UNIVERSITÄT MANNHEIM
Abteilung Volkswirtschaftslehre

# Annotated Course Catalog for courses held in English language
# Spring Semester 2020
# B.Sc. Economics

Changes and updates are published in a separate file: https://www.vwl.uni-mannheim.de/studium/bachelorstudium/vorlesungsverzeichnis/

Please note that there was a single week to register for seminars in the Bachelor program (9 - 17 December 2019). Changing or cancelling seminar registrations was only possible in the week after the registration period.

All courses marked with ** / **** are suitable for German students in their second / fourth semester or international students with equivalent level of knowledge.

**Version: 6 February 2020**

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## Introductory Phase

**Macroeconomics A**

Mi 13:45 - 15:15 Uhr wöchentlich 12.02.2020 - 27.05.2020
A 001 Großer Hörsaal (B 6, 23-25 Bauteil A)

Mi 17:15 - 18:45 Uhr wöchentlich 12.02.2020 - 27.05.2020
SN 169 Röchling Hörsaal (Schloss Schneckenhof Nord)

Responsible teacher of the module: Husnu C. Dalgic, Ph.D.
Further instructor(s): teaching assistants for exercise classes
Cycle of offer: each spring
ECTS credits: 8
Teaching method (hours per week): lectures (4) + exercises (2)
Course language: English
Prerequisites: „Analysis“ or „Analysis und lineare Algebra A“, recommended: „Grundlagen der Volkswirtschaftslehre“
Grading: final exam (120 min)

Goals and contents of the module: The course sequence Macroeconomics A and Macroeconomics B provides a comprehensive introduction to macroeconomics. Participants will learn fundamental macroeconomic concepts and theories and how they are applied to answer policy-relevant questions. In addition, students will become familiar with important macroeconomic data facts and whether the theories studied in the course are consistent with these facts. The course Macroeconomics A focuses mainly on medium and long-run economic theories (classical theory and growth), while Macroeconomics B focuses on the short-run (business cycles).

Specific topics include:
1. Saving and investment
2. Microeconomic foundation
3. Macroeconomic data
4. Open economies
5. Monetary theory and monetary policy
6. Aggregate demand and aggregate supply
7. Economic growth
8. Unemployment

Expected competences acquired after completion of the module: Students who successfully complete the course will acquire basic tools for analyzing economic issues from a macroeconomic perspective. They are able to apply theories and models to analyze the effects of economic policies on the macroeconomy and to evaluate benefits and costs of such policies. In addition, they attain a critical understanding of basic macroeconomic models and empirical regularities in order to formulate scientific arguments relevant for current debates on macroeconomic issues. Finally, they will be able to propose policy reforms aimed at improving the overall economic situation and to discuss these proposals with economic experts.

Further information: Textbook: N. Gregory Mankiw, "Macroeconomics", Worth, 9th edition
Contact information: Husnu C. Dalgic, Ph.D., L 7, 3-5 Room P31, E-mail: dalgic@uni-mannheim.de

**Microeconomics A**

Di 8:30 - 10:30 Uhr wöchentlich 11.02.2020 - 26.05.2020
M 003 PWC Hörsaal (Schloss Mittelbau)

Do 10:15 - 11:45 Uhr wöchentlich 13.02.2020 - 28.05.2020
W 117 Hörsaal (Schloss Westflügel)

Responsible teacher of the module: Prof. Dr. Martin Peitz / Eleftheria Triviza, Ph.D.
Further instructors: Dr. Alexander Donges (coordination exercises), teaching assistants
Cycle of offer: each spring semester
ECTS credits: 8
Teaching method (hours per week): lecture (4) + exercise (2)
Course language: lectures and exercises are offered in English and German.
Prerequisites: Analysis und Lineare Algebra A, Grundlagen der Volkswirtschaftslehre recommended
Grading: final exam (120 min)

Goals and contents of the module: The goal is to teach the functioning and the welfare properties of competitive markets. The emphasis is on the interdependence of different markets (general equilibrium) and the resulting insights into welfare economics. Towards these goals the topics of preference relations, consumer theory, decisions under uncertainty, intertemporal decisions, producer theory and taxation of goods are introduced. Partial equilibrium is developed as a special case of general equilibrium. The taught knowledge of theoretical methods gets practiced in numerous applications. The technical aspects are amplified in particular in the tutorials and in problems solved in class. In contrast to the course Microeconomics B, the focus in Microeconomics A is on the analysis of non-strategic behaviour. The knowledge obtained in Microeconomics A is essential for many advanced courses in economics and business administration.

Expected competences acquired after completion of the module: The students are able to move away from the individual point of view when analyzing social situations. Instead they comprehend the interaction of individuals are an important factor, in particular in the context of interdependent markets, of decisions under uncertainty, and of decisions with delayed consequences. The students have learned to model economic problems as mathematical optimization problems under constraints and to think in terms of equilibria. After completing the course, the students are able to reproduce the obtained theoretical knowledge and to apply it to related problems. Furthermore, they have critically looked into the model of a competitive market and understand the assumptions that are necessary to make model applicable. The students are able to deepen their knowledge in advanced courses as well as in self-study.

The small number of participants per tutorial facilitates the interaction between the students and the tutors. Through the enfolding discussions, the students improve their ability to take field-related positions and formulate arguments to defend these.

Further information: Literature:

- Robert S. Pindyck und Daniel S. Rubinfeld, Microeconomics. (Sixth Edition), Pearson Education International, 2005.
- Hal R. Varian, Intermediate Microeconomics: A Modern Approach. (Sixth Edition), W. W. Norton & Company, 2002.

Contact Information: Eleftheria Triviza,Ph.D., E-Mail: etriviza@mail.uni-mannheim.de, Office: L7, 3-5, room 3.31

## Advanced Phase

Lectures

**Behavioral Economics **/******

Fr 13:45 - 15:15 Uhr wöchentlich 14.02.2020 - 29.05.2020
001 Hörsaal (L 7, 3-5)

Fr 15:30 - 17:00 Uhr wöchentlich 14.02.2020 - 29.05.2020
001 Hörsaal (L 7, 3-5)

Responsible teacher of the module: Prof. Dr. Wladislaw Mill
Cycle of offer: Each spring semester
ECTS credits: 7 ECTS
Teaching method (hours per week): Lecture (2) plus Exercise (2)
Course language: English
Prerequisites: Grundlagen der Volkswirtschaftslehre
Grading: written exam, 90mins.

Goals and contents of the module: Standard economic models make many assumptions and predictions about individual behavior. This course introduces new theories from Behavioral Economics, a young field of Economics that combines Economics and Psychology. In the light of experimental evidence, standard theories of risk, time and social preferences are revisited and more appropriate behavioral models introduced. Various forms of cognitive limitations in information processing are presented and consequences for economic behavior are highlighted. The course aims to provide access to theoretical concepts that take into account the nature of the human psyche.

Expected competences acquired after completion of the module: Successful students will be able to point out and discuss shortcomings for commonly made assumptions in standard microeconomic theory and their consequences in the modeled economic behavior. Students will learn to describe extensions alternative ways of thinking about individual preferences and cognitive processes in economic decisions. Students will work with new economic models and apply them. Further, students will able to isolate the main contribution of scientific papers and learn to critically evaluate scientific papers.

