

Code: M-GGR/02

Credits: 10

Matter: Economic and Political Geography

Main language of instruction: Italian

Other language of instruction: English

Teaching Staff

Head instructor

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Introduction

1. Objective of the course:

The aim of the course is to provide the basic theoretical and methodological knowledge in order to introduce the student to the discipline of Economic and Political Geography. In particular, the course aims to offer the student a perspective of analysis of contemporary phenomena based on the concept of «space», which allows him to grasp the connections between the physical environment and human activities. Moreover, drawing on the custom of multisectoral and multi-level analysis of the discipline, the course aims to connect the geographic-political-economic factors with the environmental, demographic, cultural and social ones, and to explore the dynamics of propagation between the different territorial levels, from global to local, and vice versa. Ultimately, the course aims to deepen the main issues that characterize the contemporary economic and political debate, encouraging a geographical reading.

Objectives

2. Course Structure:

The course of Economic and Political Geography is structured in 10 subjects. The first subject presents the introductory elements and the main topics of the discipline; the second deals with the history and the thought of Political Geography; the third reports the theories and models of Economic Geography; the fourth illustrates the relation between the State and the territory; the fifth discusses the population and migrations; the sixth analyzes raw materials and energy sources; the seventh studies the economic sectors and the productive spaces; the eighth debates the other actors and their spatial dynamics; the ninth deepens the spaces and

geography of the European Union and the tenth concludes with a review of the extra-territorial, disconnected, virtual and anonymous spaces.

Competencies:

By the end of the course, the expected learning outcomes - in particular concerning the ability to analyze economic-political phenomena in geographical terms - can be described as follows:

- Knowledge and understanding

The course will allow students to acquire the ability to understand the different territorial realities in geographical, economic and political terms, from the local to the global level. The course will also provide the student appropriate methodologies and geographical terminologies in order to analyze the relationships between physical space and anthropic activities, especially the economic and political ones, in a complex and globalized world.

- Applying knowledge and understanding

The ability to apply geographic knowledge and understanding of some contemporary issues will find a first moment of progress in the accomplishment of the practical exercises provided in the online forums, in the performance of e-tivities and in the fulfillment of the tests dispensed on the e-learning platform and will have an important phase of verification during the final exam.

- Making judgments

Students must be able to formulate independent judgments in order to analyze and understand the main economic and political processes ongoing in the different territorial realities and concerning the different geographical levels, with a both global and synthetic approach.

- Communication skills

Students will have to acquire the correct properties of the language in the geographic discipline which, facing new cognitive and epistemological challenges, is characterized by interdisciplinary and theoretical-practical pluralism.

- Learning skills

Students who have successfully passed the exam tests will have acquired an adequate geographical, economic and political knowledge which will give them the indispensable skills for subsequent university and professional training.

Syllabus

3. Programme of the course:

Subject 1 - Introductory elements and topics of the discipline

Week 1 - 6 videotaped theory lessons for a 20 hours commitment.

Physical Geography and Human Geography; The context of Economic and Political geography; Key concepts; The theoretical bases; Methods and systems; Cartography and geographical techniques.

E-tivity 1 and self-assessment tests for an approximately 6 hours commitment.

Subject 2 - History and thought of Political Geography

Week 2 - 6 videotaped theory lessons for a 20 hours commitment.

Proto-geographies; The birth of Political Geography; Conceptual evolution and theoretical innovations; Current topics; Classical geopolitical theories; Contemporary geopolitics.

E-tivity 1 and self-assessment tests for an approximately 6 hours commitment.

Subject 3 - Theories and models of Economic Geography

Week 3 - 6 videotaped theory lessons for a 20 hours commitment.

Geographical-economic-spatial relations; Classical localization theories; The new theories of Economic Geography; Localization externalities and infrastructures; The economic organization of the territory and the geographical regions; Regional economic development and local territorial systems.

E-tivity 1 and self-assessment tests for an approximately 6 hours commitment.

Subject 4 - State and territory

Week 4 - 6 videotaped theory lessons for a 20 hours commitment

The birth and evolution of States; Imperialism and colonialism; The territorial formation of the State; The territorial organization of the State; The territorial functions of the State; Urbanization and cities.

E-tivity 2 and self-assessment tests for an approximately 6 hours commitment.

Subject 5 - Population and migrations

Week 5 - 6 videotaped theory lessons for a 20 hours commitment.

The evolution of the population; The dynamics of the population; Population distribution; Population movements; The types of migrants and migrations; The functions of immigration.

E-tivity 2 and self-assessment tests for an approximately 6 hours commitment.

Subject 6 - Raw materials and energy sources

Week 6 - 6 videotaped theory lessons for a 20 hours commitment.

Resources and reserves; Water and soil; Fossil fuels; Renewable energies; Producers and availability; Limits and progress.

