

Syllabus

Course Description

Course Title	Regional Development and New Digital Economy
Course Code	31033
Course Title Additional	
Scientific-Disciplinary Sector	
Language	English
Degree Course	Master in Tourism Management
Other Degree Courses (Loaned)	
Lecturers	<p>Prof. Federico Boffa, FBoffa@unibz.it https://www.unibz.it/en/faculties/economics-management/academic-staff/person/5799</p> <p>dr. Nicola Campigotto, Nicola.Campigotto@unibz.it https://www.unibz.it/en/home/research/competence-centre-economic-ecological-social-sustainability/team/person/50457</p>
Teaching Assistant	
Semester	All semesters
Course Year/s	1
CP	12
Teaching Hours	72 (36 M-1 + 36 M-2)
Lab Hours	12
Individual Study Hours	-
Planned Office Hours	36 (18 M-1 + 18 M-2)
Contents Summary	<p>M-1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This module provides a solid foundation in regional and environmental economics, covering key topics such as location decisions, infrastructure, regional disparities, and environmental policy. Students learn to apply formal economic models and analyze real-world location and environmental challenges.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The course combines theoretical modeling with practical case studies and policy applications. • The main goal is to develop analytical thinking skills and the ability to formulate evidence-based policy recommendations. <p>M-2</p> <p>The course deals with incentives and strategies in platform markets, with an application to the tourism sector. The course will cover within side and cross side network effects, and their relations with platform pricing. The lecturer will discuss how platforms create value and how they monetize, the impact of competition on platforms pricing will also be analyzed.</p>
Course Topics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Network Externalities; - Two sided markets; - Platforms; - How to finance platforms (e.g. fixed or variable fees, advertisement, sale of data) - Pricing mechanisms (auctions vs. fixed prices) - Regional possibilities for challenging monopolistic platforms - Applications to the tourism sector (e.g. Booking.com, Airbnb)
Keywords	<p>Networks</p> <p>Platforms</p> <p>Monopolistic pricing</p> <p>Competitive pricing</p>
Recommended Prerequisites	
Propaedeutic Courses	
Teaching Format	Lectures, group presentations, discussion of case studies
Mandatory Attendance	-
Specific Educational Objectives and Learning Outcomes	<p>INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES (ILO)</p> <p>ILO 1: KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING</p> <p>ILO 1.1 The student acquires the competence to apply knowledge and understanding about the role of tourism in the economic development of communities, regions and nations.</p> <p>ILO 2: ABILITY TO APPLY KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING</p> <p>ILO 2.1 The student acquires specific skills in spatial planning and economic models related to tourism development.</p>

	<p>ILO 2.2 The student acquires mastery in the planning of mobility and digitalisation systems within the regional economy.</p> <p>ILO 2.3 The student also acquires the ability to read and understand economic analyses.</p> <p>ILO 3. AUTONOMY OF JUDGEMENT</p> <p>ILO 3.1 Acquire the ability to select data and use appropriate information to describe a problem concerning the management of tourism businesses as well as tourism Associations and destinations</p> <p>ILO 3.2 Acquire the ability to relate models and empirical evidence in the study of tourism businesses, associations, consortia and tourist destinations</p> <p>ILO 4. COMMUNICATION SKILLS</p> <p>ILO 4.1 The Master's degree graduate will be able to communicate effectively in oral and written form the specialised content of the individual disciplines, using different registers depending on the recipients and the communicative and didactic purposes, and to evaluate the formative effects of his/her communication. Written and oral communication skills are particularly developed in the training activities carried out for the preparation of the Master's thesis, in the discussion of business cases and in interactive lectures involving group discussions and the comparison of individual analyses.</p> <p>ILO 5: LEARNING SKILLS</p> <p>ILO 5.1 To identify thematic connections and to establish relationships between different cases and contexts of analysis</p> <p>ILO 5.2 To frame a new problem systematically and generate appropriate taxonomies.</p> <p>ILO 5.3 To develop general models from the phenomena studied.</p>
Specific Educational Objectives and Learning Outcomes (additional info.)	
Assessment	<p>For attending students, in each module, in-class presentations (up to 30% of the grade) (ILO 4, ILO 5)</p> <p>and written exam (at least 70%) (ILO1 ILO 2, ILO3, ILO 5).</p> <p>If the grade of the presentation is lower than the grade of the written exam, the full grade will be based on the written exam.</p>

