# Public Finance and Welfare Models

## Prof. Gianpaolo Barbetta

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

The course aims to explain students the essential reasons for the existence of modern welfare systems and their main characteristics, by exploring how these systems work and the tools used by the various public and private actors.

At the end of the course, students will demonstrate knowledge of the main Italian welfare programmes and will understand the economic reasons behind them. They will be able to evaluate individual programmes in terms of their ability to promote economic efficiency and equity.

***COURSE CONTENT***

The course will cover the following aspects:

1. Why do welfare systems exist?

2. Welfare in healthcare.

3. Welfare in education.

4. Welfare in social security.

5. Welfare in social services.

6. The tools for intervention.

***READING LIST***

General part:

J. Stiglitz, *Economia del settore pubblico,* Volume I (limited to Chapters 1.1, 2.1, 2.2, 3, 5, 8) and Volume II (limited to Chapters 1, 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5, 4, 5, 6, 7), Hoepli, 2003 e 2004.

Single-subject part:

C. Arnsperger-P. Van Parijs (2003), *Quanta disuguaglianza possiamo accettare?,* Il Mulino, Bologna.

S. Rosen-I. Sanne-A. Collier-J.L. Simon, *Hard choices: rationing antiretroviral therapy for HIV/AIDS in Africa,* (2005) in Lancet, n. 365.

L.J. McGough-S.J. Reynolds-T.C. Quinn-J.M. Zenilman, *Which patients first? Setting priorities for antiretroviral therapy where resources are limited,* (2005), in American Journal of Public Health, vol. 95, n. 7.

***TEACHING METHOD***

The course is taught through lectures in the classroom and through group work carried out and presented by attending students during the lessons.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

The exam is written and consists of 4 open questions, that carry identical weight for the final mark. The first three questions cover the general part of the course, while the fourth question concerns the single-subject part.

*For attending students* (those who have attended at least ¾ of the lectures as proved by students’ signatures collected in class) further study on the single-subject may be carried out in group (of max 4-5 students) and consists in reading some texts, prepare a short essay not longer than 8 pages (each page should not exceed 3,500 characters, including spaces), as well as holding a lesson (max 1 hour long) for the rest of the class students on a date agreed with the lecturer. The mark obtained in the single-subject part will account for 30% of the final exam mark. The reading list for the single subject will be agreed with the teacher at the beginning of the course.

Alternatively, for a limited number of students, the group work may consist of an empirical research on topics suggested by the lecturer.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

The course requires knowledge of basic notions of microeconomics (consumer and business theory, perfect competition market and monopoly). Students who do not have such concepts must study a microeconomics manual, such as:

R. Frank, *Microeconomia*, McGraw-Hill.

M. Katz-H. Rosen, *Microeconomia*, McGraw-Hill.

M. PerloffJ, *Microeconomia*, APOGEO.

R. Pindyck-D. Rubinfeld, *Microeconomia*, Zanichelli.

A. Schotter, *Microeconomia*, Giappicchielli.

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.