

Syllabus “Spanish Economy”**2013/2014**

Code: 102320

ECTS: 6

Degree	Year	Semester
2501572 Graduat en Admn. i Direcció d'Empreses	2	1
947 Economics (EHEA Degree)		

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Language

English

Prerequisites

Although not formally required as a prerequisite, basic notions of National Accounts and Macroeconomics are useful to follow this course.

Objectives

This is a compulsory course, taught during the first semester of year two.

The main goal of the course is to gain knowledge on the Spanish economy mainly from a macroeconomic point of view. The recent evolution and the current situation of the Spanish economy is explained in an international economic context. Attention is devoted to the trajectories of key macroeconomic variables and the accompanying economic policy measures. Students are introduced to the main economic features of the Spanish economy and the interpretation of its developments through the lens of basic theoretical concepts and analytical tools.

The objectives of the course are the following:

1. Increase the students' interest for the study of the economy.
2. Increase the students' knowledge of the general functioning of the economy, its different markets, and its economic institutions.
3. Application of economic analysis to specific realities.
4. Achievement of a better empirical comprehension of economic dilemmas.
5. Uncover the social dimension of the economy and its relationship with welfare.

Stimulate students express their progress in written work, oral communication, and the identification and processing of the relevant information related to the course.

Competence

- Capacity gains to adjust to changing situations.
- Capacity gains in oral and written communication.
- Capacity gains in self-learning capabilities.
- Leadership and improvement in autonomous work capabilities.
- Show that the institutional structure and its likely future evolution is known; capacity to participate in debates related to the role played by the Spanish economy institutional setting.
- Knowledge on the analytical framework and the empirical evidence related to the Spanish economy in the global world.

- Knowledge on the main economic agents, how they are interrelated, and on how they are expected to behave under changing economic circumstances.
- Enhance the sensitivity for good work, quality performance, and its consequences on the environment and the society.
- Capacity gains in task organization and time management.
- Information selection and generation of required information according to the problem being examined.
- Building team work capacity, and skills to participate in debates on economic issues and arguments.
- Valuation of ethical commitment in professional activity.

Learning outcome

1. Examination of the role of international institutions in the economy.
2. Application of economic analysis to integration processes, in general, and to the European integration process in particular.
3. Evaluation of the economic functioning of the Spanish economy: conjunctural analysis.
4. Capacity gains to adjust to changing situations.
5. Capacity gains in oral and written communication.
6. Capacity gains in self-learning capabilities.
7. Leadership and improvement in autonomous work capabilities.
8. Description of the main economic agents of the Spanish and Catalan economy.
9. Knowledge on the main features of the Spanish labour market.
10. Evaluation of the role played by the Spanish public institutions in the economy and their influence.
11. Identification of the role played by the public sector in the Spanish economy.
12. Initiative and capacity to work independently when the situation requires so.
13. Interpretation of the economic globalization process and its consequences for the Spanish economy.
14. Enhance the sensitivity for good work, quality performance, and its consequences on the environment and the society.
15. Capacity gains in task organization and time management.
16. Information selection and generation of required information according to the problem being examined.
17. Building team work capacity, and skills to participate in debates on economic issues and arguments.
18. Valuation of ethical commitment in professional activity.

Contents

TOPIC 1. THE EARLY 1990S: RECESSION IN A NEW EUROPEAN SCENARIO

The Spanish economy in the early 1990s. Challenges from the new European Union Treaty.

TOPIC 2. THE MID 1990S: NEW GROWTH PATTERNS AND ECONOMIC CONVERGENCE

The new growth pattern of the Spanish economy since 1995. The Maastricht Treaty and the convergence criteria.

TOPIC 3. THE EARLY 2000S: THE 'WILD RIDE' AND THE REAL STATE BUBBLE

New sources of growth and macroeconomic imbalances. The ECB monetary policy. The real state bubble.

TOPIC 4. THE GROWING EXTERNAL IMBALANCE

Structural weaknesses of the Spanish economy. The current account balance. The upward trend in private indebtedness.

TOPIC 5. THE 'GREAT RECESSION' IN SPAIN: 2008-2010

The US financial crisis and the worldwide contagion. The burst of the Spanish housing bubble. The crisis and the policy response up to mid 2010.

TOPIC 6. THE EUROPEAN SOVEREIGN-DEBT-CRISIS

Stability problems in the Eurozone. Institutional and policy responses. Towards a European banking union.

TOPIC 7. ADJUSTMENT, STRUCTURAL REFORM, AND BANKING BAILOUT

The economic adjustment. The process of structural reform. The banking system rescue package.