Contact Information: Wladislaw Mill; Phone: (0621) 181-1897; email: mill@uni-mannheim.de; L7, 3-5, Office: 418, Office hours: Tue 16-17

**Economic Growth ****

Mi 10:15 - 11:45 Uhr wöchentlich **19.02.2020** - 27.05.2020
S 031 Seminarraum (L 7, 3-5)

Do 10:15 - 11:45 Uhr wöchentlich **20.02.2020** - 28.05.2020
S 031 Seminarraum (L 7, 3-5)

Mi 17:15 - 18:45 Uhr Einzeltermin 19.02.2020
001 Hörsaal (L 7, 3-5)

Mi 17:15 - 18:45 Uhr Einzeltermin 04.03.2020
001 Hörsaal (L 7, 3-5)

Responsible teacher of the module: Prof. Antonio Ciccone, Ph.D.
Cycle of offer: each fall semester
ECTS credits: 8
Teaching method (hours per week): lecture (3) + practical exercises (1)
Course language: English
Prerequisites: Calculus, Makroökonomik A
Grading: The final grade will depend on your performance in a final exam administered at the end of the term and on how well you do in solving problem sets. The exam grade will count 70% and your problem set grade will count 30%. Problem sets can be done in groups but I want individual hand-written solutions from everybody.

Goals and contents of the module: The course is about fundamental models used to analyze theoretical and empirical issues in economic growth.

The broad structure of the course is:
A. Important Facts
B. The Neoclassical Growth Model with Empirical Implications and Applications
C. Human Capital, Externalities, Endogenous Technological Change, and Ideas
D. Institutions and Economic Development

In this class, we will learn about economic growth and development at the aggregate level. Growth typically refers to economic progress post-industrialization, while development refers to the process of industrialization itself, or the process of less-developed countries catching up with advanced countries. In this course, students will familiarize themselves with stylized facts in economic growth and development, along with the basic tools to analyze them. We will begin by summarizing stylized growth facts for industrialized countries and the world as a whole. We then proceed to learn the Solow growth model and its variants, which attempt to explain these facts - the main elements of the model are physical and human capital, population growth, and technological progress. The model-based approach allows us to think about the effects of government policy or exogenous changes from outside the model. We conclude the first half of the course with a theoretical review of why these models are able to explain some growth facts, where they fail, and a brief discussion of globalization. The latter half of the course will focus on development. We will briefly review Solow model variants of development and discuss why they are less well suited to answer questions regarding development. To this end, we study a Malthusian model and contrast its implications with a Solow-style model.

Expected competences acquired after completion of the module: students understand the most standard models of growth and factors that determine growth and development.
Students know how to construct empirical tests for examining competing explanations of growth and development.

Contact Information: Prof. Antonio Ciccone, Ph.D.; E-Mail: antonio.ciccone@uni-mannheim.de; Tel.: (0621) 181-1830; Office: L7, 3-5, room 2.19; Office hour: by appointment.

**Financial Economics ******

Di 10:15 - 11:45 Uhr wöchentlich 11.02.2020 - 26.05.2020
001 Hörsaal (L 7, 3-5)

Mi 17:15 - 18:45 Uhr 14-täglich 12.02.2020 - 27.05.2020
001 Hörsaal (L 7, 3-5)

Responsible teachers of the module: Prof. Dr. Ernst-Ludwig von Thadden; Dr. André Stenzel
Cycle of offer: once per academic year
ECTS credits: 6
Teaching method (hours per week): lecture (2) + exercise (1)
Course language: English
Prerequisites: Mikroökonomik A + B
Grading: 100% final exam (120 min)

Goals and contents of the module: This course introduces basic tools to understand financial economics. The introduction provides a brief description of basic securities like bonds and stocks, and of the functioning of financial markets. The first part of the courses focuses on how an investor should optimally design a financial portfolio in order to diversify risk and derives one of the most influential asset pricing method: the Capital Asset Pricing Method (CAPM). The second part of the course deals with corporate finance. It presents the Modigliani-Miller theorem and turns to the analysis of the trade-off theory, which assesses the relative benefits of debt and equity. The final part of the course is about corporate financing under asymmetric information, in particular in the presence of moral hazard. Please note that this builds on and hence requires knowledge of game theoretic concepts as covered in Microeconomics B.

Expected competences acquired after completion of the module: Students acquire a broad knowledge about important concepts related to financial economics. Amongst other things, they understand how efficient portfolios are constructed, the pecking order theory, and the determinants of borrowing capacity. They are able to apply these concepts to a multitude of scenarios and can synthesize these considerations to for example discuss the advantages and disadvantages, which affect a company's optimal choice of the debt-to-equity ratio or leverage. They are able to understand the theoretical foundations underpinning the results, and can critically discuss the underlying assumptions and resulting implications. This provides students with the foundation to further their studies in fields related to Financial Economics, and allows them to self-study more advanced material or research articles. The concepts discussed in the course have broad applicability in the workspace, be it within the financial sector itself, or in other sectors such as management consulting. More generally, the course teaches and promotes analytical thinking which is essential and helpful regardless of future career choices. The course also teaches students to clearly express their thoughts both to specialist and non-specialist audiences.

Contact Information: Dr. André Stenzel, E-mail: andre.stenzel[at]uni-mannheim.de;
Phone: +49-621-181-1876; Office: L7, 3-5 Room 3.04

**Game Theory ******

Mo 08:30 - 10:00 Uhr wöchentlich 10.02.2020 - 29.05.2020
001 Hörsaal (L 7, 3-5)

Di 08:30 - 10:00 Uhr 14-täglich 11.02.2020 - 26.05.2020
001 Hörsaal (L 7, 3-5)

Responsible teachers of the module: Lily Yang, Ph.D.; Prof. Dr. Thomas Tröger
Cycle of offer: every spring semester
ECTS credits: 6
Teaching method (hours per week): lecture (2) + exercise (1)
Course language: English
Prerequisites: Mikroökonomik A + B
Grading: written exam, 90 min.

Goals and contents of the module: The goal of this course is to convey advanced methods of strategic interactions, building on the fundamental methods obtained in Microeconomics B. We begin by defining games and solution concepts. These will be practiced in applications from various areas of economics. The technical aspects will be trained in particular in the tutorials.
The course consists of 4 parts:

- Bayesian Games
- Extensive Games
- Evolutionary Games
- Repeated Games

Expected competences acquired after completion of the module: Basic understanding and knowledge of game theory.

