



# COMILLAS

UNIVERSIDAD PONTIFICIA

ICAI

ICADE

CIHS

Course Syllabus  
Year 2022-23

## SUBJECT'S FACT SHEET

| General information |  |
|---------------------|--|
| Name                | Economic Approaches to International Relations   |
| Code                | 0000007160   |
| Degree              | Dual Degree in International Relations and International Communication/Bachelor in Global Communication  |
| ECTS credits        | 6  |
| Character           | Obligatory   |
| Department          | Economics  |
| Teaching language   | Spanish and English  |
| Description         | The economics models. Supply and demand. Government interventions in the market. Elasticity. Production. Perfect competition and the supply curve. Factor markets and the income distribution. Imperfect competition. International trade. Macroeconomics. National Accounting. Aggregate supply and demand. Fiscal policy. The money market, Central Banks and monetary policy. Macroeconomics of the open economy. |

| Teaching staff          |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| Coordinator             |  |
| Name                    | Mónica Goded Salto   |
| Department              | Economics  |
| Office and headquarters | Lecturers' room (Alberto Aguilera)                           |
| e-mail                  | <a href="mailto:mgoded@comillas.edu">mgoded@comillas.edu</a> |
| Tutorship timetable     | Appointments via email                                       |

## SPECIFIC DATA ON THE SUBJECT

|   |
|---|
| <b>Contextualization</b>  |
| <b>Contribution to the students' professional profile</b>   |
| <p>The study of International Relations, due to its multifaceted nature, obliges us to adopt a multidisciplinary perspective. In particular, economic analysis is a fundamental and essential approach to understanding international events. This course, therefore, offers the foundations of economic analysis that allow us to understand the current global environment. Thus, the course is designed to provide students with the basic concepts and methods of analysis of economic science that will ultimately be applied to international issues and problems.</p> <p>The aim is to equip the student with the analytical tools that will lay the foundations for successfully following the other subjects in the international economics area of the degree in higher courses.</p> <p>Furthermore, the understanding of the most relevant economic concepts and theories will be facilitated through graphic representations and simple mathematical expressions.</p> |
| <b>Pre-requirements</b>   |
| No formal requirements.   |

## THEMATIC BLOCKS AND CONTENTS

|   |
|---|
| <b>Contents</b>   |
| <b>Block 1: Microeconomic Principles</b>  |
| <b>Part One: What is Economics?</b>   |
| <p><b>Topic 1. Definition and basic principles</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>1.1 Definition of the economy</li><li>1.2 The Economic Science</li><li>1.3 Difference between Positive Economics and Normative Economics</li><li>1.4 Difference between different levels of analysis: individual (micro) and aggregate (macro)</li><li>1.5 The economic models</li></ul> |

## Part Two: Supply and Demand

### Topic 2. Supply and demand

- 2.1 The competitive market
- 2.2 The demand curve
- 2.3 The supply curve
- 2.4 Supply, demand and equilibrium
- 2.5 Changes in supply and demand

### Topic 3. Elasticity

- 3.1 Price elasticity of demand
- 3.2 Other demand elasticities: cross-price elasticity of demand, income elasticity of demand
- 3.3 Price elasticity of supply

### Topic 4. Consumer and producer surplus

- 4.1 Consumer surplus and the demand curve
- 4.2 Producer surplus and the supply curve
- 4.3 Application of the concept

## Part Three: The Producer

### Topic 5. Production

- 5.1 The production function
- 5.2 Marginal and average cost
- 5.3 Short-term and long-term costs
- 5.4 Economies and diseconomies of scale

## Part Four: Markets

### Topic 6. Perfect competition and supply curve

6.1 Perfect Competition

6.2 Production and profits

6.3 The industry supply curve

### Topic 7. Imperfect competition: monopoly, oligopoly and monopolistic competition

7.1 Monopoly

7.2 Oligopoly

7.3 Monopolistic competition

## Block 2: Macroeconomic Principles

## Part Five: Introduction to Macroeconomics

### Topic 8. Introduction to Macroeconomics

8.1 Macroeconomic aggregates

8.2 The business cycle

8.3 Inflation and deflation

8.4 International imbalances

### Topic 9. National accounting

9.1 Real GDP and aggregate output

9.2 The unemployment rate

9.3 Price indices and the aggregate price level

## **Part Six: Short-term economic fluctuations**

### **Topic 10. Aggregate supply and demand**

- 10.1 Aggregate demand
- 10.2 Aggregate supply
- 10.3 The aggregate supply-demand model
- 10.4 Macroeconomic policies

### **Topic 11. Fiscal policy**

- 11.1 Fiscal policy and the multiplier
- 11.2 The budget balance
- 11.3 The long-term consequences of fiscal policy

