

Academic Year: (2024 / 2025)

Review date: 16-04-2024

Department assigned to the subject: Social Sciences Department

Coordinating teacher: NICOLINI ALESSI, ESTEBAN ALBERTO

Type: Compulsory ECTS Credits : 6.0

Year : 4 Semester : 2

OBJECTIVES

Knowledge:

- Introduction to concepts, models and theories which measure and explain the dynamic forces of economic growth.
- Have proficiency in the most relevant works and know the circles in which these topics are discussed.
- Understand the dynamics of business growth and its relationship with changes in markets, resources, technology and the institutional framework.
- Apply comparative analysis which allows a better understanding of business today and being able to identifying similarities and differences in time and space

Skills:

- Develop capacities to look for, process, evaluate and transmit information in a clear form, both written and oral.
- Elaborate a research project in an essay/report format
- Acquire ability to raise questions related to firms and resolve them with economic theory and quantitative methods.

Attitudes:

- An open attitude to different approaches and dimensions of growth and their theoretical foundations.
- A flexible attitude to constructive criticism with academic basis and the ability to accept criticism.
- An open attitude to finding answers to today's business problems.
- Promote curiosity and ability to tackle complex questions.

DESCRIPTION OF CONTENTS: PROGRAMME

1. Formal contrasts of the endogenous growth theory
2. Education, social capital and economic growth
3. Technology, trade and economic growth
4. Growth and efficient institutional framework
5. Growth, distribution and democracy

LEARNING ACTIVITIES AND METHODOLOGY

This course is designed as an introduction to academic research.

The skills and attitudes will be acquired by the students in

- lectures
- weekly essays using the recommended references related to the corresponding topic of the syllabus
- group presentations made in class on specific topics of the syllabus
- participation in class debates organized in class seminars.

The skills will be further developed individually between teaching staff and students in interviews to determine the topic of the final essay, supervision of the essay-report and a formal oral defense of the essay with the professor.

The course has established the following schedule: Students will receive a reading list with basic and complementary readings for each topic. Students are required to hand in weekly essays to evaluate their reading progress, the comprehension of the lectures attended, and how well they have understood the presentations and debates in class. The essays are to be handed in according to the time schedule established and handed out the first day of class.

The six ECTS credits are broken down into two credits for the classes which are to be assisted, one credit for written essays handed in, two credits for the preparation and the oral defense of the final essay-report and one credit for the debates and group presentations made in class.

The aim of the lecture given by the professor is to provide an introduction to each topic, which will summarize the most important concepts and ideas, and present the most important theories and models which are applied to the topic being treated. The theoretical problems presented by the professor, together with the obligatory readings and the individual work by each student using complementary material recommended and acquired in addition to this will be the basis for the debates to be held in class.

The presentations given in class are designed to develop the abilities of synthesis and public speech, helping students to express themselves in a concise and clear manner. They are also conceived to promote their capacities to answer questions raised about the topic they have prepared. The in-depth comprehension of theory is reinforced by the readings, group work, class debates and their application in the final essays.

The weekly essays will not be exhaustive summaries, more so outlines limited to two pages. They are focused on the main question under debate, and aimed at summarizing the main points and conclusions contained in the obligatory readings.

The final essay should contribute information and new evidence to the debate and should not be limited to summarizing the existing literature. Essay which compare events of the past with the present will be encouraged. Examples: A fundamented criticism of an existing study, a contrast of an existing theory of model with new data, the analysis of an experiment.

ASSESSMENT SYSTEM

% end-of-term-examination:	0
% of continuous assessment (assignments, laboratory, practicals...):	100

The student qualification will be performed throughout the semester, taking into account the design and goals of the course. Twenty-five per cent of the final grade will be determined by the weekly essays and participation in class. Fifty per cent of the grade corresponds to qualification of the final essay and the corresponding presentation(s) and the remaining twenty-five percent to a final exam which covers the whole of the subject matter seen in the course. If the average grade before taking the final exam is higher than 6 over 10, the student will not be required to take the final exam. In this case the proportions of the weekly essays and participation, and the final exam will be 33 % and 66 % respectively.

Both the final exam of the ordinary call and the evaluation of the extraordinary call will consist of asking the student to answer (A) a set of questions expecting short answers to confirm the incorporation of the most basic concepts developed during the course and (B) a set of questions oriented to the creative elaboration of the theories and the empirical evidence analyzed during the course.

BASIC BIBLIOGRAPHY

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- Aghion, Philippe and Stephen Durlauf (eds.) Handbook of Economic Growth, North Holland, 2005
- Banerjee, A., R. Benabou, and D. Mookherjee (eds.). Understanding Poverty, Oxford University Press, 2006

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- Koyama, M. and Rubin, J. How the world became rich, Polity Books, 2022
- Perkins, Dwight H., Steven Radelet and David L. Lindauer Economics of Development, Norton, 2006
- Rodrik, Dani In Search of Prosperity: Analytical Narratives on Economic Growth, Princeton University, 2003
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ADDITIONAL BIBLIOGRAPHY

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- Basu, Kaushik Globalization, poverty, and inequality: What is the relationship? What can be done?, World Development 34 (8), 1361-1373, 2006
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- Persson, Torsten and Guido Tabellini Is Inequality Harmful for Growth?, American Economic Review 84 (3), 600-621, 1994

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