Further information:
Main texts: M. J. Osborne, An Introduction to Game Theory, Oxford University Press, 2003
Contact Information: Lily Yang, Ph.D.; Phone: +49 621 181-3059; E-mail: lily.yang@uni-mannheim.de; L7, 3-5, room 3.42; Prof. Dr. Thomas Tröger; Phone: +49 621 181-3423; E-mail: troeger@uni-mannheim.de; L7, 3-5, room 3.47

**Impact Evaluation**

Di 13:45 - 15:15 Uhr wöchentlich 11.02.2020 - 26.05.2020
158 Poolraum (L 7, 3-5)

Di 15:30 - 17:00 Uhr wöchentlich 11.02.2020 - 26.05.2020
158 Poolraum (L 7, 3-5)

Responsible teachers of the module: Dr. Giulia Montresor; Dr. Katharina Richert
Cycle of offer: every spring semester
ECTS credits: 7
Teaching method (hours per week): lecture (2) + exercise (2)
Course language: English
Prerequisites: Statistik I + II, Grundlagen der Ökonometrie

Grading: Grading will be based on the final exam (90 minutes) accounting for 80% of the final grade and on the presentation (30 minutes plus discussion) grade accounting for 20%.
Maximum number of students in class: 41

Goals and contents of the module: The course is designed for introducing students to the main empirical strategies that are typically used for impact evaluation: Randomized Control Trials, Identification on Observables, Instrumental Variables, Difference-in-Difference, Regression Discontinuity Design. Students will be both exposed to fundamental concepts behind the estimation of causal effects and related applied applications. Students will be asked to actively participate and prepare a presentation once during the tutorial session. Course Structure: The lecture will take place every week. Lecture contents will be practiced during bi-weekly Stata exercise sessions in the tutorial or deepened with discussions of the current literature presented by students every second week.

Every participating student will have to present one research article once. The 30-minutes presentations (+/- 10%) will contain a 20 minute summary of the paper and a 10 minute discussion of positive and negative paper aspects, potentially including secondary literature. Additionally, the presenting student will have to prepare 2-3 questions suitable to motivate a group discussion with all course participants. In order to participate in the group discussions, all students are required to read the suggested literature before the tutorial sessions.

Expected competences acquired after completion of the course:

- Understand what impact evaluation is and the different techniques used
- Understand the identifying assumptions underlying each impact evaluation technique
- Review the “parameters of interest”
- Make judgments about what specific impact evaluation technique is appropriate to use according to the context and type of intervention

Further information: **Please note that you have to register via Portal2 from 1 February 2020 8:00 AM until 6 February 2020 23:59 PM!**

Main reading: Frölich, M. and Sperlich, S. (unpublished): Policy Evaluation – Econometric methods and applications. Other useful material:

- Khandker S. et al. (2010): Handbook on Impact Evaluation: Quantitative Methods and Practices
- Angrist J. and Pischke, J. (2009): Mostly Harmless Econometrics
- Angrist J. and Pischke, J. (2015): Mastering Metrics
- Caliendo M. and Kopeinig S. (2005): Some Practical Guidance for the Implementation of Propensity Score Matching
- Angrist, J., Imbens, G., and Rubin, D. (1996): Identification of causal effects using instrumental variables. Journal of the American Statistical Association, 91(434), 444-455.
- Lee, D. and Lemieux, T. (2010): Regression discontinuity designs in economics. Journal of economic literature, 48 (2), 281-355.

Contact Information: Dr. Giulia Montresor; Phone: (0621) 181-1941; E-mail: montresor(at)uni-mannheim.de; Office: L7,3-5, room 131; Dr. Katharina Richert, E-mail: richert(at)uni-mannheim.de

**Labor Economics ******

Do 13:45 - 15:15 Uhr wöchentlich 13.02.2020 - **26.03.2020**
S 031 Seminarraum (L 7, 3-5)

Do 15:30 - 17:00 Uhr wöchentlich 13.02.2020 - **26.03.2020**
S 031 Seminarraum (L 7, 3-5)

Responsible teacher of the module: Prof. Han Ye, Ph.D.
Cycle of offer: each spring semester
ECTS credits: 5
Teaching method (hours per week): lecture (2)
Course language: English
Prerequisites: Microeconomics A + B
Grading: final exam (90 min, 80%) + assignments (20%)

Goals and contents of the module: This course provides an introduction into the field of labor economics. The emphasis is on applied microeconomics and empirical analysis. Topics to be covered include: labor supply and demand, tax policy, minimum wage laws, education and training, inequality, discrimination, and unemployment.

Expected competences acquired after completion of the module: The goal of the course is to provide a thorough understanding of central concepts in labor economics and to provide an introduction into empirical research in labor economics. Students will learn to use Stata to replicate some research results.

Contact Information: Prof. Han Ye, Ph.D.; L7, 3-5, room 223; Phone: +49 621 181-1813; E-mail: han.ye(at)uni-mannheim.de

**Markets and the Environment**

Mo 10:15 - 11:45 Uhr wöchentlich 10.02.2020 - 25.05.2020
S 031 Seminarraum (L 7, 3-5)

Mi 12:00 - 13:30 Uhr wöchentlich 12.02.2020 - 27.05.2020
S 031 Seminarraum (L 7, 3-5)

Responsible teachers of the module: Prof. Ulrich Wagner, Ph.D.
Cycle of offer: every spring semester
ECTS credits: 7
Teaching method (hours per week): lecture (2) + exercise (2)
Course language: English
Prerequisites: Mikroökonomik A + B, Grundlagen der Ökonometrie
Grading: written final exam, 90 min.

Goals and contents of the module: This course will provide an introduction to the field of environmental and natural resource economics. The course will be subdivided into four subject areas:

1. Economic analysis of policy instruments for regulating environmental pollution: Command-and-control regulation vs. market-based policy instruments.

2. Techniques for the valuation of environmental quality as an input for cost-benefit analysis: Hedonic pricing, travel cost method and contingent valuation.
3. International aspects of environmental regulation: International environmental agreements, “pollution leakage” via international trade and investment.
4. Efficient management of renewable and non-renewable natural resources.

Expected competences acquired after completion of the module: Students acquire a broad knowledge in the field of environmental and resource economics. They understand the economic underpinnings of environmental regulation, for example, how environmental externalities affect social welfare, and why international cooperation to curb transboundary pollution is sometimes hard to achieve. Furthermore, they acquire an economic understanding of supply and demand for natural resources, and why scarce resources command a rent even when markets are competitive. To analyze these issues and to solve the relevant theoretical models, students apply various game theoretical and mathematical tools, such as optimization methods and multivariate calculus. For a better grasp of the mechanics of these models, students learn how to use spreadsheet software to solve optimization models and how to employ statistical software to estimate quantitative models of environmental valuation. Computer tasks are solved in teams of 2-3 students, so that students learn how to solve applied problems in small teams and communicate their ideas to fellow students. Students should not mindlessly memorize the theories presented in this course, but rather understand where the models come from, and why they have been developed. Likewise, they should not simply employ computational tools but understand the limitations of these theories, and how these limitations can be overcome. The field of environmental economics has a lot of real-world applications. For instance, a graduate working in an environmental regulatory authority will be able to apply both the theory of environmental regulation and environmental valuation techniques when deciding whether to impose quota or a tax on pollution emissions. When working for a private corporation that participates in a cap-and-trade system for pollution emissions, a graduate will be able to apply the tools learned in order how to best respond to this policy. More generally, this course promotes strategic, analytical and critical thinking, which is crucial in any professional career. The field of environmental economics uses analytical and quantitative tools. Theories are formulated using formal, mathematical models. However, graduates should not only be able to solve these models mathematically, but also to understand the intuition at work. Importantly, students are expected to be able to state this intuition in words.Therefore, graduates will be able to exchange information, ideas, and solutions both with experts of the field (using models, maths and jargon) and with laymen (in plain English). Finally, this course is taught in English, and graduates therefore acquire a profound knowledge of the English terminology in the field of environmental and resource economics.

