

Principles of Economy (D012144)

Course size *(nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)*

Credits 6.0

Study time 180 h

Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2025-2026

A (semester 1)

Dutch

Gent

lecture

Lecturers in academic year 2025-2026

Merlevede, Bruno

EB21

lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2025-2026

[Preparatory Course Master of Science in Health Care Management and Policy](#)

crdts

6

offering

A

Teaching languages

Dutch

Keywords

introduction to economics

Position of the course

The course aims to explain the basic principles and phenomena of economics. The purpose is to offer students the economic tools to get a better understanding of the economic environment in which companies, households, and governments operate. The course focuses both on traditional economic tools as well as recent economic trends.

The course first introduces traditional welfare analysis and provides a brief overview of the history of economic thought. The course then covers recent topics such as growth and inequality, governments versus markets, globalization, sustainability, and innovation.

Contents

Via lecture:

- 1 What is economics and how is our economy doing? Economics, sustainability, and interdisciplinarity
- 2 The economist's analysis tools: basic concepts, definitions, models
- 3 Markets, equilibrium and the benefits of trade
- 4 GDP, government and microeconomic policy
- 5 The role of the private sector and companies
- 6 Competition and markets
- 7 Long-term growth and inequality
- 8 The role of money in an economic system
- 9 Business cycle and macroeconomic government policy
- 10 Globalization and interdependence
- 11 Economic schools
- 12 Externalities and sustainable development

Via online electronic learning environment*

- 13 Elasticities elaborated* 1
- 4 Utility theory and behavior*
- 15 Current topic* (e.g. pension issues, macroeconomic health care costs, etc.)

Initial competences

No prior knowledge or attitudes required, given the introductory nature of the course

Final competences

- 1 Knowledge and understanding of a number of fundamental economic concepts and mechanisms.
- 2 The ability to apply this knowledge to analyse of contemporaneous (and historical) economic problems

Conditions for credit contract

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is determined after successful competences assessment

Conditions for exam contract

This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract

Teaching methods

Lecture

Study material

Type: Handbook

Name: Oikonomia - Inzicht in economie

Indicative price: € 50

Optional: no

Language : Dutch

Author : Johan Albrecht, Bruno Merlevede

ISBN : 978-9-08931-909-8

Number of Pages : 503

References

Any 'introduction to economics'-textbook of good quality

Course content-related study coaching

Students can always address questions to the professor (or assistant) in class or by E-mail. If desired by the students one or two collective sessions on submitted questions can be organized.

Assessment moments

end-of-term assessment

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the first examination period

Written assessment with multiple-choice questions

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the second examination period

Written assessment with multiple-choice questions

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment**Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment**

not applicable

Extra information on the examination methods

written exam with multiple choice questions, standard setting for score

Calculation of the examination mark