

Syllabus

Course description

Course title	History of Economic Thought
Course code	27038
Scientific sector	STEC-01/A (ex SECS-P/04)
Degree	Bachelor in Economics, Politics and Ethics
Semester and academic year	1st semester 2025-2026
Year	1
Credits	6
Modular	No

Total lecturing hours	36
Total lab hours	/
Total exercise hours	/
Attendance	suggested, but not required
Prerequisites	none
Course page	https://www.unibz.it/it/faculties/economics-management/bachelor-economics-politics-ethics

Specific educational objectives	Which concepts of the economy can be identified throughout the course of human history? How are the different concepts related to each other and what can we learn from them for our contemporary understanding of economics? The lecture provides an introduction to the history of economic thought and expands the scientific field to include philosophical, political, and historical perspectives.
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Lecturer	Sören Eberhard Schuster Office E 3.10 SoerenEberhard.Schuster@unibz.it https://www.unibz.it/it/faculties/economics-management/academic-staff/person/42439-soeren-eberhard-schuster
Scientific sector of the lecturer	STEC-01/A (ex SECS-P/04)
Teaching language	English
Office hours	18 hours Cockpit – students’ zone – individual timetable Webpage: https://www.unibz.it/en/timetable/?sourceId=unibz&department=26&degree=13182%2C13324
Lecturing assistant	/
Teaching assistant	/
Office hours	/
List of topics covered	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The History of Economic Thought: Introduction & Methodology 2. Roots of Economic Thought: Aristotle and Ancient

	<p>Greece</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Scholastic Economic Thought: Thomas Aquinas Beginning of Modern Economic Thought: Thomas Hobbes & John Locke Mercantilist Economics Adam Smith and the Wealth of Nations Classical Economics: David Ricardo Karl Marx and the Critique of Political Economy Jevons, Menger, Walras: Marginal Revolution and Methodenstreit Neoclassical Economics: Robbins & Marshall Foundations of Modern Macro-economics: Keynes & Friedman Tendencies in Modern Economic Thought
Teaching format	18 units with 2 hours of lecture and discussion (voluntary presentations).
Learning outcomes	<p><u>Knowledge and understanding</u> Ability to understand the key contributions to economic theory against the philosophical, economic, social and political background</p> <p><u>Applying knowledge and understanding</u> By the end of the course, students should be able to understand the major genealogical developments of economic thought and apply their knowledge to economic problems as well as contemporary economic theory.</p> <p><u>Communication skills</u> Ability to present in a consistent and convincing way the different economic theories in their dependencies.</p> <p><u>Critical Thinking</u> Ability to establish links among the different theories and theoretical concepts in an autonomous and independent way. Ability to contextualise challenges of current economic theory building through historical approaches and develop innovative ideas.</p>
Assessment	Written exam with review questions and to test knowledge application skills
Assessment language	English
Evaluation criteria and criteria for awarding marks	Relevant for assessment: clarity of answers, ability to summarize in own words, evaluate, and establish relationships between topics; skills in critical thinking.
Required readings	<p>(1) Lapidus, A. (2019). Bringing them alive. <i>The European Journal of the History of Economic Thought</i>, 26(6), 1084-1106. DOI: 10.1080/09672567.2019.1682022</p> <p>(2) Pribram, K. (1983). <i>A history of economic reasoning</i>. The Johns Hopkins University Press. (Selected chapters)</p> <p>(3) Vaggi, G. & Groenewegen, P. (2003). <i>A Concise History of Economic Thought: From Mercantilism to</i></p>

	<i>Monetarism</i> . Palgrave. (Selected chapters) (4) Selected passages from original texts by the discussed authors, which will be made available during the course.
Supplementary readings	Supplementary readings will be discussed during the course.