Contact Information: Prof. Ulrich Wagner, Ph.D.; E-mail: ulrich.wagner@uni-mannheim.de; Phone: +49 (0) 621 181-1420; Office: L7, 3-5 Room 211/12; Office hours: Thursdays, 2-3pm
Dimitri Szerman; Email: szerman@uni-mannheim.de; Phone: +49 (0) 621 181-1957; Office: L7, 3-5 Room P32

**Political Economy**

Mo 13:45 - 15:15 Uhr wöchentlich 10.02.2020 - 25.05.2020
001 Hörsaal (L 7, 3-5)

Di 12:00 - 13:30 Uhr wöchentlich 11.02.2020 - 26.05.2020
001 Hörsaal (L 7, 3-5)

Responsible teacher of the module: Dr. Dominik Schober
Cycle of offer: once
ECTS credits: 7

Teaching method (hours per week): lecture (2) + exercise (2)
Course language: English
Prerequisites: Microeconomics A + B, Grundlagen der Ökonometrie, some background in applied econometrics is essential.
Grading: written final exam, 90 minutes

Goals and contents of the module: in this module, we study how politicians as actors driven by self-interest form the economy. First, we will consider how the voting process can be organized and how this impacts election outcomes. Furthermore, we will study how lobbying and bureaucratic interests alter the political decision making process and finally economic policy. Second, we will then see in examples how political events and political risks influence financial markets and corporate governance.

Expected competences acquired after completion of the module: in this module, you will learn to apply economic reasoning to different (also non-economic) aspects of the world, but we will also see how economic decisions and voting are sometimes driven by non-rational aspects. You will understand the background of political decisions, and learn how to anticipate the impact of government policies on business operations. By the end of this course, students are expected to understand and be able to explain the intuition behind the results of the covered papers.

However, a full understanding of all the technical details is not required. Students apply the English language throughout the course.

Further information: literature will be given presenting corresponding topics.
Contact Information: Dr. Dominik Schober, mail: Dominik.schober@zew.de

**Statistical Learning and Big Data in R**

Schedule

Responsible teacher of the module: Prof. Krzysztof Pytka, Ph.D.
Cycle of offer: spring semester
ECTS credits: 5
Teaching method (hours per week): intensive workshop for two weekends (late April/early May)
Course language: English
Prerequisites: Grundlagen der Ökonometrie
Grading: final exam (120 min.) in PC-Pool (100%)
Expected number of students in class: max. 41

Goals and contents of the module: Statistical learning is a set of methods that allow to study processes that cannot be satisfactorily explained by the existing theories. Those procedures are particularly useful for analyzing complex datasets with many observations and many variables. This course will introduce to the basics of statistical learning with emphasis put on building models that provide the most accurate predictions.

During the course, we will review supervised problems, in which the value of an outcome measure is predicted on the base of a number of input measures. All examples will be implemented in R, an open-source statistical computing language. One of the purposes of the course is to familiarize students with this language, which nowadays is extensively used both in academia and in industry. No programming skills are assumed and I will start teaching it from scratch.

Course roadmap:

1. Introduction to programming in R.
2. Classical econometrics with R. Monte-Carlo simulation. Gauss-Markov theorem revised.
3. Statistical Learning. What is it? The trade-off between prediction accuracy and model interpretability. The bias-variance trade-off. Supervised vs. unsupervised learning.
4. Resampling methods. Cross-validation and bootstrap.
5. Linear model selection and regularization. Subset selection. Shrinkage methods: ridge regression and lasso.
6. Regression trees. Random forests.

Literature:

- Grolemund, G. (2014) "Hands-On Programming with R: Write Your Own Functions and Simulations."
- Matloff, N. (2011) "The Art of R Programming: A Tour of Statistical Software Design."
- James, G.; D. Witten; T. Hastie; R. Tibshirani (2013) "An Introduction to Statistical Learning: with Applications in R'"

Expected competences acquired after completion of the module: The students gain knowledge and understanding how modern statistical learning methods differ from classical econometrics. They can use those methods to build predictive models. The students can choose the right method for a given problem. They can write simple programs in R.

Further information: **Please note that you have to register via Portal2 from 1 February 2020 8:00 AM until 6 February 2020 23:59 PM!**
Contact Information: Krzysztof Pytka; email: pytka@uni-mannheim.de; phone: (0621) 181-181-7; Office: L7 3-5, room 2.09, Office hours: by appointment.

**Statistics and Stata**

Mo 15:30 - 18:45 Uhr wöchentlich 10.02.2020 - 29.05.2020
158 Poolraum (L 7, 3-5)

Responsible teachers of the module: Dr. Atika Pasha; Dr. Ingo Steinke
Cycle of offer: every spring semester
ECTS credits: 7
Teaching method (hours per week): lecture (2) + exercise (2)
Course language: English
Prerequisites: Statistik I + II, Grundlagen der Ökonometrie
Grading: programming exam (90 min.)
Expected number of students in class: depends on students' choice (max. 41).

Goals and contents of the module: The course gives an introduction into the data management in Stata. That includes how to set up do-files, the preparation of data for analysis, the generation of variables, the use of macros in Stata, and the merging of data sets. Basic and advanced statistical procedures will be discussed in the course. For each model, there will be an introduction to the statistical model and it will be shown how to analyze the corresponding data with Stata and how to interpret the output of Stata. The models considered are some elementary statistical models, the linear regression model with homoscedastic and heteroscedastic error terms, analysis of variance models, linear panel data models, nonlinear regression models and binary and multinomial models.

Expected competences acquired after completion of the module: The students know basic probabilistic and statistical concepts, e.g. the concept of a statistical test and how to compute and use p-values. The students can analyze data with Stata: The students are able to review a data set, generate summary statistics, and merge data sets. They know how to work with variables, matrices, and macros. They know how to perform elementary tests. The students can generate advanced plots. They are able to set up a linear model with homoscedastic or heteroscedastic error terms and understand the results provided by Stata. They can do an analysis of variance and test for heteroscedasticity in a linear regression model. They understand the ideas of linear panel data regression and can analyze corresponding data. The students are able to estimate the parameters, perform tests for the parameters, and analyze the results in nonlinear regression models and binary choice models.

