

Economics/Political Science. European Union

Manuel García-Goñi
Departamento de Economía Aplicada II
Universidad Complutense de Madrid

Syllabus:

This course is thought as an introduction to economics and political economy under the perspective of the European Union. It is divided into three different sections of 15 hours each with an independent examination.

The first section, Introduction to economics and political economy, is designed as an introduction to the field of economics. Given the significant differences in the economics background of students, this first section reviews the tools used in economics and the analysis of supply and demand, consumer theory, production theory, the different structures of markets, and introduces the asymmetries of information from the point of view of microeconomics.

The second section, Economic Growth and Evolution of the Economic Structure, provides to the student a macroeconomic perspective of production and the theory of growth. It introduces the principles and determinants of economic growth, besides the structural changes and an explanation of business cycles. This section of the course is organized in such a way that students will learn the evolution of the Spanish and European economies compared to the US economy.

The third section, Spain and the European Union, introduces the student the history and origin of the European Union, and its main institutions and functioning. As the perspective of the course is mainly on economic issues, the last section shows the common policies driven by the European Union for all its members, with special focus on the Common Agricultural Policy, and Monetary Policy.

The fourth section, is devoted to Public Economics and Policies and focused on International Health Systems that we observe in different countries. This section offers a revision of the main characteristics of the private health system, national health system, and social health insurance system in terms of health expenditures, coverage and quality of the health provision.

I. Introduction to economics

1. Scarcity and the Production Possibilities Frontier
2. Practice with supply and demand
3. Functions and curves
4. Consumer theory: Ideas behind the demand curve
5. Individual and market demands
6. Introduction to elasticity
7. The production function
8. Cost minimization and efficiency
9. Marginal and Average Cost curves
10. Market structures: Perfect Competition
11. Market structures: Monopoly and welfare loss.
12. Market structures: Monopolistic competition

II. Economic Growth and Evolution of the Economic Structure

1. Introduction
2. Main characteristics of the economic growth
3. Determinants of economic growth in the long run
 - 3.1. Productivity in labor force
 - 3.2. Productivity, capital, and technical progress
4. Structural changes
5. Business Cycles and macroeconomics
 - 5.1. Main business cycles and causes
 - 5.2. Expansion cycles
 - 5.3. Recession cycles

III. Spain and the European Union

1. Introduction
2. Origin of the European Union
3. Main Institutions in the European Union
4. Common Policies in the EU

IV. Public Economics and Policies. International Health Systems

1. Introduction
2. The weight of the Health Sector
3. Health Expenditures and determinants
4. The efficient production of Health