# Economics of Market Structures

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***COURSE AIMS AND INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES***

The course aims to offer a series of in-depth studies on some micro-economic issues that are only partially covered in the basic courses, and on some issues of Antitrust and Regulation that are of increasing importance in modern production systems. The course will develop some of the issues already analysed in the course of Industrial Economics, with particular attention to policy aspects. At the end of the course, students will be able to:

* recognize and address potentially anti-competitive behaviors, highlighting the effects on social well-being, as well as the regulatory remedies designed to counter potentially harmful conducts.
* demonstrate understanding and appreciate the relevance of the main issues of competition and regulation policy.
* apply acquired knowledge to concrete cases and critically read the measures taken by Antitrust Authorities and independent sectoral Authorities. Students will also be able to understand the implications for private companies of the provisions taken by the Authorities mentioned above.
* report effectively, in front of an audience of experts, the most relevant elements of antitrust cases and regulatory policies.
* attend more advanced courses in industrial economics.

***COURSE CONTENT***

The course is divided into three modules:

1. *Industrial organization*: it is deepened the conceptual evolution of industrial strategies, from firms’ competitive interactions to state intervention, with extensive references to the economic theory;
2. *Competition policy*: we examine the theoretical fundamentals that ensures fair competition between businesses and protects consumer interests, considering the evolution of competition policy, mainly in the European context;
3. *Regulation*: regulatory policies are analysed, with the aim of eliminating the so-called "market failures", i.e., the existence of market power, externalities and information asymmetries.

The course is enriched by presentations and seminars held by professional antitrust and regulatory experts.

***READING LIST***

Material for the course Economics of Market Structures, EDUCatt. Milan.

At the beginning of the course students are required to check the reading list on the lecturers’ webpage.

M. Motta-M. Polo, *Antitrust. Economia e politica della concorrenza*, Il Mulino, 2005.

G. Cervigni-M. D’antoni, *Monopolio naturale, concorrenza, regolamentazione*, Carocci, 2001.

***TEACHING METHOD***

 Each module is taught interactively and through lectures, group work, external guest speakers.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

The exam is written and consists of one question, one exercise and a case study to comment on. It lasts 90 minutes.

The exercises are divided into sub-points. The comment of the case will be appropriately guided by instructions. There will be interim tests with the same structure as the general tests. The completion test must take place by the first official exam date. Group work counts a maximum of 2 points. With the exception of interim tests, the exam procedure is the same for all the exam dates of all the exam sessions.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

Students must be familiar with concepts of basic mathematics and microeconomics. Notions of industrial economics may facilitate learning.

Further information can be found on the lecturer's webpage at http://docenti.unicatt.it/web/searchByName.do?language=ENG, or on the Faculty notice board.