

## Syllabus

### Course description

<b>Course title</b>	Economic Policy
<b>Course code</b>	27021
<b>Scientific sector</b>	SECS-P/02
<b>Degree</b>	Bachelor in Economics and Management
<b>Semester and academic year</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> semester 2016/2017
<b>Year</b>	3
<b>Credits</b>	6
<b>Modular</b>	No

<b>Total lecturing hours</b>	36
<b>Total lab hours</b>	-
<b>Total exercise hours</b>	-
<b>Attendance</b>	Suggested, but not required
<b>Prerequisites</b>	not foreseen but the frequency of the courses 27001-Economics 1, 27011-Economics 2, and 27022-Economia Industriale is suggested to properly follow the topics
<b>Course page</b>	<a href="http://www.unibz.it/en/economics/progs/bacs/economics/courses/default.html">http://www.unibz.it/en/economics/progs/bacs/economics/courses/default.html</a>

<b>Specific educational objectives</b>	<p>The course refers to the typical educational activities and belongs to the scientific area of Economics.</p> <p>This course analyses the main up-to-date topics on economic policy, including (but not limited to) antitrust, credit rationing, microcredit, and macroeconomic intervention.</p> <p>The objective of the course is to develop skills to understand the rationale for public intervention in the economy and analyze economic policies in specific contexts. To this end, the course gives a general overview of scientific and analytical tools necessary to interpret the functioning of firms and organizations.</p>
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<b>Lecturer</b>	<p>Alessandro Fedele          Ufficio SER E201  <a href="mailto:alessandro.fedele@unibz.it">alessandro.fedele@unibz.it</a>          Tel: 0471/13298  <a href="http://www.unibz.it/en/economics/people/StaffDetails.html?personid=32469&amp;hstf=32469">http://www.unibz.it/en/economics/people/StaffDetails.html?personid=32469&amp;hstf=32469</a></p>
<b>Scientific sector of the lecturer</b>	SECS-P/02
<b>Teaching language</b>	English
<b>Office hours</b>	please refer to the lecturer's web page
<b>Lecturing assistant</b>	not foreseen

<b>Teaching assistant</b>	not foreseen
<b>Office hours</b>	-
<b>List of topics covered</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The rationale for public (and private) intervention in the economy: the allocative efficiency criterion.</li> <li>2. Antitrust policy (antitrust law: a historical overview; imperfect competition: allocative, productive, and dynamic inefficiency; market power: theory and practice; collusion: theory and practice; mergers).</li> <li>3. Asymmetric information (principal-agent model; moral hazard and adverse selection; credit rationing, microcredit in rural and urban areas).</li> <li>4. Involuntary unemployment; positive and normative models of macroeconomic (monetary and fiscal) policies.</li> </ol>
<b>Teaching format</b>	The course consists of theoretical lectures, where models of economic theory are presented and solved, and applied lectures, based on exercises and on the analysis of current real-world cases.

<b>Learning outcomes</b>	<p><u>Knowledge and understanding:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• of the rationale for public intervention in the economy and the intuition behind the theorems of welfare economics;</li> <li>• of the role played by institutions in the context of Economic policy and by information in the context of daily economic transaction;</li> <li>• of the effect of the economic policy actions in specific contexts, such as antitrust and credit markets.</li> </ul> <p><u>Applying knowledge and understanding:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ability to perform an analysis of the economic behaviour of public and private agents by using game theory;</li> <li>• Ability to evaluate the role of government and the need for political and economic interventions in market economies;</li> <li>• Ability to formulate objectives of economic policy, evaluate their results, and use available information to evaluate the adequacy of monetary and fiscal policies adopted in specific cases.</li> </ul> <p><u>Making judgments:</u></p> <p>on the appropriate theoretical frameworks and tools to evaluate economic policy actions in specific contexts.</p> <p><u>Communication skills:</u></p> <p>to present in a consistent and clear way the rationale and the effects of public and private intervention in the economy.</p> <p><u>Learning skills:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ability to understand theoretical economics frameworks,</li> </ul>
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	<p>to assess the public (and private) intervention in the economy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ability to establish links among the different required readings in an autonomous and independent way</li> </ul>
<b>Assessment</b>	Final written exam 100%, based on review questions and exercises to test knowledge application skills
<b>Assessment language</b>	Italian
<b>Evaluation criteria and criteria for awarding marks</b>	<p>The main evaluation criteria are</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• relevant for review questions: clarity of answers, ability to summarize, evaluate, and establish relationships between topics;</li> <li>• relevant for exercises: formal and analytical accuracy of the solutions</li> </ul>
<b>Required readings</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Motta, Competition Policy: Theory and Practice. Cambridge University Press;</li> <li>2. Armendariz and Morduch, Economics of Microfinance, MIT Press</li> </ol>
<b>Supplementary readings</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Cabral, Introduction to Industrial Organization, MIT Press</li> <li>2. Gibbons, A primer in Game Theory, FT Prentice Hall</li> <li>3. <a href="#">Macho-Stadler</a> and <a href="#">Pérez-Castrillo</a>, An Introduction to the Economics of Information: Incentives and Contracts, Oxford University Press</li> <li>4. Marelli-Signorelli, Politica Economica, Giappichelli; Armendariz-Morduch.</li> </ol>