# Philosophy of Economics

## Prof. Alessandro Gamba

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

In the current age, cultural awareness of the theoretical premises behind phenomena which dictate the quality of human cohabitation is something we tend to take for granted. Economics has a huge impact on interpersonal and social relationships and is becoming increasingly important from an anthropological perspective. Therefore, the course aims to analyse the episteme of economics from a philosophical perspective.

At the end of the course, students will be able to recognise and understand the different philosophical categories that lay at the basis of the economic issue. In addition, thanks to the tools acquired during the course, students will learn to examine and analyse the current transition to a new epoch, and take part to civic debate (also thanks to the analysis of the historical aggregation of permanent theoretical elements).

***COURSE CONTENT***

Poverty, value, possession, measure, exchange, buying and selling, price, usury, superfluous: the ontology of money in Thomas Aquinas.

Economics as a synthesis between the calculable and the incalculable.

***READING LIST***

* + - * O. Langholm, *L’economia in Tommaso d’Aquino*, Vita e Pensiero, Milan 1996.
* S. Petrosino, *Elogio dell’uomo economico*, Vita e Pensiero, Milano, 2013.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Lectures (plus multimedia resources).

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

The final exam aims to assess students’ knowledge of the texts on the reading list and overall understanding of the course; at the same time, it assesses their capacity for presenting arguments, making creative cross-disciplinary links and mature thought. Students will be tested on their knowledge of the subject, as well as on their ability to use an adequate philosophical jargon and a rigorous method in the application of the theoretical tools that will be necessary to answer the questions asked by the commission.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

No specific knowledge or skills are required to take this course. However, students should ideally show a certain intellectual curiosity towards the subject.

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.