GHENT UNIVERSITY

# Course Specifications

Valid as from the academic year 2025-2026

## Economics (F000758)

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

**Credits 5.0** **Study time 150 h**

**Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2026-2027**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| A (semester 1) | Dutch | Gent | lecture |

**Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Merlevede, Bruno | EB21 | lecturer-in-charge |

| Offered in the following programmes in 2026-2027 | crdts | offering |
|---|---|---|

**Teaching languages**

Dutch

**Keywords**

Introduction to economics

**Position of the course**

This introductory course provides insight into the economic way of thinking. The course familiarizes students with a number of central economic concepts, phenomena and mechanisms in order to enable the student to understand and analyze economic reality and current affairs. On the one hand, the course provides a number of traditional economic tools and on the other hand, it examines recent economic developments. After an introductory welfare analysis, we analyze recent economic developments with attention to economic growth (technology and institutions) and inequality, the role of market forces versus government, competition, globalization, and sustainability.

**Contents**

1 What is economics and how is our economy doing? Economics, sustainability,
1 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
9 Business cycles and macroeconomic government policy
10 Globalization and economic interdependence
11 Economic schools
12 External effects and sustainable development

**Initial competences**

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

**Final competences**

1 Knowledge of a number of fundamental economic mechanisms and the ability to apply this knowledge.
2 Understand and analyse economic development

**Conditions for credit contract**

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is unrestricted: the student takes into consideration the conditions mentioned in 'Starting Competences'

**Conditions for exam contract**

Access to this course unit via an exam contract is unrestricted

**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

Type: Slides

Name: slides
Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty
Optional: no
Available on Ufora : Yes

Additional information: slides in powerpoint format available via Ufora, limited printing costs if students want to print a physical copy

**References**

Any good basic textbook on economics

**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**