



UNIVERSITÀ
CATTOLICA
del Sacro Cuore

Industrial Organization – Industrial Organization of the Food System

Prof. STEFANO BOCCALETTI

COURSE AIMS

The course covers the firm's strategic behaviour in imperfectly competitive markets. The attention is mainly devoted to the theoretical underpinnings of the models. The course begins with the study of the behaviour of firms under specific market structures and gives way to the analysis of advanced topics in industrial organization. The students are presumed to be familiar with the standard content of an undergraduate microeconomics course.

COURSE CONTENTS

TOPICS	CFU
Price discrimination: linear pricing; non-linear pricing.	0.5
Product variety and quality: spatial approach to horizontal product differentiation; vertical product differentiation; reputation and information; asymmetric information; advertising.	0.5
Oligopoly and strategic interaction: non cooperative models.	1
Collusion: the cartel's dilemma; repeated games.	0.5
Strategic behaviour and exclusionary strategies: entry deterrence; limit pricing; predatory pricing.	1
Vertical integration and vertical restraints: double marginalization; vertical integration with perfect competition downstream; restraints on intra-brand competition; mergers.	1
Market structure: determinants; strategic analysis of industries; food industry.	0.5
Innovation: research, development, invention and innovation; patents; innovation in the food industry.	0.5
Antitrust policy: remedies and penalties, competition policies in the agro-food industry.	0.5

SCHEDULE

Spring semester



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TEACHING METHOD

The course consists of lectures, with use of computer presentations.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

It is strongly recommended to attend classes.

CREDITS

6 ECTS

ASSESSMENT METHOD

Two assignments worth 15% each, a preliminary test, worth 20% and a final examination, worth 50%, all written.

The assignments and the preliminary test scores last one academic year.

The questions include exercises, simple graphical and mathematical proofs. The score attached to each question may change depending on the test. The assessment is intended to provide a sufficiently precise measure of the student's learning and to offer to the instructor a grasp of the student's skills and abilities to apply methodological instruments to explain the functioning of imperfectly competitive markets.

COURSE READINGS AND MATERIALS

Primary textbook:

L. PEPALL-D. RICHARDS-G. NORMAN, *Industrial Organization*, 4° ed., Blackwell Publishing, 2008.

Other reference books:

D.W. CARLTON-J.F. PERLOFF, *Modern Industrial Organization*, 4th ed. (alternatively consult the second Italian edition).

J. CHURCH-R. WARE, *Industrial Organization. A Strategic Approach*, McGraw-Hill, 2000.

For each topic, further papers and other materials will be indicated.

NOTES

Professor Stefano Boccaletti will receive students after classes or by appointment (0523/599228).



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INSTRUCTOR BIO

Prof. Stefano Boccaletti

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E-MAIL ADDRESS

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