Policies for Human Capital: Demography, Education and Work

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

The course aims to introduce the concepts, tools and theoretical models for analysing policies for enhancing human capital designed to improve the well-being of certain populations. It pursues this objective by means of three disciplinary approaches: 1) demographic and statistical; 2) economic-labour; 3) sociological.

The three approaches interact thematically on many aspects and complement each other in their interpretations while mutually enriching their specific potential at an educational level. A distinctive feature of this course is its multidisciplinary nature, offering added value to students.

Intended learning outcomes

1. *Knowledge and understanding*

Students will:

* (in terms of demographics and statistics) have essential knowledge of demographic analysis for the purpose of contextualising a population in time and space; be able to identify some of the most recent demographic phenomena related to developing the well-being and human capital of the population; be familiar with and able to use national statistics resources, locating databases on the course themes.
* (on an economic-labour level) have an overview of the economic analysis of human capital and the economic causal factors behind educational and training decisions, both on a micro and macro level; understand and interpret the institutional architecture within which policies operate and the various critical issues that they are called upon to address in terms of labour market and its recent development;
* (on a sociological level) know the concepts and tools for analysing the social conditions under which education/training policies develop; be able to explain, understand and interpret inequalities in the field of education by critically interpreting the specific phenomena and aspects that impact on educational policies.

1. *Applying knowledge and understanding*

* (with reference to the demographic and statistical approach) students will be able to: analyse the dynamic and structure of a population of individuals; identify micro and macro dimensions in a behavioural study; associate certain demographic events with variations in well-being and human capital; access, consult and extract information from official databases; interpret graphs and tables produced independently or by others.
* In identifying objectives in the labour market, students must combine awareness with an understanding of the potentiality of interactions between various policy instruments and of the constraints impeding their implementation. The comparison of different international realities and companies aims to stimulate students’ analytical skills and assessment of alternatives to human capital policy.
* Students will be able to use the theoretical, methodological and empirical contributions of sociology to develop professional skills in designing educational policies for equal opportunities, for educational inclusion of students with immigrant backgrounds and special educational needs.

***COURSE CONTENT***

I. *Introductory aspects*

* Key concepts and measuring human capital.
* Three approaches to assess politics: motivations and peculiarities.

II. *Overview on demographics and the relationships with the human capital*

* The main demographic transformations and the link to human capital.
* The demographic methods and concepts for the analysis of the human capital.
* Reproductive behaviour, individual and collective well-being.
* Demographic aging, individual and collective well-being.
* Migrations and human capital.
* Overview of consulting data bases: CapitaleUmano.Stat, Demo Istat, Bes, I.Stat.

III. *The relationship between education and human capital*

* Policies for education/training from a sociological perspective.
* Education, social inequalities, policies for equal educational opportunities.
* The case of Italy in the European context
* Training policies for people with migration background and special educational needs

IV. *The relationship between human capital and the labour market*

* Concept and measurement of human capital in economics.
* The choice of investment in human capital: theory and applications.
* Efficiency of human capital at individual and aggregate levels: relations and criticality
* Public intervention and financing of education policies.
* The role of human capital within the dynamics of the labour market.
* Policies for human capital, digital innovation and business.
* Labour policies and enhancing human capital.

***READING LIST***

Lecturers will provide reading material at the beginning of each module and publish it simultaneously on Blackboard. Further study materials will be made available on Blackboard.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Lecturers will alternate throughout the semester depending on the topic being taught. The course will involve the use of the Blackboard platform.

There will also be two final active learning sessions aimed at exploring some of the course topics in more detail, attendance is optional. If students do decide to participate, this may result in a higher final mark in the examination.

Further details will be provided during the first weeks of lesson.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Assessment will be by means of an oral test. On the same day, there will be an oral test on each of the 3 study models, which will last overall no longer than one hour, equally divided into 3 parts.

Students will only pass the examination if they show that they are proficient in all three modules. Students will be required to use a PC to consult databases.

Assessment will be a single mark out of thirty, students must show at least sufficient knowledge of the three abovementioned modules.

The final result will be communicated via the SVE app on the same day.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

The course has no prerequisites in terms of content.

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.