Master Course Program Fall Semester 2013

If you want to join an elective course please send your **registration by e-mail** to econgrad@uni-mannheim.de **no later than September 1st.**

Information for exchange students, MMM students and Business Mathematics students: Please note that you can choose freely from our elective courses as long as you fulfill the prerequisites mentioned there. (In case of doubt, please contact the lecturers for more information about the prerequisites and to discuss if you fulfill them.) **Core courses** are **not open** for exchange students and students from other programs.

Core Courses

E600 One week preparatory course in mathematics for master students

Arias

One week daily preparatory course in mathematics for master students in Economics - to brush up the mathematics knowledge for the following core courses in fall semester 2013. The course is optional.
26.08.-30.08.2013

Contents:
Algebra

- Propositional logic.
- Set Algebra.
- Natural Numbers.
- Algebraic structure.
- Linear Algebra.

Mathematical analysis

- Basic topology.
- Sequences and Series.
- Continuity.
- Differentiation.

Mathematics for Economists

- Taylor Expansions.
- Optimization.
- Inverse Function Theorem.
- Implicit Function Theorem.
- Envelope Theorem.

ECTS credits: 0.0

Start: 26.08.2013

Exercise:
Monday to Friday, 10:15 to 11:45 in L15, 1-6 A001, 13:45 to 17:00 in L15, 1-6 A001

E601 Advanced Microeconomics

Niedermayer

The course gives a foundation for studies of microeconomics on a graduate level. It covers classical consumer demand under certainty, utility maximization and cost minimization, choice under uncertainty, fundamentals of game theory, games under incomplete information, and different equilibrium refinement concepts.

1. Consumer Choice (Mas-Colell, Whinston, and Green, Chapter 2)
2. Classical Demand Theory (MWG Ch. 3)
3. Producer Theory(MWG Ch. 3)
4. Choice Under Uncertainty (MWG Ch. 6)
5. Static Non-Cooperative Games (MWG Ch. 7 and 8; Fudenberg and Tirole)
6. Dynamic Non-Cooperative Games (MWG Ch. 9; Fudenberg and Tirole)

ECTS credits: 10.0

Start: 03.09.2013

Lecture:
Tuesday, 08:30 to 10:00 in L 7, 3-5 S 031
Thursday, 08:30 to 10:00 in L 7, 3-5 S 031

Exercises:
Group 1 (Hoffmann)
Monday, 17:15 to 18:45 in L 9, 1-2 003

Group 2 (Hoffmann)
Friday, 10:15 to 11:45 in L 9, 1-2 002

E602 Advanced Macroeconomics

Pfeifer

The course familiarizes students with the essential concepts of modern macroeconomic theory at an advanced level.
A particular focus will be placed on learning how to use formal microfounded models to analyze and understand both economic growth dynamics and business cycle fluctuations.
In order to guide the economic modeling, the course will use empirical data to generate stylized facts about economic growth and business cycles that useful models must aim to explain, both quantitatively and qualitatively.
In terms of economic models, the following topics will be covered:
- Growth Theory: the Solow Model, the Ramsey-Cass-Koopmans Model, and Endogenous Growth Theory.
- Business Cycles: the Real Business Cycle Model, the Classical Monetary Model, and the basic New Keynesian Model.
During the course students will also learn the necessary techniques to solve dynamic stochastic models both analytically and numerically using Dynare.
While the course will be mostly concerned with positive economic theory, students will also learn to derive and understand the normative and policy implications of the covered models.

ECTS credits: 10.0

Start: 02.09.2013

Lecture:
Monday, 12:00 to 13:30 in L15, 1-6 A001
Thursday, 12:00 to 13:30 in L7, 3-5 001

Exercises:
Group 1 (Exler)
Thursday, 05.09.13 17:15 to 18:45 in L 7, 3-5 158
Thursday, from 12.09.13: 17:15 to 18:45 in L 7, 3-5 S 031

Group 2 (Exler)
Friday, 06.09.13 13:45 to 15:15 in L 7, 3-5 158
Friday, 13:45 to 15:15 in L 7, 3-5 S 031

E603 Advanced Econometrics

Frölich

The goal of the module is to offer advanced treatment to econometric theory and to serve as the gate way to further advanced theoretical and applied econometric modules offered in the economics graduate program at the Department of Economics in Mannheim.
The module offers a revision of undergraduate level econometrics before moving on to extensive coverage of large-sample theory and some organizing estimation principles such as GMM and Extremum estimators. Asymptotic properties of these estimators are also the focus of the module as well as non-linear models and the treatment of serial correlation.

