

**COURSE DATA****DATA SUBJECT**

**Code:** 36491  
**Name:** World Economic Situation  
**Cycle:** Undergraduate Studies  
**ECTS Credits:** 6  
**Academic year:** 2026-27

**STUDY (S)**

Degree	Center	Acad. year	Period
1316 - Degree in Economics	Facultat d'Economia	4	Second quarter

**SUBJECT-MATTER**

Degree	Subject-matter	Character
1316 - Degree in Economics	Economía Internacional y Territorio	ELECTIVES

**COORDINATION**

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**SUMMARY**

The goal of this course is to introduce students to the knowledge of the most immediate international economic reality, offering a qualitative and quantitative analysis of the situation, the main economic imbalances and structural problems in today's world, especially from the perspective of the OECD economies.

On the one hand, the subject will offer students a presentation of the techniques necessary to understand and carry out a solid analysis of the economic situation, always with a moderate degree of complexity and in accordance with the overall meaning of the subject.

On the other hand, the student will receive the essential theoretical concepts to analyze the economic situation, explaining or correcting, where appropriate, ideas usually referred to in this area.

Finally, detailed reflections will be included on some of the most relevant issues in the current economic reality, particularly those related to the economic crisis that began in the summer of 2007. Accordingly, the financial field will receive special attention.

Of particular importance is the development by students of the ability to analyze and refute, where appropriate, economic reports (public and private) that serve as a reference for decision-making by economic and political agents.

Through this approach, the students of this program must acquire sufficient knowledge of contemporary economic problems, in which to be able to develop their professional activity and on which to apply the lessons learned throughout the program, in an increasingly commercial and financial environment governed by a global perspective.



## PREVIOUS KNOWLEDGE

### RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER SUBJECTS OF THE SAME DEGREE

There are no specified enrollment restrictions with other subjects of the curriculum.

### OTHER REQUIREMENTS

It is understood that students have sufficient knowledge of macroeconomic policies, at the level they should have acquired in the first three courses of the Degree in Economics. For potential students from other degrees, this would be highly necessary prior knowledge to follow the course.

## COMPETENCES / LEARNING OUTCOMES

### 1316 - Degree in Economics

Apply the principles of economic analysis (rational decision) to the diagnosis and resolution of problems.

Be able to collect and analyse information.

Be able to learn autonomously.

Be able to use ICTs.

Know and understand the determinants of the long-term sustainable growth of an economy.

Know and understand the nature of international trade and of the financial framework in which it takes place.

Know the Spanish, European and international economic environment, the productive sectors and the functioning of institutions.

Show critical thinking skills.

Understand the functioning of the economy at the aggregate level and the effect of different economic policies.

Understand the possible causes of economic cycles and the effects of stabilisation policies.

## DESCRIPTION OF CONTENTS

1.1.- Structuring the economic situation analysis

1.2.- Basic elements for the analysis: statistical sources, data and their problems; economic modeling; Economy vs. Finance.

1.3.- Overview of the current world economy



## 1. General introduction to the economic situation

- 1.1.- Structuring the economic situation analysis
- 1.2.- Basic elements for the analysis: statistical sources, data and their problems; economic modeling; Economy vs. Finance.
- 1.4.- The current international economic situation.

## 2. Fundamental concepts and processes in today's world economy

- 2.1.- Economic growth, its sources, and the foundations of international disparities in per capita income levels.
- 2.2.- Basic macroeconomic balances and their implications: external balance and public sector balance.

## 3. Financial system and financial crises: understanding the Great Recession

- 3.1.- Financial crises: structure, differential character and their implications.
- 3.2.- Classification of financial systems. Is there a superior model?
- 3.3.- The Great Recession: global vision and financial keys
- 3.4.- Financial innovation.
- 3.5.- "The shadow banking system".
- 3.6.- Credit rating agencies.
- 3.7.- Financial regulation.

## 4. International reference prices

- 4.1.- Exchange rates: definitions, calculation, exchange regimes and current dilemmas.
- 4.2.- Long-term interest rates: determinants, time structure, evolution and current dilemmas.
- 4.3.- The prices of raw materials.

## 5. Main structural changes in the international economy

### WORKLOAD

#### PRESENCIAL ACTIVITIES

Activity	Hours
Theory	30,00
Classroom practices	30,00
<b>Total hours</b>	<b>60,00</b>

#### NON PRESENCIAL ACTIVITIES



Activity	Hours
Attendance at other activities	0,00
Individual or group project	35,00
Independent study and work	55,00
Preparation of lessons	0,00
Preparation for assessment activities	0,00
Resolution of case studies	0,00
<b>Total hours</b>	<b>90,00</b>

## TEACHING METHODOLOGY

The development of the subject is structured around three elements:

The theoretical face-to-face classes where the professor will explain the different sections that make up the program, indicating, where appropriate, the sources in which to expand the different perspectives introduced in class. Assistance is considered essential insofar as it guarantees an adequate transmission of knowledge. No less important is the reading of recommended texts, frequently topical reports that provide the most recent news on the topics addressed.

Practical face-to-face classes where students must present and defend arguments on relevant issues in the international economic situation, submitting to contrasting opinions.

The study and individual preparation of the subjects, as well as the attendance to academic seminars and debate sessions on the economic situation that are recommended.

## EVALUATION

The final grade for the course will come from the combination of three elements:

I. Critical evaluation of one of the books that will be proposed at the beginning of the course. Individual or pair work (different structures of the essay will be proposed depending on the option chosen) Free format Length of the work: maximum of 10 pages (cover and separate bibliography). 25% of the grade. II. Written exam, with questions, short or to be developed, numerical or not, on the theoretical and practical contents of the subject. 75% of the note. - In order for the grade of the two elements of the subject to be weighed, it will be necessary to have presented the essay and obtain at least a grade of 4 in the written exam.

## REFERENCES

- Los contenidos recogidos en el programa se desarrollan y ponen a disposición de los alumnos a través del material disponible en el Aula Virtual. Las técnicas explicadas en el programa pueden seguirse, así como ampliar la profundidad con la que se abordará su estudio durante el curso,



por ejemplo, en: Banco de España (2006); El Análisis de la Economía Española; Alianza Editorial. Madrid Carnot, N., Koen, V, and Tissot, B. (2005); Economic Forecasting; Palgrave McMillan Eds. New York.

- \* Libros propuestos para el trabajo individual obligatorio (se entiende que solo es bibliografía básica para cada alumno el libro que seleccione)
- Dada la perspectiva de máxima actualidad de la que se desea dotar al curso, imprescindible en una asignatura de coyuntura económica, la mayor parte de la bibliografía del programa se irá definiendo a medida que se desarrollen las sesiones, e incluirá, entre otros elementos: - Informes de coyuntura económica (trimestrales o semestrales) de las grandes instituciones internacionales: Fondo Monetario Internacional, Banco de Pagos de Basilea, Comisión Europea, Organización para la Cooperación y el Desarrollo Económico, diferentes Bancos Centrales - Notas breves de actualidad económica de servicios de estudios privados. - Working papers que se refieran y ofrezcan novedades sobre los aspectos abordados en el programa.