



Syllabus 2023-2024  
Comparative Business History  
6 CFU  
Prof. Paolo Paesani

### Course Description

The course covers world economic and business history from the commercial revolution of the 17th century to the beginning of the 21st century, surfing across the two main historical dimensions of time and space.

From the perspective of the history of economic thought, the course discusses changing views of markets, firms, the economic role of the state and capitalism, and compares the varieties of capitalism. Specific case studies will be the subject of in-depth study with active student participation.

### Teaching Method

The course combines different teaching methods: lectures; seminars; discussions on the assigned readings. Lectures will provide the students with the necessary information and reading guidelines on the phenomena under study, while seminars will see students critically engage with this knowledge and encourage/participate in class debates. Students are expected and required to attend each class, to come to class prepared and to participate in discussions.

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

Details of the assessed activities will be given in class.

### Schedule of Topics

Topic 1	Mercantilism
Topic 2	Physiocracy
Topic 3	Adam Smith
Topic 4	Classical political economy
Topic 5	Marx
Topic 6	French marginalism
Topic 7	Marshall and the Marshallians
Topic 8	Keynes
Topic 9	Schumpeter
Topic 10	The age of fragmentation
Topic 11	Modern capitalism and its varieties
Topic 12	Perspectives on the future of capitalism

### Textbook and Materials

#### Attending students:

1. Slides of the course.
2. Reading material distributed by the teacher

#### Non attending students (below 80% attendance):

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

1. Roncaglia, A. (2017) *A Brief History of Economic Thought*, Cambridge University Press
2. Milanovic, B. (2019) *Capitalism, Alone: The Future of the System That Rules the World*, Belknap Press

### **Additional optional readings**

F. Amatori, A. Colli (eds.), (2019) *The Global Economy. A concise history*, Routledge

F. Amatori, A. Colli, (2011) *Business history: complexities and comparisons*, Routledge

### **Assessment**

#### Attending students:

- In-class presentations (50 %)
- Final exam (50%). For attending students, the final exam consists of a 45-minute written test. The test consists of three open questions.

#### Non-attending students:

- Final written exam (100%). For attending students, the final exam consists of a 90-minute written test. The test consists of four open questions on one of the following two texts

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.

B. Milanovic, *Capitalism, Alone: The Future of the System That Rules the World* London and New York, Belknap Press, 2019, all the chapters

### **Office hours**

On appointment: please contact Prof. Paolo Paesani: [paolo.paesani@uniroma2.it](mailto:paolo.paesani@uniroma2.it)

**NOTE:** If you are an Erasmus student or a non-Global Governance student and you would like to participate in one or more courses of the Global Governance program, please note that you should have read the Code of Conduct and the Rules of Procedure that characterize our program before registering for the course. By registering for a course, you are deemed to have read and accepted all Global Governance values and rules. Please note that attendance is required from the first lesson and that you must attend at least 80% of the course to be considered a participating student.

### **Description of the methods and criteria for testing learning**

The examination assesses the student's overall preparation, ability to integrate the knowledge of the different parts of the programme, consequentiality of reasoning, analytical ability and autonomy of judgement. In addition, language property and clarity of presentation are assessed, in accordance with the Dublin descriptors (1. knowledge and understanding; 2. applying knowledge and understanding; 3. making judgements; 4. learning skills; 5. communication skills).

The final grade will be related 70% to the degree of knowledge and 30% to the expressive capacity (written and oral) and autonomous critical judgement demonstrated by the student.

The examination will be graded according to the following criteria:

Unsuitable: important deficiencies and/or inaccuracies in the knowledge and understanding of the topics; limited capacity for analysis and synthesis, frequent generalisations and limited critical and judgement skills; the topics are exposed in an incoherent manner and with inappropriate language.

18-20: barely sufficient knowledge and understanding of the topics, with possible generalisations and imperfections; sufficient capacity for analysis, synthesis and autonomy of judgement; the topics are frequently exposed in an inconsistent manner and with inappropriate/technical language;

21-23: surface knowledge and understanding of the topics; ability to analyse and synthesise correctly with sufficiently coherent logical argumentation and appropriate/technical language.

24-26: fair knowledge and understanding of the topics; good analytical and synthetic skills with rigorously expressed arguments but not always appropriate/technical language.

27-29: complete knowledge and understanding of the topics; considerable capacity for analysis and synthesis. Good autonomy of judgement. Arguments presented in a rigorous manner and with appropriate/technical language.

30-30L: very good level of knowledge and thorough understanding of topics. Excellent analytical and synthetic skills and independent judgement. Arguments expressed in an original manner and in appropriate technical language.

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