ECTS credits: 10.0

Start: 03.09.2013

Lecture:
Tuesday, 12:00 to 13:30 in L15, 1-6 A001
Wednesday, 12:00 to 13:30 in L 9, 1-2 - 001

Exercises:
Group 1 (Unte)
Tuesday, 17:15 to 18:45 in L 9, 1-2 002

Group 2 (Unte)
Wednesday, 17:15 to 18:45 in L 9, 1-2 003

Elective Courses

E512 Empirical Labor and Health Economics (seminar)

Uhlendorff

Adequate empirical modeling and careful interpretation of the estimation results are necessary if one wants to estimate causal effects in economics. This seminar deals with microeconometric approaches for empirical research in labor and health economics. The idea ist that students will replicate and extend a published empirical study and discuss their results at the end of the semester. Potential topics include the impact of participation in training programs on employment outcomes and the effects of schooling on health. The aim of the course is to gain practical experience in applying modern microeconometric techniques to real data.

Prerequisites: E703

ECTS credits: 5.0

Organizational meeting: Wednesday, 04.09.2013, 10:00 to 11:00 in L 7, 3-5, 410

Block seminar:
Wednesday 20.11.2013, 13:45 to 18:15 in L 7, 3-5, 410
Thursday 21.11.2013, 13:45 to 18:15 in (Schloß Ehrenhof Ost - EO 289)

E513 Demography and Region (seminar)

Gans

This is a block seminar for students in economics (M.Sc.) interested in migration as a form of spatial movement of people. Migration affects and is affected by the direct social environment of migrants, but restructures the entire societal – or 'developmental' – context of the concrete spaces in which migration takes place, both at the receiving and sending end. First, we will analyze historical and current migration flows, and secondly, the impact of migration on countries of origin and destination. Topics include e. g. migrant networks, remittances or brain circulation.

ECTS credits: 5.0

Organizational meeting: Thursday, 12.09.2013, 18:00 to 19:00 in L 7, 3-5, 410

Block seminar:
Thursday 19.09.2013, 15:30 to 18:45 in L 7, 3-5, P 044
Thursday 26.09.2013, 15:30 to 18:45 in L 7, 3-5, P 044

E516 Labour Economics: Empirical Analyses of Wage Formation (seminar)

Gürtzgen

The seminar mainly deals with topics related to "Wage formation", with a focus on microeconometric empirical analyses. The seminar covers topics, such as union wage differentials, minimum wages, seniority remuneration, efficiency wages, insurance contracts etc.

Prerequisites: Advanced Econometrics I
MMM students should have some knowledge in Advanced Econometrics and Labor Economics.

ECTS credits: 5.0

Organizational meeting: Friday, 05.09.2013, 12:00 to 13:00 in (L9, 1-2, 002)
Block seminar: Thursday/Friday, 28./29.11.2013, 09:00 to 18:00 in ZEW, room 310

E518 Information and Incentives (lecture + exercise)

Levy

This course focuses on the principal-agent model, i.e. the strategic interaction between two players (the principal and the agent), one of which (the agent) has superior information. This theory examines how the principal optimally design a contract that induces the agent to reveal his private information (adverse selection model) or to provide effort (moral hazard model).

The course introduces these basic models and explores some theoretical extensions, in particular in the field of labour economics (multi-tasking, multi-agent moral hazard…). It also discusses other applications, in corporate finance, industrial organization, theory of the firm etc.

Prerequisites: none

ECTS credits: 7.0

Thursday, 09:30 to 11:45 in L7, 3-5, P043

E520 Seminar in Empirical Industrial Organization (seminar)

Schmidt-Dengler/Durrmeyer

This block seminar covers recent empirical work in Industrial Organization. Students will present one paper and write a report evaluating the paper critically and suggesting improvements as well as further applications.