Further information: **Please note that you have to register via Portal2 from 1 February 2020 8:00 AM until 6 February 2020 23:59 PM!**
Literature: Cameron/Trivedi (2009). Microeconometrics using Stata. Stata Press.
Contact Information: Dr. Atika Pasha; E-mail: pasha(at)uni-mannheim.de; Dr. Ingo Steinke; Phone: 0621 181 1940; E-mail: isteinke(at)rumms.uni-mannheim.de

**Time Series Analysis (TSA)**

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|---|---|---|---|---|
| Fr | 12:00 - 13:30 Uhr | wöchentlich | 14.02.2020 - 29.05.2020 | (lecture) |
| 001 Hörsaal (L 7, 3-5) | | | | |
| Do | 17:15 - 18:45 Uhr | wöchentlich | 20.02.2020 - 28.05.2020 | (exercise 1. PG) |
| 003 Seminarraum (L 9, 1-2) | | | | |
| Fr | 10:15 - 11:45 Uhr | wöchentlich | 21.02.2020 - 29.05.2020 | (exercise 2. PG) |
| 003 Seminarraum (L 9, 1-2) | | | | |

Responsible teacher of the module: Dr. Toni Stocker
Cycle of offer: each spring semester
ECTS credits: 7
Teaching method (hours per week): lecture (2) + exercise (2)
Course language: English
Prerequisites: Statistik 1 + 2, Grundlagen der Ökonometrie, Laptop required
Grading: final written exam (takes place in the PC-Pool, 120 minutes) + homework assignments to submit plus cooperative active learning in tutorials during the semester. The final grade is based on points from the tutorials and points form the final written exam. At maximum, there are 100 points to earn, where 20 points are from the tutorials and 80 points from the written exam.

Goals and contents of the module: In large part, economic data is based on time series, which is data collected on the same observational unit at multiple time periods (e. g. yearly, quarterly or monthly). Analyzing time series data requires specific statistical models and methods, which are usually not taught in basic statistics and basic econometrics courses. Subject of this course is to provide an overview about the most important standard methods for describing and analyzing time series data. Thereby the main focus is on the practical application of forecasting methods. The Statistical Software R will intensively be used upon many real data examples.

Contents: Introduction to TSA, Review of Basic Essentials, Basic Elements of TSA, Basic Properties of Time Series, Forecasting Theory, AR(I)MA Processes, ADL- and VAR-Models, Nonstationarity, Estimation of Dynamic Causal Effects, Additional Topics in TSA

Expected competences acquired after completion of the module: At the end of the semester students

- know and understand most common TSA methods and their theoretical background
- know how to construct forecasting models, how to conduct model based forecasts and how to check model performance
- can proficiently use R for all important parts of TSA: constructing graphics, estimating and testing, forecasting, model diagnosis and assessment
- have experienced the possibilities and limitations of time series methods on the basis of real data examples

Further information: Students should have a solid understanding of Basic Statistics and Basic Econometrics. Students are not allowed to enter this course after the 3rd lecture.
Contact Information: Dr. Toni Stocker; Phone: +49 621 181 3963; E-mail: stocker@uni-mannheim.de; Office: L7, 3-5; 1st floor, room 143, Office hours: Wednesday, 3:00-4:30 p.m. or upon appointment

## Seminars

**Antitrust Economics**

Schedule

Responsible teacher of the module: Prof. Volker Nocke, Ph.D.
Cycle of offer: each spring semester
ECTS credits: 6
Teaching method (hours per week): blockseminar (2)
Course language: English
Prerequisites: Mikroökonomik A + B, Industrial Organization
Grading: presentation (40%) + classroom discussion (10%) + written report (50%)
Expected number of students in class: depends on students' choice (max. 16)

Goals and contents of the module: The aim of this course is to introduce students to recent cases in Competition Policy and Antitrust, and to apply economic analysis to these cases.

Expected competences acquired after completion of the module: Students learn to apply the tools of microeconomics and industrial organization to analyze real-world competition cases. Students will improve their skills to communicate complex topics both orally and in writing, and further their presentation skills. The seminar also serves as a bridge towards the Bachelor Thesis. Students learn to critically assess theories, methods and policies, and to develop their own ideas based on their analysis – all skills which are essential for the successful completion of the thesis.

Further information: Required reading is the textbook by Kwoka & White (2018): The Antitrust Revolution: Economics, Competition, and Policy, 7th Edition, Oxford University Press. Further readings will be suggested in the first meeting in February. Presentations will be blocked in two days in April or May.
Please note that you have to register for this seminar within the common registration week.
Contact Information: Prof. Volker Nocke, Ph.D.; Phone: +49 621 181-1836, E-mail: nocke@uni-mannheim.de, Office: L 7, 3-5 – room 3.05.

**Applied Econometrics**

Schedule

Responsible teacher of the module: Prof. Dr. Carsten Trenkler
Cycle of offer: each fall semester
ECTS credits: 6
Teaching method (hours per week): blockseminar (2)
Course language: English
Prerequisites: Grundlagen der Ökonometrie und Statistik I + II
Grading: seminar paper (75%) and presentation (25%)
Expected number of students in class: depends on students' choice (max. 14).

Goals and contents of the module: students will conduct an own empirical study in order to become familiar with applied research, what includes the ability to interpret empirical results in a meaningful way.

Based on the material covered in the course Grundlagen der Ökonometrie, students will extend their knowledge on econometric models, estimation methods and test procedures in order to solve empirical problems. The seminar topics will refer to the multiple regression model for cross-section data as well as to microeconometric, panel data and time series models. Thereby, students should gain a broad overview on the various model classes through their own and their colleagues' projects.

Expected competences acquired after completion of the module: Students will have acquired advanced expertise in econometrics and empirical research. They are able to understand and use the corresponding literature for their projects. They will have the required competence for empirical data work (data search, preparation and analysis). Students are able to divide a comprehensive empirical research project into appropriate sub-problems to be addressed, to interpret and prepare the obtained empirical results in an adequate way, to present the results in oral and written form as well as to defend them within a discussion with their fellow students and the instructor. Students are able to follow specialist presentations and to critically discuss the content of such presentations.

Further information: Please register within the common registration week.
Contact Information: Prof. Dr. Carsten Trenkler, email: trenkler(a)uni-mannheim.de, L7, 3-5, room 105, Tel. 181-1852.

**Behavioral Public Economics**

Schedule

Responsible teacher of the module: Prof. Arthur Seibold, Ph.D.
Cycle of offer: spring semester
ECTS credits: 6
Teaching method (hours per week): blockseminar (2)
Course language: English
Prerequisites: Introductory classes in Microeconomics and Econometrics; having taken Introductory Public Economics is desirable
Grading: seminar paper (50%), presentation (40%), classroom discussion (10%)
Expected number of students in class: depends on students' choice (max. 15).

Goals and contents of the module: Insights from behavioral economics are increasingly applied to a range of topics in public economics. While traditional behavioral economics often relies on experimental evidence, recent research demonstrates that individuals do not behave rationally in many relevant field (real-world) settings. This seminar will analyze a number of classic questions in public economics, such as individual responses to tax and expenditure policies, from an angle of behavioral economics. The discussion will focus on patterns of deviations from rational behavior, as well as potential consequences for policy design. Students will write a paper (approx. 10 pages) and present their work in the seminar.

Expected competences acquired after completion of the module: By the end of the course, students will be able to

- Apply microeconomic methods to topics in behavioral public economics
- Independently analyze recent research papers and critically evaluate their theoretical arguments and empirical evidence
- Have an understanding of the topics covered corresponding to recent research, and usefully apply this to real-world issues in public policy where behavioral aspects play a role

Further information: Please note that you have to register for this seminar within the common registration week.
Contact Information: Prof. Arthur Seibold, Ph.D.; Phone: +49 621 181-1781; E-mail: seibold(at)uni-mannheim.de; L 7, 3-5 – Room 224; Consultation hour(s): Wed, 5 – 6 p.m.