TOPIC 8. PUBLIC REVENUES

Overview of the Spanish public sector. Main sources of public revenues.

TOPIC 9. PUBLIC EXPENDITURES

Public expenditures. Public deficit. Public debt. Mechanisms of debt financing.

TOPIC 10. THE PENSION SYSTEM.

The financing of the public pension system. Structural reforms.

TOPIC 11. THE FUNDING SYSTEM OF THE AUTONOMOUS COMMUNITIES

The regional decentralisation process. The Autonomous Community financing system.

TOPIC 12. DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS AND MIGRATION FLOWS

The inexorable upward trend in population ageing. Migration flows: from net emigration to (massive) net immigration.

TOPIC 13. OVERVIEW OF THE LABOUR MARKET

Active population, employment, unemployment. Causes of unemployment: past, present and prospects.

TOPIC 14. WAGE DETERMINATION AND INSTITUTIONAL SETTINGS

Wage setting, inflation, and labour productivity. Labour market reforms.

Teaching Methodology

The teaching methodology consists in:

Lectures: standard lectures in class. Class attendance is essential, but needs to be complemented with personal Essays on current and timely events (and/or case studies): if the number of students allows for it, small groups will also be formed for discussions and/or presentations of specific analyses on key issues examined during the course.

Self-learning activities: complementary to the lectures. The student is supposed to devote enough time and effort to understand and assimilate the contents of the course thorough reading and studying the notes, texts and other materials suggested by the lecturer, and through the completion of the exercises or essays indicated during the course.

Learning activities

Title (type activity)	Hours	ECTS	Learning outcome
Type: Directed			
Lectures	30	1.2	1,2,3,4,4,5,5,8,9,10,11,13,14,14,18,18
Specific case studies / exercises	15	0.6	1,2,3,5,6,6,8,9,10,11,13,14,14,15,15,16,16,17,17
Type: Supervised			
Essay on current economic events	4	0.16	1,2,3,4,4,6,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,13,14,14,15,15,16,16,17,17,18,18
Office hours	2	0.08	1,2,3,8,9,10,11,13,14,14,18,18
Type: Self learning			
Studying and recommended activities	93	3.72	1,1,2,3,3,5,5,6,6,8,9,10,10,11,13,13,14,14,15,15,18,18

Assessment criteria

The overall mark of the course is obtained through the following items:

1. WRITTEN EXAMS:75%
- MIDTERM EXAM:NOVEMBER 5TH, 2013
- FINAL EXAM:JANUARY 8TH, 2014
2. ESSAY / WRITTEN REPORT:10%
3. RECOMMENDED ACTIVITIES:15%

Recommended activities consist of:
CLASS ATTENDANCE AND CLASS PARTICIPATION¹
PROPOSED CLASS EXERCISES OR ACTIVITIES

Important notices related to the evaluation of the course:

- A. To pass this course two requirements need to be simultaneously satisfied:
1. An average mark of at least 3.8/10 in the two written exams; and
2. An overall mark of 5.0/10.
- B. There is a possibility to take a re-evaluation exam whenever the overall grade of the course falls in the range 4.0/10 – 4.9/10. If this exam is not passed, there will be no change in the grade of the course. If this exam is successfully passed, the final grade of the course will be 5.0/10.
- RE-EVALUATION EXAM: JANUARY 21ST, 2014

C. A qualification of “No presentat” will be assigned only to those that have not participated in any of the activities that are evaluated (i.e., written exams, written report and recommended activities). Participation in any of these activities prevents a qualification of “No presentat”.

Assesement activities

Title	Weight	Hours	ECTS	Learning outcome
Two written exams	75%	3	0.12	1,2,3,4,4,5,5,6,6,8,9,10,11,13,14,4,15,15,16,16,18,18
Essay / Written report	10%	2	0.08	1,2,3,5,5,6,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,13,14,14,15,15,16,16,18,18
Recommended activities	15%	1	0.04	1,1,2,2,3,3,4,4,5,5,6,6,7,8,9,10,10,11,12,13,13,14,14,15,15,16,16,17,17,18,18

Bibliography

There is no single book matching the contents of this course. The closest approximation to what could be considered a textbook for this course is the following:

García Delgado, J.L. and Myro, R. (2013): *Lecciones de Economía Española*, Ed. Thomson Reuters, 11th edition.

Articles, reports and related type of documents (all in English) will be ocasionaly supplied either as compulsory reading or as complementary material of the course.

¹ Class attendance may be checked randomly from time to time. Disruptive behaviour (i.e., arriving late, using your laptop for instant messaging, check or send text messages through cell phones, smartphones, or equivalent devices, etc...) will reduce the participation mark.