

## Technology, Skills and Inequality

UGRA\_016608

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Departments	Department of Economics, Finance & Accounting
Teaching Languages	English
ECTS	5
Teacher responsible	Ioana Schiopu - ioana.schiopu@esade.edu

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### Course Goals

Labor market inequality, especially the widening gap in earnings between the highest- and lowest-paid workers, has become a widespread and persistent trend in many countries over the past several decades. Understanding its causes is crucial not only for designing effective policy responses, but ultimately for preserving market-based, democratic institutions. We explore the key drivers of earnings inequality and why these patterns vary significantly across nations. It begins by examining the role of human capital—such as education, skills, and capabilities—in shaping workers' outcomes, both historically and in the future. Next, we examine how employers and labor market institutions shape inequality, and how government policies can reduce disparities.

### Prerequisites

Introductory Microeconomics, Introductory Macroeconomics, Statistics

### Teaching methodology

Lecturing is combined with various student activities (discussions, presentations, practical exercises).

### Description

### Course contribution to program

Labor market inequality, especially the widening gap in earnings between the highest- and lowest-paid workers, has become a widespread and persistent trend in many countries over the past several decades. Understanding its causes is crucial not only for designing effective policy responses, but ultimately for preserving market-based, democratic institutions. We explore the key drivers of earnings inequality and why these patterns vary significantly across nations. It begins by examining the role of human capital—such as education, skills, and capabilities—in shaping workers' outcomes, both historically and in the future. Next, we examine how employers and labor market institutions shape inequality, and how government policies can reduce disparities.

## Activities

In-class discussions and debates

Quizzes/tests

Group presentations

## Content

#	Topic
1	Income Inequality: Concepts and Measures
2	The Consequences of Inequality
3	Skills, Work, and Technological Disruption
4	Gender Inequality in the Labor Market
5	Automation, AI, and the Future of Work
6	Labor Market Institutions and Policies

## Assessment

Tool	Assessment tool	Category	Weight %
Attendance and punctuality		Ordinary round	10.00%
Quizzes/tests		Ordinary round	40.00%
Group project		Ordinary round	50.00%

### PROGRAMS

G114-Global Governance Exchange Program (Undergraduates: Law)  
G114 Year 1 (Optative)