

GENERAL INFORMATION
Course name: Fertility, Mortality and Economic Development
Number of credits: 1
Name of teacher: Alessandro Cigno
Modules (if applicable):
Semester: II
Venue:
Website:

CONTENTS
Objectives: Research training in the subject area indicated by the title.
<p>Contents: The development process is typically characterized first by a phase in which mortality falls more rapidly than fertility, and the population consequently increases, and then by a phase in which the opposite is true ("demographic transition"). Demographers explain (in a statistical, not in an economic sense) mortality and fertility decline as a consequence of economic development, usually interpreted as per-capita income growth and taken as exogenous. Economists, by contrast, view fertility and to some extent mortality as outcomes of individual optimizing decisions, and explain economic development by the interaction of these decisions with government policy. The course examines two lines of reasoning present in the literature, one originating from Becker and emphasizing the quantity-quality trade-off, the other originating from Cigno and emphasizing the fertility-mortality trade-off.</p>
<p>Prerequisites: Students are expected to be familiar with the basics of modern growth theory, and with the microeconomics of fertility choice. Those insufficiently familiar with the subject must acquire the necessary notions before the course starts by studying:</p> <p>Barro, R. J and X. Sala-i-Martin (2004), <i>Economic Growth</i>, 2nd Ed., Cambridge (Mass.) and London (England): MIT Press</p> <p>Rosenzweig, M. and O. Stark, eds. (1997), <i>Handbook of Population and Family Economics</i> (especially Chs. 20 and 21), Amsterdam: Elsevier</p>
<p>Required reading: All students must download all the articles listed below (other than Cigno and Pinal 2004, which is not downloadable) and bring them at the first lecture, when they will be assigned the topic to study.</p> <p>Angeles, L. (2010), "Demographic transitions: analysing the effects of mortality on fertility", <i>Journal of Population Economics</i> 23, 99-120</p> <p>Bailey, M. J. O. Malkova and J. Norling (2014), "Do family planning programs decrease poverty? Evidence from public census data", <i>CESifo Economic Studies</i> 60, 312-337</p> <p>Cigno, A. (1998), "Fertility decisions when infant survival is endogenous", <i>Journal of Population Economics</i> 11, 21-28</p> <p>----- and G. Pinal (2004), "Endogenous child mortality, price of child-specific goods and fertility decisions: evidence from Argentina" in D. Heymann, F. Navajas and E. Bour (eds.), <i>Latin American Economic Crises</i>, London: Palgrave Macmillan</p> <p>Jones, L. E. and A. Schoonbroodt (2010), "Complements versus substitutes and trends in fertility choice in dynastic models", <i>International Economic Review</i> 51, 671-699</p> <p>Liu, H. (2014), "The quality-quantity trade-off: evidence from the relaxation of China's one-child policy", <i>Journal of Population Economics</i> 27, 565-602</p> <p>Strulik, H. (2004), "Economic growth and stagnation with endogenous health and fertility", <i>Journal of Population Economics</i> 17, 433-453</p>
<p>Teaching approach:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - lecture hours: 2 - labs hours: 4
Exams: Each student will be assigned a topic (collection of journal articles) to study and present orally in a lab,

and will then be graded on the basis of a written paper to be submitted by April the 10th.

TEACHER

Alessandro Cigno is a Professor of Economics at the University of Florence, and an editor of the Journal of Population Economics and of the Springer book series in Population Economics. He is also a fellow of CESifo, CHILD, IZA and RCEA, and a former president of the European Society for Population Economics (ESPE) and of the Centre for Household, Income, Labour and Demographic Economics (CHILD). He has been a consultant for the British Council, Cooperazione Italiana, the European Commission, the World Bank, and UNICEF.

Professor Cigno graduated in Economics from the University of Catania, specialized in Development Economics at the University of Naples (Portici), and obtained his Ph.D. in Mathematical Economics from the University of Birmingham (UK). Before joining the University of Florence, he held permanent or visiting appointments at several universities throughout the world including, as a full professor, Wisconsin (Madison), Hull (UK) and Pisa. His research has concentrated mostly on the economics of the family (in particular, fertility, mortality, intergenerational transfers and the optimal fiscal treatment of families), on aspects of labour economics including child labour, and on pension system design. His publications include six books and numerous articles in scholarly journals such as the Economic Journal, the European Economic Review, the Journal of Public Economics and the Review of Economic Studies.