**Econometrics of Antitrust**

Schedule

Responsible teacher of the module: Helena Perrone, Ph.D.
Cycle of offer: each spring semester
ECTS credits: 6
Teaching method (hours per week): blockseminar (2)
Course language: English
Prerequisites: Mikroökonomik A + B, Statistik I + II und Grundlagen der Ökonometrie
Grading: presentation (40%) + classroom discussion (10%) + written report (50%)
Expected number of students in class: depends on students' choice (max. 15).

Goals and contents of the module: The aim of this course is introduce students to the most used empirical techniques in Competition Policy and Antitrust. It will cover academic papers and European and U.S. competition cases that have intensely used empirical methods and especially econometrics.

Expected competences acquired after completion of the module: Students will be introduced to the standard empirical and econometrics techniques in competition policy and antitrust. They will also be familiarized with important European and U.S. competition cases. They will develop skills in the sense of recognizing which empirical techniques are more appropriate to analyze different anti-competitive effects. They will also develop analytical skills, which will help them identify identification/endogeneity problems in different applications.

Further information: The reading list will be provided in the first meeting (February). Presentations will be blocked in two days in April or May. Please note that you have to register for this seminar within the common registration week.
Contact Information: Prof. Helena Perrone, Ph.D.; Phone: +49 621 181-1838, E-mail: helena.perrone@uni-mannheim.de, Office: L 7, 3-5 – room 3.13.

**Empirical Seminar on the Energy Transition**

Schedule

Responsible teacher of the module: Dr. Dominik Schober
Cycle of offer: once
ECTS credits: 6
Teaching method (hours per week): blockseminar (2)
Course language: English
Prerequisites: Grundlagen der Volkswirtschaftslehre, Statistik I + II, Grundlagen der Ökonometrie, Microeconomics A + B, Energy Economics – Markets and Regulation or Energy, Environment and Development recommended.
Grading: seminar thesis paper (70%) + presentation (20%) + classroom discussion (10%)

Expected number of students in class: max. 15

Goals and contents of the module: students will conduct an own empirical study in order to become familiar with applied research, what includes the ability to interpret empirical results in a meaningful way. Based on the material covered in basic courses such as “Foundations of Econometrics”, “Empirical Economics”; “Energy Economics – Markets and Regulation” or “Energy, Environment and Development”, students will extend their knowledge on empirical models, estimation methods and test procedures in order to solve empirical problems. In addition, a 2-day block course will explain GAMS, Stata and R software and some basic approaches frequently used in energy economics. The seminar topics will refer to the material covered in “Energy Economics – Markets and Regulation” or, if students wish, in “Energy, Environment and Development”. Thereby, students should gain a broad overview on the various topics touched in energy economics through their own and their colleagues’ projects. The goal is to learn about bringing theoretical knowledge about the economics and characteristics of energy and environmental fields to the case and empirical application. This can encompass the use of descriptive statistics as well as the application of econometric models and optimization techniques. The methods used in this seminar are useful in many fields of applied economic research in all micro-based empirical economics such as industrial, public, energy and environmental economics asf.

Expected competences acquired after completion of the module: students will have acquired advanced expertise in energy and environmental economics as well as econometrics and empirical research. They are able to understand and use the corresponding literature for their projects. They will have the required competence for empirical data work (data search, preparation and analysis). In particular, they learn the implementation and (optionally) the extension of existing methods. They learn to understand strengths and weaknesses of those methods in the context of the energy sector. Application to real-world cases enables students to understand practical implications in business and economic environments. This helps to quantitatively evaluate firm behavior as well as economic policy. Students are able to divide a comprehensive empirical research project into appropriate sub-problems to be addressed, to interpret and prepare the obtained empirical results in an adequate way, to present the results in oral and written form as well as to defend them within a discussion with their fellow students and the instructor. Students are able to follow specialist presentations and to critically discuss the content of such presentations. In particular, students will each discuss one other student’s seminar paper as common in the academic world, which will train students applying their knowledge in order to critically asses their fellow students’ work. Students apply the English language throughout the course.

Further information: Please register within the common registration week.
Contact Information: Dr. Dominik Schober, mail: Dominik.schober@zew.de

**Family Policies - An Economic Perspective**

Mi 13:45 - 15:15 Uhr wöchentlich 12.02.2020 - 27.05.2020
P 043 Seminarraum (L 7, 3-5)

Responsible teachers of the module: Prof. Michele Tertilt, Ph.D.; Effrosyni Adamopoulou, Ph.D.
Cycle of offer: irregular
ECTS credits: 6
Teaching method (hours per week): seminar (2)
Course language: English
Prerequisites: Micro A + B, Macro A + B, Statistik I + II, Grundlagen der Ökonometrie.
Grading: term paper (50%) + presentation (50%)

Expected number of students in class: depends on students' choice (max. 13)

Goals and contents of the module: This is a seminar for Bachelor students interested in family economics, and more specifically family policies. It will analyze policies all over the world affecting various aspects of family life such as subsidized day-care, tax breaks for children, parental leave policies and divorce law. The goal is to study both from a positive and a normative perspective (i.e. what is optimal) how these policies affect fertility and labor force participation.

This is a seminar. Therefore, each student will be assigned a topic to study in depth and then explain in class.

Expected competences acquired after completion of the module: Students will acquire knowledge about the effects of a large set of different family policies and will be able to assess them both from a positive and a normative perspective. They will learn to work independently, synthesize the literature, and formulate the most important arguments regarding a topic. Throughout the seminar, students will develop communication, presentation and writing skills in English.

Contact Information: Dr. Effrosyni Adamopoulou, email: adamopoulou@uni-mannheim.de, Office: L7, 3-5, Room P.26, Office hours: Wednesdays 15:00-16:30

**History of Recent Economics ******

Schedule

Responsible teacher of the module: Dr. Andrej Svorenčík
Cycle of offer: each spring
ECTS credits: 6
Teaching method (hours per week): blockseminar (2)
Course language: English
Prerequisites: Mikroökonomik A + B and Makroökonomik A + B.
Grading: literature search (10%), presentation (40%), classroom discussion (10%), term paper (40%).
Expected number of students in class: depends on students' choice (max. 13)

Goals and contents of the module: Economics underwent several major transformations in the 20th century. Mathematical formalization, economic modeling, econometrics and economic experiments transformed it to such a degree that two economists century apart would have trouble to understand each other and practice economics in the same fashion. The aim of this seminar is to understand these transformations through the study of selected Nobel Prize-winning contributions to economics. The Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences has come to be associated with the most influential and path-breaking research in economics. Since its inception in 1969, over seventy scholars have been awarded it.

Expected competences acquired after completion of the module: Students gain knowledge and understanding how modern economics emerged and to critically evaluate seminal works of leading economists of the 20th century and analyze them in the broader context of the history of economics.

