (grade of the second test) + 20% (grade of essays/assignments on current economic issues, class attendance and participation)

In order to pass the subject, any student should meet the following two:

1. the average grade of the subject is equal to or greater than 5 and,
2. The average grade obtained at the two partial exams is equal to or greater than 4.

Therefore:

- If a student meets the first requirement but not the second, he/she will have an average grade of the subject of 4.5 and will be attend the retake test, as explained below in the section "Retake process".
- If a student meets the second requirement but not the first, or doesn't meet any of them, he/she will obtain an average grade of the subject that arises from the direct application of the previous weightings, and will be able to attend the retake test (see "Retake process" below).

Any student who has not attended any of the two written tests will be considered as 'non-assessable'

Comprehensive evaluation

Students are entitled to request a comprehensive evaluation. The comprehensive evaluation consists of an exam on the content of the entire course which will account for 100% of the final grade. The exam has a duration of three hours.

By requesting the comprehensive evaluation the student waives the option of continuous evaluation.

The comprehensive evaluation must be requested at the Academic Management (Gestió acadèmica) of the Faculty of Economics and Business. The request must be filed according to the procedure and the deadline established by the administrative calendar of the Faculty.

Student attendance is mandatory on the day of the comprehensive assessment. The date will be the same as that of the final exam of the semester as per the evaluation calendar published by the Faculty of Economics and Business and approved by the Faculty's Teaching and Academic Affairs Committee.

For the retake procedure, no distinction is made between students who have followed the continuous evaluation and those who have opted for the comprehensive evaluation. All will be re-assessed using the same test or evaluation evidence.

The review of the final qualification will follow the same procedure as for the continuous evaluation.

Calendar of evaluation activities

The dates of the evaluation activities (midterm exams, exercises in the classroom, assignments, ...) will be announced well in advance during the semester.

The date of the final exam is scheduled in the assessment calendar of the Faculty.

"The dates of evaluation activities cannot be modified, unless there is an exceptional and duly justified reason why an evaluation activity cannot be carried out. In this case, the degree coordinator will contact both the teaching staff and the affected student, and a new date will be scheduled within the same academic period to make up for the missed evaluation activity." Section 1 of Article 264. Calendar of evaluation activities (Academic Regulations UAB).

Students of the Faculty of Economics and Business, who in accordance with the previous paragraph need to change an evaluation activity date must process the request by filling out an Application for exams' reschedule: [e-Formulari per a la reprogramació de proves](#).

Grade revision process

After all grading activities have ended, students will be informed of the date and way in which the course grades will be published. Students will be also be informed of the procedure, place, date and time of grade revision following University regulations.

Retake Process

"To be eligible to participate in the retake process, it is required for students to have been previously been evaluated for at least two thirds of the total evaluation activities of the subject." Section 2 of Article 261. The recovery (UAB Academic Regulations). Additionally, it is required that the student to have achieved an average grade of the subject greater than or equal to 3.5 and less than 5.

The date of the retake exam will be posted in the calendar of evaluation activities of the Faculty. Students who take this exam and pass, will get a grade of 5 for the subject. If the student does not pass the retake, the grade will remain unchanged, and hence, student will fail the course.

Irregularities in evaluation activities

In spite of other disciplinary measures deemed appropriate, and in accordance with current academic regulations, "in the case that the student makes any irregularity that could lead to a significant variation in the grade of an evaluation activity, it will be graded with a 0, regardless of the disciplinary process that can be instructed. In case of various irregularities occur in the evaluation of the same subject, the final grade of this subject will be 0". Section 11 of Article 266. Results of the evaluation. (UAB Academic Regulations).

Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI)

In this course, the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) technologies is permitted for assessed activities carried out outside the classroom, but exclusively for support tasks such as bibliographic or information searches, text correction, or translations. The use of AI for data collection, processing, or analysis is explicitly prohibited.

When instructors design activities that involve the use of AI, specific instructions will be provided on how it should be used in each case.

Bibliography

There is no single textbook covering the whole course. Articles, reports and book chapters will be occasionally supplied either as a compulsory reading or as complementary material of the course. Among them, frequent use will be made of the following sources:

Bank of Spain, Report on the financial and banking crisis in Spain, 2008-2014. Available at:
https://www.bde.es/bde/en/secciones/informes/Otras_publicacio/informe-sobre-la/

Bank of Spain, Annual Report, available at:
<https://www.bde.es/bde/en/secciones/informes/informes-y-memorias-anauales/informe-anual/>

Software

Spreadsheet and software to save files as a PDF

Groups and Languages

Please note that this information is provisional until 30 November 2025. You can check it through this [link](#). To consult the language you will need to enter the CODE of the subject.

Name	Group	Language	Semester	Turn
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(PAUL) Classroom practices	1	Catalan	first semester	morning-mixed
(PAUL) Classroom practices	2	Spanish	first semester	morning-mixed
(PAUL) Classroom practices	4	English	first semester	morning-mixed
(PAUL) Classroom practices	8	English	first semester	morning-mixed
(PAUL) Classroom practices	51	Catalan	first semester	afternoon
(PAUL) Classroom practices	52	Catalan	first semester	afternoon
(PAUL) Classroom practices	60	Catalan	first semester	morning-mixed
(PLAB) Practical laboratories	4	English	first semester	morning-mixed
(PLAB) Practical laboratories	8	English	first semester	morning-mixed
(PLAB) Practical laboratories	11	Catalan	first semester	morning-mixed
(PLAB) Practical laboratories	12	Catalan	first semester	morning-mixed
(PLAB) Practical laboratories	21	Spanish	first semester	morning-mixed
(PLAB) Practical laboratories	22	Spanish	first semester	morning-mixed
(PLAB) Practical laboratories	51	Catalan	first semester	afternoon
(PLAB) Practical laboratories	52	Catalan	first semester	afternoon
(PLAB) Practical laboratories	60	Catalan	first semester	morning-mixed
(TE) Theory	1	Catalan	first semester	morning-mixed
(TE) Theory	2	Spanish	first semester	morning-mixed
(TE) Theory	4	English	first semester	morning-mixed
(TE) Theory	8	English	first semester	morning-mixed
(TE) Theory	51	Catalan	first semester	afternoon
(TE) Theory	52	Catalan	first semester	afternoon
(TE) Theory	60	Catalan	first semester	morning-mixed