# Economic Sociology

## Prof. Barbara Barabaschi

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

The course aims to offer some essential tools for reading economic processes within broad social dynamics, with particular reference to changes in the labour market and in business. In particular, it has the following objectives:

* know and understand the models and operating principles of the labour market and business as social institutions, as well as the main players who define the operating rules of these institutions;
* analyse theoretical models and principles applied to concrete situations, through the analysis of business cases and local and national policies according to the job offer perspective;
* independently judge the opportunities and criticalities of the various business models and labour markets, with a view to economic and social sustainability and stakeholder engagement, with reference to specific target groups (women, young people, people aged over 50);
* communicate and discuss with peers the knowledge acquired through the analysis of business cases and local or national policies.

At the end of the course, students will be able to analyse and interpret company and national policies with an impact on the labour market, identify the critical success factors, as well as the limits for economic and social sustainability, with reference to specific target groups. Finally, they will have to develop a policy analysis report and share the results with their peers.

### **COURSE CONTENT**

The course addresses the following topics:

* Evolution of production ad labour models.
* Sustainable development policies: the role of training and social capital.
* Emerging *welfare* systems, the role of the third sector and social enterprises.
* The informal economy.
* Labour market and social inclusion: examples of some groups (young people, over 50s, women).
* Research methodologies for the study of the labour market (outline).

### **READING LIST**

E. REYNERI, Sociologia del mercato del lavoro, Vol. I and Vol. II, Il Mulino, Bologna, 2011.

B. BARABASCHI, *Active welfare regimes europei* alla prova dell’invecchiamento delle forze di lavoro, FrancoAngeli, Milan, 2018

Information on the chapters to study will be provided during lectures and published on the *Blackboard* page of the course.

### **TEACHING METHOD**

Different teaching methods will be used. In addition to the lectures, the course will include: presentation and discussion of cases; group work and related written and oral presentation; seminars to investigate specific topics.

### **ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA**

The exam mainly consists of a written test with open-ended questions to be carried out at the end of the course. The test will account for 70% of the final mark. The group work assignment, submitted in writing and discussed in class, will account for 30% of the final exam mark. The exam questions will focus on the material presented in class and on the chapters of the textbook indicated in the detailed programme of the course available on the *Blackboard* platform.

Also the instructions for the group work assignments will be uploaded to the *Blackboard* page of the course, besides being presented in the class.

Non-attending students will take a written test consisting of open-ended questions based on the study of the assigned textbooks.

The exam mainly aims to assess the analysis and interpretation skills of the topics addressed in the course, but also the students’ ability to relate the different topics, and their language and communication skills, both in written form (group work, exam), and in oral form (presentation of group work).

The final assessment of the course consists of awarding a mark out of thirty.

### **NOTES AND PREREQUISITES**

There are no specific requirements for successful participation in the course and the achievement of the expected learning outcomes.

Information on office hours available on the teacher's personal page at <http://docenti.unicatt.it/>.