Contact Information: Friederike Pipphardt; Phone: (0621) 181 -1895; E-mail: pipphardt@uni-mannheim.de; Office: L7, 3-5 Room 402

**International Economics**

Schedule

Responsible teacher of the module: Prof. Lei Li, Ph.D.
Cycle of offer: every spring semester
ECTS credits: 6
Teaching method (hours per week): blockseminar (2)
Course language: English
Prerequisites: Microeconomics A + B. General requirements: experience with statistical software Stata will be helpful
Grading: seminar paper (50%), presentation (30%), classroom discussion (20%)
Expected number of students in class: depends on students' choice (max. 15)

Goals and contents of the module: International trade has grown remarkably over the last few decades and it has dramatic impacts on the way the economies are organized. An important goal of the seminar is to provide students with the necessary knowledge to understand several important topics about international trade. This seminar covers several frontier research topics in empirical international economics. A tentative list of topics includes: how trade affects wage structure; how trade affects employment structure; etc. Students should ideally already have some knowledge of international economics and econometrics, since we will mostly discuss empirical papers. Students will choose a paper from the reading list and present it in the seminar. Moreover, they will write a seminar paper (max. 10 pages) which summarize and evaluates the chosen paper.

Expected competences acquired after completion of the module: Students develop skills in reading, understanding, and critically evaluating research papers in the field of international economics.
They will improve their competences in scientific writing and presentation skills.
Further information: Please note that you have to register for this seminar within the common registration week.

Contact Information: Prof. Lei Li, Ph.D.; L7, 3-5, Room 301; Phone: +49 621 181-1911; E-mail: lei.li(at)uni-mannheim.de

**Multilateral Bargaining ******

Schedule

Responsible teacher of the module: Prof. Dr. Duk Gyoo Kim
Cycle of offer: each spring semester
ECTS credits: 6
Teaching method (hours per week): blockseminar (2)
Course language: English
Prerequisites: Knowledge in non-cooperative game theory at the level of Microeconomics B
Grading: term paper (50%) + presentation (40%) + classroom discussion (10%)
Expected number of students in class: depends on students' choice (max. 15)

Goals and contents of the module: The seminar will cover selected topics on multilateral bargaining. Negotiation among many agents with conflicting interest is commonplace.

Distributive politics, the process of reaching a collective decision of many legislators to allocate the fixed amount of budget, is one of the main arenas where many-player bargaining happens.
Our goal is to keep up with theoretical/experimental advancement of “structured” multilateral bargaining. Students are required to present one paper in the provided list to discuss the paper's main contributions, reasoning, and weaknesses. Students are also required to write a report in the form of a research proposal or a survey paper.

Expected competences acquired after completion of the module: Students will learn to read and understand core ideas of legislative bargaining, and be able to apply their knowledge and understanding in new and unfamiliar bargaining situations connected to their study field in a broad and multidisciplinary way. Students will also learn various methodologies used in the current research of this area, including theoretical analysis and laboratory experiments. While writing a term paper and presenting their work, students will improve their economic writing and presentation skills, develop a way to express complex economic phenomena using their own words, and have chances to critically review the current studies and suggest their own ideas for future research.

Contact Information: Prof. Duk Gyoo Kim; Phone: (0621) 181-1797; email: d.kim@uni-mannheim.de; Office: L7, 3-5, room 2.25; Office Hours: by appointment

**Nudging**/****

Schedule

Responsible teacher of the module: Dr. Franziska Heinicke
Cycle of offer: irregular
ECTS credits: 6
Teaching method (hours per week): blockseminar (2)
Course language: English
Prerequisites: none
Grading: term paper (60%), presentation (30%) and classroom discussion (10%)
Expected number of students in class: max. 15

Goals and contents of the module: Recently, nudging has received increased attention in economic research as well as in the political debate. Nudging is understood as small changes in a choice environment that guide people’s decisions in a certain direction without restricting choices. Prominent examples are nutrition labels on food or warnings on cigarettes. In this seminar, we will discuss insights of behavioral economics to better understand the effectiveness of nudges and consider the experimental evidence on nudges in various fields, such as financial decisions, health, politics, development economics and environmental economics. We will discuss experimental methods, effectiveness and limits of nudging, and ethical concerns arising with nudges.

Expected competences acquired after completion of the module: The seminar will enable students to read and critically evaluate scientific papers in the field of nudging. In the term paper, students will focus on a problem of their choosing that might be addressed by nudging and propose a possible nudge for this situation. By applying insights gained from the literature to an existing problem, students will get a more practical understanding of nudges and train their ability to transfer knowledge between different contexts. By writing and presenting a term paper students will further improve their skill in writing and presenting scientific work.

Contact Information: Dr. Franziska Heinicke, E-Mail: f.heinicke@uni-mannheim.de, Office: 4.04, L7, 3-5, Office hours: by appointment.

**Recent Empirical Evidence on the Causes of (Under-)Development**

Schedule

Responsible teacher of the module: Prof. Dr. Antonio Ciccone
Cycle of offer: each semester
ECTS credits: 6
Teaching method (hours per week): blockseminar (2)
Course language: English
Prerequisites: Analysis und lineare Algebra A, Statistik I + II, Grundlagen der Ökonometrie, Makroökonomik A + B
Grading: presentation (50%) and seminar paper (50%)
Expected number of students in class: depends on students' choice (max. 15)

Goals and contents of the module: We will discuss recent and influential research papers on the causes of development and underdevelopment.

Expected competences acquired after completion of the module:

- Students learn to read empirical research papers in economics, which directly confronts them with scientific language and argument.
- Students learn to synthesize the contribution research papers aim for.
- Students learn to communicate the contribution research papers aim for.
- Students learn to put the contribution of research papers into perspective using related research in economics and elsewhere.
- They also learn to evaluate recent research.

Contact Information: Prof. Dr. Antonio Ciccone; Phone: (0621) 181-1830; E-mail: antonio.ciccone@uni-mannheim.de; Office: L7, 3-5, room 2.19

**Topics in Economics of Education**

Schedule

Responsible teacher of the module: Cristina Bellés-Obrero, Ph.D.
Cycle of offer: spring semester
ECTS credits: 6
Teaching method (hours per week): blockseminar (2)
Course language: English
Prerequisites: Mikoökonomik A, Statistik and Grundlagen der Ökonometrie
Grading: seminar paper/research review (60%), presentation (35%), classroom discussion (5%)
Expected number of students in class: max. 13

Goals and contents of the module: This course is intended to provide an overview of the main research questions, theoretical frameworks, sources of identification, and applied econometric methods used in Economics of Education.

The specific topics to be covered include, among others, the impact of class-size, educational tracking, economic incentives in the educational system, teachers' quality, and the socioeconomic returns to education.

Expected competences acquired after completion of the module: After the seminar, students will acquire a critical understanding of the most recent literature on the economics of education. The students are able synthesize the main findings, analyze the quality of existing papers, and provide some policy implications. Students will also improve their communication skills with a presentation of their research review or seminar paper in from their classmates. This presentation will be followed by a class discussion on the strengths and weaknesses of the student's work, which will allow student to defend their position during a group discussion.

