

Economics of the Family: A New Era

Course title: Economics of the Family: A New Era

Instructor: Giuseppe Sorrenti (University of Amsterdam)

Period: April-May 2024

Target audience: Graduate students in economics, sociology, family studies, and related fields

Prerequisites: Intermediate knowledge of microeconomics, macroeconomics, and statistics.

Short description: The Economics of the Family is a rapidly evolving field that attracts scholars with diverse backgrounds in **microeconomics and a macroeconomics**. This course provides an economics perspective on **family-related topics and their interdisciplinary connections with fields such as psychology and sociology**. Students will learn about the latest developments in the field and a combined approach that integrates **economic theory, reduced-form approaches, and structural econometrics techniques**.

The course covers some of the following **topics**: culture and the family; the determinants of education decisions; the determinants of fertility choices, gender gaps in family investments, and intergenerational mobility.

The course will cover several scientific papers at the frontier of the literature and will give a **specific focus to both developing and developed countries**.

Main reference:

Handbook of the Economics of the Family (Vol.1) (2023), Elsevier.

Editors: Shelly Lundberg, Alessandra Voena.

Scientific papers assigned to students.

Course plan:

Module 1

Introduction to the Economics of the Family (1 hour)

Module 2

Culture and the family (2,5 hours)

Module 3

The Economics of Fertility: A New Era (2,5 hours)

Module 4

The Returns to Education (2 hours)

Module 5

The Demand for Education (2 hours)

Module 6

Gender Gaps and Parental Investments (2 hours)

Module 7

Early Childhood Development (2 hours)

Module 8

Summary and students' debate based on extra readings (2 hours)