



Syllabus
Comparative Business History
6 CFU
Prof. Daniela Felisini

Course Description

The course deals with world economic and business history since the 19th century to the beginning of the 21st century.

Based on an institutional approach, it will compare the varieties of capitalism of the different regions, considering State and firm as main actors of the analysed processes.

The years 1945-2000 will be analysed in the context of the European integration process and of globalization.

Specific case-studies will be the object of in-depth focuses, brought into with the active participation of the students.

At the end of the course students will have acquired knowledge and critical understanding of the main issues of contemporary economic history.

Teaching Method

The course combines various teaching methodologies: lectures; discussions of the assigned readings, which will analyze a series of questions about the topics covered in the lectures; written essays.

Schedule of Topics

Topic 1	Industrial revolutions in global perspective
Topic 2	Discovering the varieties of capitalism
Topic 3	The 20 th century's dominant nation: USA
Topic 4	Does it exist a European model ? Lessons from history.
Topic 5	Japan, the challenger
Topic 5	After Saigon's fall: capitalism triumphs in Asia (the Tigers and their example)
Topic 6	The giant's reawakening: China
Topic 7	India in the long run
Topic 8	From Russia to, going through USSR: from soviet economy to the deregulated market
Topic 9	Brasil: a South American giant
Topic 10	Old but new protagonists: the State
Topic 11	Old but new protagonists: Banks and financial markets
Topic 12	Few words about Italy: Industrial districts and globalization
Topic 13	Risks and opportunities of globalization.

Textbook and Materials

1. F. Amatori, A. Colli, *Business history: complexities and comparisons*, London and New York, Routledge, 2011, selected chapters
2. W.J. Baumol, R.E. Litan, C.J. Schramm *Good Capitalism, Bad Capitalism, and the economics of growth and prosperity*, Yale University Press, New Haven and London, 2007, chapters 1-4, free download <http://escholarship.org/uc/item/3zt2b504>
3. Slides of the course.
4. Further readings: J. E. Stiglitz articles will be suggested during lessons, available on the web

Assessment

Method of assessment: 25% attendance and active participation; 35 % mid-term essay on a specific case-study; 40% final oral exam.

Office hours

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First Term office hour for students: Tuesday 9.30-11.00