

Introduction to Global Economic History (F000798)

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 2) English Gent lecture
independent work

Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027

Caestecker, Frank EB21 lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2026-2027

	crdts	offering
Bachelor of Science in Business Administration	6	A
Bachelor of Science in Business Economics	5	A
Bachelor of Science in Economics	5	A
Bachelor of Science in Economics (Double Degree)	5	A
Bachelor of Science in Political Science	5	A
Master of Science in Teaching in Arts and Humanities (main subject History)	5	A
Master of Arts in Global Studies	5	A
Master of Arts in History	5	A
Exchange Programme Global Studies and World Societies	5	A
Exchange Programme History	5	A
Exchange programme in Economics and Business Administration	5	A
Exchange Programme in Political and Social Sciences	5	A

Teaching languages

English

Keywords

Economic and social history, Development theories, Historical capitalism, Globalisation, social and economic role of the state, Internationalisation@Home

Position of the course

To provide insight into the emergence, growth and functioning of capitalism as an economic and social world system. By making a critical and historical analysis of contemporary economic globalisation.

- the students are confronted with the most important analytical models from social and historical sciences, in order to explain and understand economic structures and social processes;
- the students get an insight in the role and the nature of economic processes and structures within a global and long-term perspective;
- the students can evaluate debates on economic models and can apply them on historical or contemporary developments;
- the students understand the different explanatory models and are able to evaluate them in a critical way.

This course contains elements of internationalisation@Home (I@H). I@H refers to international and/or intercultural learning experiences that are acquired at the home university.

Contents

This course focuses on the historical trajectory of capitalism. We start with a discussion on theories of economic development and on the definition of

capitalism. After that a chronological overview is given of the economic and social transformations of the last three centuries. The dynamic of economic globalisation within world history will be focussed upon by analyzing its influence throughout time on states, markets and people. Special attention will be paid to global, international and national inequality and how the state tried to tame the insecurities of the market in 20th century industrial economies. Besides the lectures space will be provided for workshops during which students voluntary can discuss a topic of world history.

Initial competences

Final competences

- 1 To know and to understand the impact of changing economic structures on societal processes.
- 2 To be able to reflect in a critical way on the role of 'globalisation' in contemporary society.
- 3 To know the broad outlines of recent economic history.
- 4 To be able to evaluate the different models of economic change and development critically.

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, Independent work

Extra information on the teaching methods

6 credits course: literature study and/or presentation.

Study material

Type: Reader

Name: Reader of the course Introduction to Global Economic History
Indicative price: € 20
Optional: no
Language : English
Number of Pages : 320
Available on Ufora : Yes

References

- Michael Mann, *The Sources of Social Power*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press (4 Volumes), 1986-2013.
- Jürgen Kocka, *Geschichte des Kapitalismus*. München: C.H.Beck, 2014.
- Frank Caestecker, *Hoe de mens de wereld vorm gaf*. Gent: Academia, 2015.
- Allen Robert C. (2011). *Global Economic History. A Very short introduction*. Oxford: Oxford University Press

Course content-related study coaching

Appointment via email: frank.caestecker@ugent.be; electronic learning platform Ufora.

Assessment moments

end-of-term and continuous assessment

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

Written assessment with multiple-choice questions, Written assessment with open-ended questions

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

Written assessment with multiple-choice questions, Written assessment with open-ended questions

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Assignment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

examination during the second examination period is possible

Extra information on the examination methods

6 credits course: literature study and/or presentation.

Calculation of the examination mark

5 credit course:

End-of-term 100%

6 credit course:

Exam: 85%

Paper based on literature: 15%

The students who attends this course for 6 credits has to participate in both parts of the evaluation.