Course description and objectives
In spite of the substantial increase of women’s participation in education and labour market, gender gaps still persist in our societies. On one side, we observe differences in employment rates and wages between men and women, especially for women with children. On the other side, women are under-represented in economic decision-making. The glass ceiling is still very real both in the realm of firms and in politics. This course provides an empirical and theoretical analysis of the main policies related to family and gender issues, which aim at reducing gender gaps. These policies include, among the others, child care, which may support women’s participation to the labor market, and gender quotas, which, while being a quite controversial measure, have proved efficacy in breaking persistent glass ceilings. We will also explore the role of gender culture as a main determinant of gender gaps and their differences across countries, and a crucial factor when evaluating the impact of policies on outcomes.

The course is organized in lectures (with detailed reading material indicated below) and presentations (with written report). Students are required to write an essay by the end of the term.
Lectures: All students are encouraged to read the material in advance and actively participate to all classes. General discussions are encouraged throughout the course.
Presentations: All students are required to read the paper in advance. Students in couples present the paper by using slides. The slides will be organized as follows: motivation and research question, short literature review, data collection, methodology, analysis and results, conclusions with policy implications, discussion of 2 or 3 points. In addition, the students are required to prepare a written 2-pages referee report on the same paper to hand in at the end of the presentation. Each presentation lasts 20 minutes, plus a 10 minutes general discussion at the end. All students are required to read the paper before the presentation.
Essay: The first day of class, after presentation of data and scenario, students will choose an issue to investigate and they will prepare a final 10 pages paper on this issue, organized in: motivation based on data description and analysis, possible research question, literature review, initial stage of data collection and analysis and line of development of the research. Students will send the paper by email at the end of the term.

Detailed Description of Assessment Methods
60% final paper; 30% presentation and referee report; 10% participation in class

Contact
E-mail: paola.profeta@unibocconi.it
Office: 3 b1-03, Via Roentgen 1
Office hour: By appointment
Course outline

18/9, 10.30 AND 12.30 (ROOM 1e4Sr01)
Lesson 1-2: Scenario: Gender gaps. Data and perspectives
Teacher’s notes
Readings:
- OECD, Closing The Gender Gap: Act Now. Executive Summary.
  http://www.oecd.org/gender/closingthegap.htm

25/9, 10.30 AND 12.30 (ROOM 1e4Sr01)
Lesson 3-4: Women’s education and labor market participation
Teacher’s notes
Readings:

1/10, 8.45 (ROOM 1e4Sr01)
Lesson 5: Experimental evidence
Teacher’s notes
Readings:

2/10, 12.30 (ROOM 1e4Sr01)
Lesson 6: Family policies
Teacher’s notes
Readings:

8/10, 8.45 (ROOM 1e4Sr01)
Lesson 7: Gender quotas in politics
Teacher’s notes
Readings:

9/10, 12.30 (ROOM 1e4Sr01)
Lesson 8: Gender quotas in business
Teacher’s notes
Readings:

15/10, 8.45 (ROOM 1e4Sr01)
Lesson 9: Students’ presentations

16/10, 12.30 (ROOM 1e4Sr01)
Lesson 10: Students’ presentations

29/10 10.30-13 (ROOM TBC)
Lesson 11 and 12: Gender Equality conference
Paola Giuliano, UCLA, Keynote speaker
Round-table on Gender and policies with policy-makers and business leaders