Please note that you have to register for this seminar within the common registration week.
Contact Information: Christina Bellés-Obrero, Ph.D.; E-mail: cbelleso@mail.uni-mannheim.de; Office: L7, 3-5, room 326

**Topics in empirical public and labor economics**

Schedule

Responsible teacher of the module: Prof. Dr. Sebastian Siegloch
Cycle of offer: each spring semester
ECTS credits: 6
Teaching method (hours per week): blockseminar (2)
Course language: English
Prerequisites: Mikroökonomik A + B, Statistik I + II und Grundlagen der Ökonometrie
Grading: classroom discussion (20%) + seminar presentation (30%) + paper summary (50%)
Expected number of students in class: depends on students' choice (max. 13)

Goals and contents of the module: This bloc seminar introduces current empirical methods in public and labor economics. The course specializes on a specific topic in the fields of labor, public or urban economics. Examples are female labor supply, regional subsidies, tax evasion, personal income taxation or local public finance. For the specific topic, a set of current research papers will be covered in class. The subfield and the corresponding reading list will be announced in October (http://sebastian-siegloch.com/teaching).

Students will choose a paper from the reading list and present it in the seminar. They also have to write a short report (max 10 pages) which summarizes and evaluates the chosen paper critically. Students will learn about research designs and identification strategies needed to evaluate economic policies by working with and on these current papers. The get acquainted with modern empirical methods of policy evaluation and will learn how to implement a sound and clean research design to identify the impact of economic policies.

Expected competences acquired after completion of the module: Students will acquire a solid knowledge and understanding of current methods in empirical methods in public and labor economics in general. In addition, the will acquire a deep and thorough understanding and knowledge of the selected topic studies in the class, comprising the specialist literature, the relevant theoretical background and empirical methodology, which will help them to apply the learned problem solving techniques in their professional careers. Students will be able to interpret complex results in the field of study and judge existing claims made in public, e.g. in newspapers, scientifically. Graduates will learn how to independently organize and design their own learning processes.

In class, students will discuss contradictory research findings with fellow students, learning to formulate and defend own positions. By presenting in class, students learn how to communicate effectively and efficiently with and to other class member.

Further information: Please note that you have to register for this seminar within the common registration week. There will be an introductory session of 90 minutes in the first week of the semester, in which papers are assigned. The seminar will be held in two full-day sessions in March, April or May. The dates of the sessions will be set in the introductory session.
Contact Information: Sebastian Siegloch; Phone: (0621) 181-1818; email: siegloch@uni-mannheim.de

**Topics in Financial Economics**

Schedule

Responsible teachers of the module: Prof. Dr. Ernst-Ludwig von Thadden; Dr. André Stenzel
Cycle of offer: once a year
ECTS credits: 6
Teaching method (hours per week): blockseminar (2)
Course language: English
Prerequisites: Microeconomics A + B (prerequisite), Introduction to Econometrics (recommended for empirical papers), Financial Economics (helpful)
Grading: presentation (40%) and report (60%)
Expected number of students in class: depends on students' choice (max. 16)

Goals and contents of the module: Students are required to pick a paper in selected topics relating to Financial Economics and give a presentation to discuss the paper's strengths and weaknesses. Based on their work, and the comments that they receive in the presentation, students are required to write a report summarizing and critically discussing the paper, and synthesizing the findings in related papers presented by other students. Topics can include asset pricing, corporate governance, securitization practices and their relation to the Financial Crisis 2007-2009. A detailed list of topics and associated papers will be circulated once the seminar spots have been allocated.

Expected competences acquired after completion of the module: Students learn to analyze, summarize, and critically discuss original articles at the frontier of current research in financial economics. They improve the skills to communicate complex topics both orally and in writing, and further their presentation skills. The seminar also serves as a bridge towards the Bachelor Thesis. Students learn to engage with current research papers, to critically assess those, and to develop their own ideas based on their findings – all skills which are essential for the successful completion of the thesis.

Further information: Having attended the course in Financial Economics is helpful but not required. Please carefully read the following information regarding the timing of the seminar! Registration: Please note that you have to register for this seminar within the common registration week.
Timing: Please note that this block seminar aims to finish in early-to-mid March. This means that a substantial part of the guided independent work will need to be conducted in January and February. An introductory meeting (for students currently in Mannheim) will take place in mid-December.
Paper selection and allocation will take place by early January. Presentations will be held mid-February, and the seminar reports are due in early March. The instructor will be available for individual meetings throughout this time.
Contact Information: Dr. André Stenzel, andre.stenzel@uni-mannheim.de, Office L7, 3-5 Room 3.04

## Additional courses for Economics

**Forschungsseminar in Wirtschaftsgeschichte**

Modulverantwortlicher: Prof. Dr. Jochen Streb
Turnus des Angebots: jedes Semester
ECTS-Punkte: keine
Lehrmethode: Seminar (2 SWS)
Unterrichtssprache: Deutsch oder Englisch je nach Vortrag
Teilnahmevoraussetzungen: keine
Benotung: keine

Ziele und Inhalte des Moduls: Im Forschungsseminar präsentieren Wissenschaftler/innen aus Mannheim und von Außerhalb ihre aktuellen Forschungsergebnisse.

Erwartete Kompetenzen nach Abschluss des Moduls: Die Teilnehmer setzen sich mit dem aktuellen Forschungsstand in bestimmten wirtschaftshistorischen Themenfeldern auseinander und nutzen diese Erkenntnisse für ihre eigenen wissenschaftlichen Abschlussarbeiten.

Weitere Informationen: Für Studierende, die im aktuellen Semester eine Bachelor- oder Masterarbeit am Lehrstuhl für Wirtschaftsgeschichte anfertigen, wird der Besuch des Forschungsseminars empfohlen.
Kontakt: Prof. Dr. Jochen Streb, Tel. 0621/ 181 -1932, E-Mail: streb@uni-mannheim.de, L7, 3-5, Zimmer P19/20, Sprechzeiten: Di 15:45 Uhr bis 16:45 Uhr, um Terminvereinbarung wird gebeten.
Das aktuelle Programm entnehmen Sie bitte dem gesonderten Aushang „Research in Economic History“ unter folgenden Link: https://www.vwl.uni-mannheim.de/streb/forschung/aktuelle-vortraege/

**Ringvorlesung**

**Fachschaft VWL**

Mittwoch, 19:00 Uhr bis 20:30 Uhr Einzeltermine

Die genauen Termine der einzelnen Veranstaltungen werden noch bekannt gegeben.

Bitte beachten Sie die Ankündigungen über die Webseite der Fachschaft VWL, die sich für die Organisation der Ringvorlesung verantwortlich zeichnet, unter http://fsvwl-unimannheim.de/de/ringvorlesungen/

**Business Studies & Economics: Literature Search**

**Dates**: Thursday, 27.02.20, 10:15-11:45 h

**Meeting point:** Library "Schloss Ehrenhof", training classroom (Schulungsraum)

The course teaches techniques of a scientific literature search by the example of Economics and Business databases (Business Source Premier, ABI/INFORM Complete, EconLit) and describes how to get access to the books and electronic documents.
**Course language**: English
**Target audience**: Students in Business Studies or Economics

Further dates by arrangement (starting from 5 participants).
The course can also be booked for seminar or thesis courses. Please contact the responsible subject librarian for date arrangements or further information.

Business Studies: Irene Schumm, E-Mail: irene.schumm@bib.uni-mannheim.de, Tel.: 0621 / 181-2754.
Economics: Katharina Selzer, email: katharina.selzer@bib.uni-mannheim.de, phone: 0621/181-2943.