



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	mgoded@comillas.edu
Tutorship timetable	Appointments via email

SPECIFIC DATA ON THE SUBJECT

Contextualization

Contribution to the students' professional profile

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.

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.

Furthermore, the understanding of the most relevant economic concepts and theories will be facilitated through graphic representations and simple mathematical expressions.

Pre-requirements

No formal requirements.

THEMATIC BLOCKS AND CONTENTS

Contents

Block 1: Microeconomic Principles

Part One: What is Economics?

Topic 1. Definition and basic principles

- 1.1 Definition of the economy
- 1.2 The Economic Science
- 1.3 Difference between Positive Economics and Normative Economics
- 1.4 Difference between different levels of analysis: individual (micro) and aggregate (macro)
- 1.5 The economic models

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>	CGI03, CE08
<p>Individual/group works. Reading articles and writing a personal and critical reflection of reduced length.</p>	CGP12, CGS18, CGS24, CGI01, CGI02, CGI03, EC08
<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>	CGS18, CGS24, CGI01, CGI02, CGI03, CE08
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>	CGS18, CGS24, CGI01, CGI02, CGI03, CE08

EVALUATION CRITERIA

Graded activity	Criteria	Weight
Practical exercises and problems	Preparatory exercises for the final exam in which a correct (thorough and rigorous) explanation of the answer is given.	20%
Final exam	Every question is attempted on the test with a detailed explanation. A minimum grade of 5 must be obtained in order to pass the subject.	50%
Group work to be presented with audio-visuals and delivery of a PPT	Structure and rigor of the analysis carried out. Relevance of the contents taken from the selected documentation. Rigor in relation to aspects of formal presentations. Clarity of oral presentation. Proper conduct of the discussion in the classroom and correct responses to the questions formulated by colleagues and professors. Good time management.	20%
Class participation and attendance	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>Textbooks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Krugman, P. and Wells, R. (2022). <i>Fundamentals of Economics</i>. Barcelona: Editorial Reverté.
Complementary Bibliography
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Access to the prestigious weekly <i>The Economist</i> is available through the University library (https://www.economist.com/). The following tutorial explains in a very simple way the procedure to follow to access all its contents: https://www.comillas.edu/images/Biblioteca/Tutoriales/Tutorial_Economist.pdf• <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. https://www.core-econ.org/the-economy/book/text/0-3-contents.html• <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. https://freakonomics.com/• <i>The Undercover Economist</i>: The book that every student attracted by the funny part of economics should read. https://timharford.com/books/undercovereconomist/