	For non attending students, the full grade will be based on the written exam. Written exam will consist of open questions, cases and exercises. All ILOs are assessed (ILO 1-5)
Evaluation Criteria	Exam: Ability to understand the material and apply the knowledge to cases. Presentation: Clarity and ability to understand the papers and the topics
Required Readings	Paul Belleflamme & Martin Peitz (2021). <i>The Economics of Platforms: Concepts and Strategy</i> , Cambridge University Press.
Supplementary Readings	
Further Information	
Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	Decent work and economic growth

Course Module

Course Constituent Title	M-1 - Regional Economics and Development
Course Code	31033A
Scientific-Disciplinary Sector	ECON-01/A
Language	English
Lecturers	dr. Nicola Campigotto, Nicola.Campigotto@unibz.it https://www.unibz.it/en/home/research/competence-centre-economic-ecological-social-sustainability/team/person/50457
Teaching Assistant	
Semester	First semester
CP	6
Responsible Lecturer	
Teaching Hours	36
Lab Hours	12
Individual Study Hours	-
Planned Office Hours	18
Contents Summary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This module provides a solid foundation in regional and environmental economics, covering key topics such as location

	<p>decisions, infrastructure, regional disparities, and environmental policy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students learn to apply formal economic models and analyze real-world location and environmental challenges. • The course combines theoretical modeling with practical case studies and policy applications. • The main goal is to develop analytical thinking skills and the ability to formulate evidence-based policy recommendations.
Course Topics	<p>This course provides an applied introduction to modern regional economics. It focuses on the determinants of the attractiveness of a territory and will be divided into two parts. An initial part will deal with classical regional economics, while a second part will deal with environmental economics. The first part will introduce students to the determinants of firms' and people's location decisions as well as on the principles of urban economics. It will look at the role of infrastructures and at place-based policies. The second part will provide for core concepts of environmental economics with special emphasis on policy. To this purpose, the course will start with the economic theory of environmental policy. Based on the theory of externalities, it will analyze instruments for environmental policy from an economic point-of-view. It will then introduce topics of behavioral environmental economics.</p> <p>The course is aimed at understanding how formal models can be used to analyze real-world situations. Theoretical analyses are complemented with empirical evidence, case studies, and discussions of implications for environmental policies.</p>
Teaching Format	Interactive lectures, case-based discussions, and hands-on exercises.
Required Readings	<p>Capello, R. (2015), Regional Economics, Routledge</p> <p>Sterner, T. and Coria, J. (2013), Policy instruments for environmental and natural resource management, Routledge</p> <p>Perman, R. (2003), Natural resource and environmental economics, Pearson Education</p>

	OECD (2022), The Contribution of Migration to Regional Development, OECD Regional Development Studies
Supplementary Readings	

Course Module

Course Constituent Title	M-2 - Digital Economics
Course Code	31033B
Scientific-Disciplinary Sector	ECON-04/A
Language	English
Lecturers	Prof. Federico Boffa, FBoffa@unibz.it https://www.unibz.it/en/faculties/economics-management/academic-staff/person/5799
Teaching Assistant	
Semester	Second semester
CP	6
Responsible Lecturer	
Teaching Hours	36 (12h Prof. Federico Boffa + 24h second lecturer to be defined)
Lab Hours	-
Individual Study Hours	-
Planned Office Hours	18 (6h Prof. Federico Boffa + 12h second lecturer to be defined)
Contents Summary	The course deals with incentives and strategies in platform markets, with an application to the tourism sector. The course will cover within side and cross side network effects, and their relations with platform pricing. The lecturer will discuss how platforms create value and how they monetize, the impact of competition on platforms pricing will also be analyzed.
Course Topics	
Teaching Format	Lectures + group work + case studies
Required Readings	Belleflamme, P., & Peitz, M. (2021). <i>The economics of platforms: Concepts and strategy</i> . Cambridge University Press.

Supplementary Readings	
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	<p>Comino, S., & Manenti, F. M. (2014). <i>Industrial organisation of high-technology markets: The Internet and information technologies</i>. Cheltenham, UK: Edward Elgar Publishing. ISBN 978-1-78195-198-9.</p>
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