Prerequisites: Advanced Microeconomics, Advanced Econometrics

ECTS credits: 5.0

Organizational meeting: Thursday, 12.09.2013, 10:00 to 11:00 in L 7, 3-5 - 410
Block seminar: Friday, 29.11.2013, 08:00 to 12:00 in L7, 3-5, 410

E533 Auction Theory (lecture + exercise)

Tröger

The goals are (i) to provide an understanding of the incentives involved in strategic bidding in auction mechanisms, and of the properties of equilibria, (ii) to show how various auction mechanisms are useful in public procurement, regulatory market design, retailing, art sales, and many other contexts, and (iii) to teach the principles of optimal auction design. Summary of course description: I. Introduction: Why rules matter in markets with private information. II. The independent-private-values model. III. The first-price auction. IV. Asymmetries and Pareto inefficiency. V. The second-price and English auctions. VI. Revenue comparison of standard auctions. VII. Revenue comparison with risk-averse bidders. VIII. The revenue equivalence theorem. IX. Optimal-auction design. X. The winner's curse.
Included are several experiments in which auctions are played in class.

Prerequisites: for Economics students: E700, E701, E702, E703 or equivalent; for Business Mathematics students: Game Theory (not suitable for MMM students)

ECTS credits: 7.0

Tuesday , 10:15 to 11:45 in L7, 3-5, P043
Friday , 13:45 to 14:30 in L9, 1-2 - 002

E546 Cross-Country and Time-Series Growth Comparisons (seminar)

Lee

Goals and Contents of the module
Traditional explanations for economic growth were primarily based on physical capital accumulation and population growth. More recently, economists have focused on human capital accumulation, government intervention, and technological innovation. In this seminar, students are asked to find their own explanations for economic growth. You will present empirical evidence, either within a single country over time or a cross-country comparison, to demonstrate that your explanation of choice indeed matters for growth. The explanation must be further backed by careful reasoning of why it should matter, either through a theoretical argument or additional empirical evidence. A self-contained term paper covering the presented material and comments from the instructor/peers is required for final evaluation.
Expected Competences acquired after completion of the module
Working knowledge of growth regressions, working knowledge of exisiting work on empirical growth and development, standard determinants of growth, capability to critically analyze development issues that are raised in the public media

Prerequisites: Macro A, Introductory Statistics

ECTS credits: 5.0

Organizational meeting: Friday, 06.09.2013, 10:15 to 11:45 in L9, 1-2, 003
Block seminar: Friday/Saturday, 15./16.11.2013, 09:00 to 18:00 in L9, 1-2 003

E555 Experimental and Behavioral Economics (lecture + seminar)

Orzen/Penczynski

This course provides a foundation in experimental and behavioral economics. Traditionally, economists have sought to explain market outcomes and economic decision-making based on the model of perfectly rational, self-interested agents who maximize their well-being by carefully weighing up costs and benefits of different alternatives. Behavioral economics aspires to relax these stringent assumptions and to develop a better understanding of how real people actually make decisions. This endeavor is often guided by evidence from laboratory and field experiments. This course introduces students to research on risk, time and social preferences, various forms of cognitive limitations in information processing and decision

making in strategic settings. Experimental results, theoretical advances as well as the interesting interplay between the two are considered.

Prerequisites: Bachelor in Economics (MMM students: Business Economics 1)

ECTS credits: 10.0

Wednesday, 12:00 to 13:30 in L 9, 1-2 - 002
Thursday, 15:30 to 17:00 in L9, 1-2, 009

E556 Imperfect Competition and Firm Strategy (seminar)

Peitz/Samkharadze

Course description:
This seminar covers selected topics in competitive strategy broadly defined. We will particularly focus on the study of strategic interaction between firms and consumers in imperfectly competitive markets. We will cover topics such as pricing strategies by firms, strategies for network and information goods, brand strategies, product design, advertising, information suppression, strategic responses by consumers, consumer behavioral biases, etc. To explore these topics, we will use simple but rigorous analytical models and plenty of real-world examples. Main analytical tools will be microeconomic theory and game theory.

