

# Collegio Carlo Alberto

## Allievi Program

### Tutorial in Economics

Instructors: Ainhoa Aparicio Fenoll and Ignacio Monzón

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#### Objective of the course

In this course, we present an introduction to economic problems and, more importantly, economic reasoning. Our first objective is to illustrate the questions economists aim to answer. We show how economics deals with issues of diverse nature, like:

- What explains the reduction in criminality occurred in the last two decades?
- Which is the influence of parents on children outcomes?
- How is the production of a society distributed? Why do some get more than others?
- Why do some people succeed far more than others?
- Why are most hockey players born in January?
- Why does unemployment occur? Is it avoidable?

Our second objective is to describe the methods economists use to answer these widely diverse questions. We will test economic theories both by using real data and designing our own experiments.

#### Structure of the class

Students and instructors meet weekly to discuss the contents of the class. Before each meeting, students should read the assigned material, in order to organize the discussion around it.

#### Materials

This course will focus on the following books:

- Robert L. Heilbroner, “The Worldly Philosophers”, Simon & Schuster, 1999
- Malcolm Gladwell, “Outliers”, Little, Brown and Company, 2008
- Steven D. Levitt and Stephen J. Dubner, “Freakonomics: A Rogue Economist Explores the Hidden Side of Everything”, William Morrow, 2006