# Economics of Education

## Prof. Tommaso Colussi

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

The course aims to explore the most relevant topics related to the investments in human capital, and their impact on the labour market. It will focus, on the one hand, on the theoretical problems related to the investments in education, and the empirical evidence based on the main industrialised countries; on the other hand, it will analyse the effects, in the short and long term, of the main inputs given by the production function to economic and social variables.

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

1. Develop their knowledge of the most relevant microeconomic models used to interpret the investments in human capital and the reasons at the basis of public interventions.
2. Carry out a critical analysis of the empirical literature on the social and economic effects of education.
3. Interpret and summarise the results of the research papers issued by the most important research institutes in the field of the economics of education.
4. Use appropriate terminology, and communicate their newly acquired knowledge in a clear and effective way.
5. Carry out independent assessments and research activities on the economic and social effects of school policies and reforms.

***COURSE CONTENT***

With each topic outlined, the course first presents an introduction of theoretical economic models and then presents and discusses the existing empirical evidence. The course topics include:

1. Theory of the Human Capital.Teoria del Capitale Umano
2. Information asymmetry: the knowledge as signal of ability.
3. Introduction on econometric methods for policy evaluation.

4. The returns of education: methodology and empirical evidence.

5. The education production function: theory and empirical evidence.

6. Family context and education: the role of public intervention and the Italian educational system.

***READING LIST***

The course will be based on the slides projected in class and available on Blackboard. The scientific articles of reference for each unit will be made available in class and on Blackboard. The articles, together with the slides, will provide students with mathematical-formal support.

The reading list and detailed syllabus for the course will be available on the professor's Blackboard page.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Lectures.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Written exam (duration: 1 hour and 15 minutes), consisting in three open-ended questions (either practical or theoretical) based on the course content. For each answer, students will get a mark in thirtieths. The final mark will result from the average of the three answers.

There will be no interim tests or different exam formats for attending students.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

In order to get the most out of this course, students should have a good knowledge of the key concepts of Microeconomics and Econometrics.

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.