E-tivity 3 and self-assessment tests for an approximately 6 hours commitment.

Subject 7 - Economic sectors and production spaces

Week 7 - 6 videotaped theory lessons for a 20 hours commitment.

The primary sector and agricultural spaces; The secondary sector and industrial spaces; The tertiary sector and service spaces; The quaternary sector and the spaces of innovation; Transport and communication networks; Tourism spaces.

E-tivity 3 and self-assessment tests for an approximately 6 hours commitment.

Subject 8 - Other actors and spatial dynamics

Week 8 - 6 videotaped theory lessons for a 20 hours commitment.

Multinational companies; Multilateral institutions; Cooperation forums; The areas of regional integration; Global cities; Informal networks.

E-tivity 4 and self-assessment tests for an approximately 6 hours commitment.

Subject 9 - Spaces and geographies of the European Union

Week 9 - 6 videotaped theory lessons for a 20 hours commitment.

The historical construction of the community space; The structuring of the community territory; European regional imbalances through geographical representations; European policies for cohesion and territorial integration; The action of the European Union in outer space; European development cooperation policies with other global areas.

E-tivity 4 and self-assessment tests for an approximately 6 hours commitment.

Subject 10 - Extra-territorial, disconnected, virtual and anomalous spaces

Week 10 - 6 videotaped theory lessons for a 20 hours commitment.

Maritime spaces; Air spaces; Cosmic spaces; Disconnected spaces; Virtual spaces; Abnormal spaces.

E-tivity 4 and self-assessment tests for an approximately 6 hours commitment.

Evaluation system and criteria

The assessment of learning takes place through a written or oral test, aimed at ascertaining the analytical skills of the acquired concepts. A series of activities (e-tivities) carried out in the virtual classes during the course are also taken in consideration. In this way the expected learning outcomes above outlined are evaluated.

The final examination can be done according to two methods provided by the University: written or oral (the latter only at the University headquarters in Rome).

The written test consists of the following: 20 multiple-choice tests and 2 essays (one of the two to be performed according to the preference of the student). The twenty multiple choice tests are assigned the value of 1 point for each correct answer. The essay, selected from the two proposals, is assigned a maximum score of 10 points based on the instructor's verification of the expected learning outcomes.

The oral exam consists of an interview in order to ascertain the student's level of preparation, his ability to argue and connect the various topics of the course and his ability to use the correct terminology of the discipline.

In order to evaluate both written and oral examination, the student's participation in online activities (especially e-tivities) and the overcoming of self-assessment tests are taken into consideration.

Bibliography and resources

4. Materials to consult:

The study materials prepared by the Head instructor and provided on the Unicusano e-learning platform consist of pre-recorded audio-video lessons, downloadable texts and summary slides, as well as of self-assessment tests and the documentation made available for the performance of e-tivities. Such teaching materials are fully suitable, if used in their entirety, for the optimal overcoming of the finale examination

5. Recommended bibliography:

Said that at the end of each downloadable text it is provided a selected bibliography, for those who want to deepen the issues discussed in the study materials provided on the e-learning platform (however sufficient to overcome the final exam), the following bibliography is recommended:

- Barnes T.J., Christophers B., Economic Geography: A Critical Introduction, 1st Edition, Wiley-Blackwell, 2018.
- Cohen B.S., Geopolitics: The Geography of International Relations, 3rd Edition, Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2014.
- Conti S., Giaccaria P., Rossi U., Salone C., Geografia economico-politica, Pearson, 2014.
- Dittmer J., Sharp J., Geopolitics: An Introductory Reader, Routledge, 2014.
- Flint C., Introduction to Geopolitics, 3rd Edition, Routledge, 2016.
- Flint C., Taylor P., Political Geography. World-Economy, Nation-State and Locality, 7th Edition, Routledge, 2018.
- Giordano A. Limiti. Frontiere, confini e la lotta per il territorio, LUP, 2018.

- Greiner A.L., Dematteis G., Lanza C., Geografia umana. Un approccio visuale, UTET, 2012.
- Jones M., Jones R., Woods M., Whitehead M., Dixon D., Hannah M., An Introduction to Political Geography: Space, Place and Politics, 2nd Edition, Routledge, 2015.
- Knox P., Agnew J., Maccarthy L., The Geography of World Economy, 6th Edition, Routledge, 2014.
- MacKinnon D., Cumbers A., An Introduction to Economic Geography: Globalisation, Uneven Development and Place, 3rd Edition, Routledge, 2018.
- Murray E.W., Overton J., Geographies of Globalization, 2nd Edition, Routledge, 2014.
- Pagnini M.P., Sanguin A., Storia e teoria della Geografia politica. Una prospettiva internazionale, Roma, Edicusano, 2015.
- Prescott J.R.V., Political Frontiers and Boundaries, 1st edition, Routledge, 2014.