Prerequisites: bachelor level microeconomics, game theory or introductory industrial organization.(Microeconomic A+B, Industrial Organization).

ECTS credits: 5.0

Organizational meeting: Friday, 13.09.2013, 10:15 to 11:45 in L9, 1-2, 003
Block seminar: Friday, 25.10.2013, 09:00 to 18:00 in L7, 3-5, P044
Block seminar: Saturday, 26.10.2013, 09:00 to 18:00 in L7, 3-5, S 031

E560 Public Economics (seminar)

Janeba

This seminar is for Master students who are interested in the areas of public economics and international trade. Students are asked to write a term paper and present their findings to the rest of the class. Suggested/Tentative topics:

- 1) The road to worldwide free trade: Bilateral vs. multilateral agreements?
- 2) The effects of a financial transaction tax
- 3) Tax competition models with heterogenous firms
- 4) Does culture affect international trade?
- 5) Brain Drain vs. Brain Gain
- 6) Empirical evidence on trade liberalization in developing countries
- 7) Models of asymmetric tax competition

- 8) The incidence of the corporation tax: empirical results
- 9) Profit shifting of multinational firms
- 10) FDI and Bilateral Investment Treaties/Double Taxation Agreements

Prerequisites: For Economics students: E700, E701, E702, E703 or equivalent; for MMM and Business Mathematics students: Business Economics I and II or equivalent
The seminar is ideal for students who have taken courses in this area (e.g., International Trade and Tax Policy Analysis, Public Economics), but this is not a requirement.

ECTS credits: 5.0

Organizational meeting: Wednesday, 04.09.2013, 11:30 to 12:00 in L7, 3-5, P044
Block seminar: Friday, 18.10.2013, 08:45 to 11:45 in L7, 3-5, P044
Block seminar: Friday, 29.11.2013, 09:00 to 17:00 in L7, 3-5, P044

E566 Strategic Information Transmission for Masterstudents (seminar)

Honryo

Course description:
Students are required to pick one paper in selected topics and give a presentation to discuss the paper's strengths and weaknesses. Based on comments that they receive in the presentation, students are required to write a report summarizing the seminar paper. Topics include cheap talk games, persuasion games, and their application to political economics. To make a presentation in class based on a paper of your choice on strategic information transmission, I recommend you pick a paper from the list I will distribute.

Prerequisites: Knowledge of non-cooperative game theory under incomplete information.

ECTS credits: 6.0

Organizational meeting: Wednesday, 09.09.2013, 10:15 to 11:45 in L7, 3-5, 410
Block seminar: Wednesday, 20.11.2013, 08:00 to 18:00 in (L 15, 14-17 (Anbau) - B 101)

E567 Duration Analysis

Bergemann/Janys

Duration Analysis has become a core subject of econometrics. It reflects that dynamic aspects of economic behavior have become more important in economic theories. Duration analysis makes it possible to model dynamic transitions of individuals, firms or other entities from one state to the other. In this course we will introduce the key concepts of duration analysis and the theoretical foundations of duration models. We cover non-, semi- and fully parametric duration models, including competing risk models, stock-and-flow sampling and unobserved

heterogeneity. Herby we pay special attention to the identification of the models discussed in class. We also put a particular emphasis on applications using the statistical software Stata. Applications for duration models can be found in many different fields in economics such as finance, health and labor economics.

Prerequisites: Advanced Econometrics I

ECTS credits: 5.0

Tuesday, 13:45 to 15:15 in L 7, 3-5, S 031

E568 International Macroeconomics (lecture + exercise)

Evers

The course introduces the students to the main concepts of modern open economy macroeconomics. The course will cover the following topics:

- 1. Current Account
- 2. Real Exchange Rates
- 3. International Business Cycles
- 4. Exchange Rates and Macroeconomic Policy
- 5. Sovereign Debt

ECTS credits: 9.5

Monday, 15:30 to 18:45 in B6, 23-25, Bauteil A, A301