

Topics in Economics (Module B)

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Office Hours: Tuesdays 10-12 (by appointment)

- Instructor:
 - Office Hours: (by appointment). Viale S. Ignazio 78, 3rd floor, room 4
 - Webpage: <http://people.unica.it/gioannisulis/materiale-didattico/>
 - Research Webpage: <https://sites.google.com/site/gioannisulis/>
- Lectures: Room 12, Time 10-12
 - Week 1: November: 23, 24, 25
 - Week 2: Nov/December: 30, 1, 2
 - Week 3: December: 7
 - Week 4: December: 14, 15, 16
 - Week 5: January: 11, 12, 13 (3 hours) – Depending on presentations
- Papers and study materials (see below)
- Exams
 - January 23rd
 - February 24th
 - Summer (Check the dates)

Topics in Economics (Topics Covered)

- Module B of the course will be concerned with three main different topics.
 - The first one is the measurement of managerial practices and the effect of the quality of these practices on performance in different sectors. Particular attention will be dedicated to manufacturing and public sectors.
 - The second module of the course will be related to the study of the effects of labour regulations, as employment protection and trade unions on growth of productivity and investment in different sectors.
 - Finally, the third part of the course will study incentive pay, internal labour market careers in contexts in which firms can set their wage policies.
- Note for the Reading Material below
- Compulsory readings (***) . Suggested readings (**). Other readings (*).

Topics in Economics (Management)

- 1. (***) Most of the material can be found at <http://worldmanagementsurvey.org/>. For the slides see the link: <http://worldmanagementsurvey.org/teaching-material/>
- 2. (***) See the survey instruments and questionnaire for different sectors of the World Management Survey, available at <http://worldmanagementsurvey.org/survey-data/methodology/>
- 3. (***) You will find the academic research papers in manufacturing as well as general survey papers by Bloom and Van Reenen, available at <http://worldmanagementsurvey.org/academic-research/manufacturing-2/>
- 4. (***) Bloom, Nicholas and John Van Reenen. 2010b. “Why do management practices differ across firms and countries?” *The Journal of Economic Perspectives* 24 (1): 203–224. See link above.
- 5. (***) Bloom, Nicholas and John Van Reenen. 2010a. “New Approaches to Surveying Organizations.” *American Economic Review* 100 (2): 105–09. See link above

Topics in Economics (Management, continued)

- 6. (***) Di Liberto, Adriana, Schivardi, Fabiano and Sulis, Giovanni (2015) Managerial Practices and Student Performance, *Economic Policy*, 30 (84), 683-728. See Reading material. Working paper version also available at <http://ftp.iza.org/dp8475.pdf>
- 7. (**) Syverson, Chad. 2011. "What Determines Productivity?" *Journal of Economic Literature* 49:2, 326–365. See Reading material.
- 8. (*) Bloom, Nicholas and John Van Reenen. 2007. "Measuring and Explaining Management Practices Across Firms and Countries." *The Quarterly Journal of Economics* 122 (4):1351–1408. See link previous page.
- 9. (*) Bloom et al (2013) "Does Management Matter? Evidence from India," *Quarterly Journal of Economics*. Available at <http://web.stanford.edu/~nbloom/DMM.pdf>
- 10. (*) Bloom et al (2014) "Does working from home work? Evidence from a Chinese experiment." *Quarterly Journal of Economics*. Available at <http://web.stanford.edu/~nbloom/WFH.pdf>

Topics in Economics (Employment Protection)

- 11. (***) Scarpetta, Stefano: <http://wol.iza.org/articles/employment-protection>
- 12. (***) Henrekson, Magnus: <http://wol.iza.org/articles/how-labor-market-institutions-affect-job-creation-and-productivity-growth>
- 13. (***) Conti, Maurizio and Sulis, Giovanni (2016) Human Capital, Employment Protection and Growth in Europe, *Journal of Comparative Economics*, 44, 213-230. See Reading material.
- 14. (**) Bottasso Anna, Conti, Maurizio and Sulis, Giovanni (2015) Firm Dynamics and Employment Protection: Evidence from Sectoral Data. Discussion Paper IZA n. 9740, <http://ftp.iza.org/dp9740.pdf>
- 15. (**) Bassanini, A., Nunziata, L. and Venn, D. (2009). "Job protection legislation and productivity growth in OECD countries", *Economic Policy*, vol. 24 (April), pp. 349-402. See Reading material.
- 16. (**) Cingano, F., Leonardi, M., Messina, J. and Pica, G. (2010). "The effects of employment protection legislation and financial market imperfections on investment: evidence from a firm-level panel of EU countries", *Economic Policy*, vol. 25 (January), pp. 117-163. See Reading material.

Topics in Economics (Unions and Firms)

- 17. (***) Bryson, Alex: <http://wol.iza.org/articles/union-wage-effects>
- 18. (***) Addison, John: <http://wol.iza.org/articles/consequences-of-trade-union-power-erosion>
- 19. (***) Sulis, Giovanni: <http://wol.iza.org/articles/unions-and-investment-in-intangible-capital>
- 20. (***) Lerman, Robert: <http://wol.iza.org/articles/do-firms-benefit-from-apprenticeship-investments>
- 21. (***) Faberman, Jason: <http://wol.iza.org/articles/recruiting-intensity>
- 22. (***) Hamermesh, Daniel: <http://wol.iza.org/articles/do-labor-costs-affect-companies-demand-for-labor>
- 23. (**) Bellmann, Lutz: <http://wol.iza.org/articles/do-in-plant-alliances-foster-employment>
- 24. (*) Cardullo, Gabriele, Conti, Maurizio and Sulis, Giovanni (2015) Sunk Capital, Unions and the Hold-Up Problem: Theory and Evidence from Cross-Country Sectoral Data, European Economic Review, 76 (May), 253-274. See Reading material.

Topics in Economics (Incentives and Gender)

- 25. (***) Borjas, George. Labor Economics, McGraw-Hill, Chapter 12: Incentive Pay. See Reading material.
- 26. (***) Edward P. Lazear & Kathryn L. Shaw, 2007. "Personnel Economics: The Economist's View of Human Resources," Journal of Economic Perspectives, vol. 21(4), pages 91-114, Fall. See Reading material.
- 27. (***) Bertrand, Marianne. 2011. New Perspectives on Gender, Handbook of Labor Economics, vol. 4b, chap. 17. Elsevier, 1545–1592. See reading material.
- 28. (*) Bloom, Nicholas and John Van Reenen. 2011. Human Resource Management and Productivity, Handbook of Labor Economics, vol. 4, chap. 19. Elsevier, 1697–1767. See reading material.

Topics in Economics (Exam)

- The evaluation will take place through a written exam (50%) and two assessments during the course (25% each), one for each module. Students will have to prepare a written report (Module A) and to present a specific study to the class (Module B). Students that will write the report and present a study to the class can choose to answer just two out of four questions at the final exam (one for each module). [30 minutes per question].
- The final exam consists of four open questions (closed books) on the topics taught in the course (2 for module A and 2 for module B). Students that will not present the report and study to the class will be required to write the entire exam (4 questions instead of 2).
- Presentations for Module B: 15 minutes power point of one study from the IZA World of Labor website. Suggested areas of interest are those related to the topics discussed in the class, but students can choose themselves in other areas. <http://wol.iza.org/subject-areas/>