



Syllabus 2021-2022  
Comparative Business History  
6 CFU  
Prof. Daniela Felisini

### Course Description

The course deals with world economic and business history of the 20th century up to the beginning of the 21st century. It is organized as a sort of journey around the world, surfing across the two main historical dimensions of time and space.

Based on a neo-institutional approach, it will compare the varieties of capitalism of the different regions, considering the enterprise and the State as major actors.

Main processes will be analysed in global perspective (industrial revolutions, economic and financial crisis, regional integration, et al.).

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

### Teaching Method

The course combines various teaching methodologies: lessons; seminars; discussions of the assigned readings. Lectures will provide the students with the necessary information and reading guidelines of the phenomena under scrutiny, while seminars will see students critically engaging with this knowledge and promoting/participating in class debates. Students are expected and required to attend every class, come prepared to classes, and participate in discussions.

Seminars include in-class assessed presentations and discussion of assigned readings, assessed group works based on multimedia materials, and a final debate. Students will give assessed presentations in which they shall critically assess the content and argument of a chosen topic and introduce related questions for the class discussion.

Details on the assessed activities will be given in class.

### Schedule of Topics

Topic 1	Discovering the varieties of capitalism.
Topic 2	Industrial revolutions in global perspective
Topic 3	The 20 <sup>th</sup> century's dominant nation: USA
Topic 4	Japan, the challenger
Topic 5	1979- 1989: a new global context for business?
Topic 6	The giant's reawakening: China
Topic 7	From Russia to Russia, going through USSR
Topic 8	India in the long run
Topic 9	Brasil: the contradictions of success
Topic 10	Timeline of the global economy

## **Textbook and Materials**

### Attending students:

1. Slides of the course.
2. Specific readings will be made available during the course.

### Non attending students:

Non-attending students will study ONE of the following textbooks:

F. Amatori, A. Colli, *Business history: complexities and comparisons*, London and New York, Routledge, 2011, all the chapters contained in the Parts IV, V and VI.

OR

F. Amatori, A. Colli (eds.), *The Global Economy. A concise history*, Routledge-Giappichelli Studies in Business and Management, 2019, chapters: 5,6,7,8,9,15,16,18,19,20,22.

## **Assessment**

### Attending students:

- In-class presentations (70 %)
- Participation in in-class discussions (30%)

There is no final exam.

### Non-attending students:

- Final oral exam (100%).

Non-attending students could contact Professor Felisini in due time ahead of the exam in order to receive instructions for preparing the oral exam.

## **Office hours**

On appointment. To book an appointment or ask specific questions about any aspects of the course, please contact:

Prof. Daniela Felisini: [felisini@uniroma2.it](mailto:felisini@uniroma2.it)