### **Topic 12. Money, Central Banks and Monetary Policy**

- 12.1 The meaning of money
- 12.2 The monetary function of banks
- 12.3 The European Central Bank
- 12.4 Monetary policy

### **Topic 13. The Macroeconomics of the Open Economy**

- 13.1 The balance of payments
- 13.2 Capital flows
- 13.3 Exchange rates and macroeconomic policies

## TEACHING METHODOLOGY

| General methodological aspects of the course   |   |
|--|---|
| Face-to-Face Methodology: Activities   |   |
| <p>Lessons of an expository nature. Programmed presentation of the thematic content of the subject in a clear, structured and motivating way by the teacher with the support of audiovisual media, which may include presentations, videos, graphic maps, recordings, etc. and the promotion of subsequent debates on the questions and doubts that arise.</p> | <p>CGI03, CE08</p>                                    |
| <p>Individual/group works. Reading articles and writing a personal and critical reflection of reduced length.</p>  | <p>CGP12, CGS18, CGS24, CGI01, CGI02, CGI03, EC08</p> |
| <p>Group presentations. The student must present the main conclusions of a study that he or she will undertake as a team, on a particular economy. This activity will allow him/her to apply the knowledge acquired in the field to a real and current case.</p>   | <p>CGS18, CGS24, CGI01, CGI02, CGI03, CE08</p>        |
| Non-attendance methodology: Activities   |   |
| <p>Personal study and documentation. It will be the student's responsibility to study and interrelate the content of the classes as well as the complementary bibliography, through which the student will develop his/her capacity for analysis and synthesis.</p>  | <p>CGS18, CGS24, CGI01, CGI02, CGI03, CE08</p>        |

## EVALUATION CRITERIA

| Graded activity  | Criteria   | Weight |
|--|--|--------|
| <b>Practical exercises and problems</b>                                    | Preparatory exercises for the final exam in which a correct (thorough and rigorous) explanation of the answer is given.  | 20%    |
| <b>Final exam</b>  | Every question is attempted on the test with a detailed explanation.<br><br>A minimum grade of 5 must be obtained in order to pass the subject.  | 50%    |
| <b>Group work to be presented with audio-visuals and delivery of a PPT</b> | Structure and rigor of the analysis carried out.<br><br>Relevance of the contents taken from the selected documentation.<br><br>Rigor in relation to aspects of formal presentations.<br><br>Clarity of oral presentation.<br><br>Proper conduct of the discussion in the classroom and correct responses to the questions formulated by colleagues and professors.<br><br>Good time management. | 20%    |
| <b>Class participation and attendance</b>                                  | Good attendance in class combined with regular participation in-class activities.  | 10%    |

### Qualifications

In the extraordinary call, the exam will be 100% of the final grade.

A minimum of 5 must be obtained in the exam in order to pass the course.

## SUMMARY OF STUDENT WORK HOURS

| Attendance hours                |                                  |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Lessons of an expository nature | Individual/group work            |
| 40                              | 20                               |
| Non-attendance hours            |                                  |
| Individual/group work           | Personal study and documentation |
| 45                              | 45                               |
| Total ECTS: 6 (150 hours)       |                                  |

## BIBLIOGRAPHY AND RESOURCES

| Basic Bibliography  |
|---|
| <p><b>Textbooks</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Krugman, P. and Wells, R. (2022). <i>Fundamentals of Economics</i>. Barcelona: Editorial Reverté.</li></ul>   |
| Complementary Bibliography  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Access to the prestigious weekly <i>The Economist</i> is available through the University library (<a href="https://www.economist.com/">https://www.economist.com/</a>). The following tutorial explains in a very simple way the procedure to follow to access all its contents:<br/><a href="https://www.comillas.edu/images/Biblioteca/Tutoriales/Tutorial_Economist.pdf">https://www.comillas.edu/images/Biblioteca/Tutoriales/Tutorial_Economist.pdf</a></li><li>• <i>Core Econ</i>: An open-access platform for anyone who wants to understand the economics of innovation, inequality, environmental sustainability, and more. Perfect for complementing and understanding concepts explained in class.<br/><a href="https://www.core-econ.org/the-economy/book/text/0-3-contents.html">https://www.core-econ.org/the-economy/book/text/0-3-contents.html</a></li><li>• <i>Freakonomics</i>: It started as a book... and now is a podcast! A very interesting resource for learning how the day-to-day things are related to economics.<br/><a href="https://freakonomics.com/">https://freakonomics.com/</a></li><li>• <i>The Undercover Economist</i>: The book that every student attracted by the funny part of economics should read.<br/><a href="https://timharford.com/books/undercovereconomist/">https://timharford.com/books/undercovereconomist/</a></li></ul> |