UNIVERSITÄT MANNHEIM
Abteilung Volkswirtschaftslehre

Annotated Course Catalog for courses held in English language
Spring Semester 2023 - 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 (5 - 11 December 2022). 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: 11 January 2023

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Introductory Phase

Macroeconomics A

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Responsible teacher of the module: Prof. Miren Azkarate-Askasua, Ph.D.
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: Mankiw, N. (2019), Macroeconomics (Tenth ed.), Macmillan international higher education, New York, NY.
Contact information: Prof. Miren Azkarate-Askasua, Ph.D.; e-mail: azkarate-askasua@uni-mannheim.de.

Microeconomics A

Schedule lecture
Schedule exercises

Responsible teachers of the module: Eleftheria Triviza, Ph.D.
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 behavior. 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 and Daniel S. Rubinfeld (2018). Microeconomics (9th edition), The Pearson series in economics. The 8th edition can still be used.
- Hal R. Varian (2014). Intermediate Microeconomics: A Modern Approach (9th Edition), Norton & Company.

Contact Information: Eleftheria Triviza, Ph.D.; E-mail: etriviza@mail.uni-mannheim.de

Advanced Phase

Lectures

Competition under the microscope ****

Schedule

Responsible teacher of the module: Prof. Dr. Henrik Orzen
Cycle of offer: each spring semester
ECTS credits: 7
Teaching method (hours per week): lecture (2) + exercise (2)
Course language: English
Prerequisites: Microeconomics A + B
Good command of basic game theory at the level of Microeconomics B.
Grading: final exam (90 minutes)
Expected number of students in class: depends on students' choices.

Goals and contents of the module: Competition is at the core of many economic activities, but it can come in various shapes and forms. For example, in some settings it can be profitable to imitate a rival, in others it is better to do something else. Competing hard can pay off but it can also backfire. Sometimes, it is advantageous to be unpredictable, sometimes not. There are situations in which competing for a reward carries substantial risks because it involves non-refundable expenses, and there are equally competitive situations in which this is not an issue at all. This module takes a closer look at fundamental principles of competition in markets, contests, and auctions. The focus will be on game-theoretical models that describe various competitive settings and deliver predictions, and on experiments that implement such settings in the laboratory and then investigate behavior as well as outcomes under controlled conditions, testing the theoretical predictions. Topics will include output, pricing, and quality strategies, collusion, market structure, market entry decisions, contests, and auctions. There will also be a brief introduction to the role and use of experimental methods in economics more generally. Furthermore, to facilitate learning and a better feel for different situations characterized by competition students will participate in several experiments themselves.

Expected competences acquired after completion of the module: On completion of the module students will have gained a better understanding of model-based theoretical arguments and experimental research methods-specifically in the area of competition economics but also more broadly. Students will have acquired improved analytical skills of solving game-theoretical problems and foundation knowledge of elementary approaches to investigating the nature of competition in a range of applications. They will have developed their ability to critically evaluate empirical evidence and theoretical approaches in economics.

Contact Information: Prof. Dr. Henrik Orzen; Phone: (0621) 181 - 1890; email: henrik.orzen@uni-mannheim.de; Office: Room 4.01; Office hours: Tuesdays, 4-5pm (by appointment only).

Economic Growth****

Schedule

Responsible teacher of the module: Prof. Antonio Ciccone, Ph.D.
Cycle of offer: irregular
ECTS credits: 8
Teaching method (hours per week): lecture (3) + practical exercises (1)
Course language: English
Prerequisites: Calculus, Macroeconomics A
Grading: the final grade will depend on your performance in a final exam (120 min) administered at the end of the term, how well you do in solving homeworks, and on classroom discussion. The exam grade will count 80% and your homework grade will count 15%. Classroom discussion will count 5%. Homeworks can be done in groups, but I want individual hand-written solutions from everybody for all analytical questions (involving equations or graphs).

Goals and contents of the module: The course is about the principal tools used to analyze theoretical and empirical issues in economic growth and development at the macroeconomic level. The broad structure of the course is:

a) Important Facts
b) The Neoclassical Growth Model with Empirical Implications and Applications
c) Neoclassical Growth Theory in the Balanced Growth Path
d) Endogenous Growth Theory
e) Misallocation and Cross-Country Differences in Productivity
f) Institutions and Economic Development

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 models building on it. The main goal is to understand the role of macroeconomic models as a tool for the theoretical and empirical analysis of economic growth and development. This involves understanding what empirical facts these models can capture and where they fail.

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: Wed, 1pm-2pm.

Experimental Economics/*****

Schedule

Responsible teacher of the module: Dr. Peter Dürsch
Cycle of offer: irregular
ECTS credits: 7
Teaching method (hours per week): lecture (2) + exercise (2)
Course language: English
Prerequisites: none
Grading: final exam (120 minutes)

Goals and contents of the module: The course aims, first, at introducing experimental economics and its various applications in economics. We will conduct some of the experiments in the classroom, providing the participants of the course with first hand experience of the economic situations that are being described. The course consists of two parts: In the first part, "the methodology of experimental economics", we introduce experimental economics. We will discuss the merits (and limits) of experiments, the principles of conducting and analyzing an experiment. In the second part, "Applications: Influential experiments in economics", we will survey some of the seminal research in experimental and behavioral economics (e. g., market experiments, bargaining experiments, biases and heuristics, public good games).

The course is not technical and students from all disciplines are encouraged to participate.

Expected competences acquired after completion of the module: After the course, the students will:

- be able to analyze the quality of existing experimental papers
- know the theoretical underpinning of generating empirical experimental data and the testing of said data
- understand the difference between various treatment forms, such as within and between subject designs
- be able to formulate their own designs and instructions for experiment
- know a variety of prominent experiments in the field of behavioral economics
- be able to point out possible flaws in experimental designs
- be able to evaluate deviations of actual behavior from theoretically predicted optimal behavior

Contact: Dr. Peter Dürsch, e-mail: duersch@uni-mannheim.de

Family Economics**

Schedule

Responsible teacher of the module: Prof. Philipp Ager, Ph.D. / Effrosyni Adamopoulou, Ph.D.
Cycle of offer: irregular
ECTS credits: 6
Teaching method (hours per week): lecture (2), exercises (1)
Course language: English
Prerequisites: Microeconomics A + B and Macroeconomics A + B
Grading: final exam 120 min (60%) + midterm 120 min (40%)

Goals and contents of the module: This course will address three broad topics in family economics:

- The causes and consequences of historical changes in the organization of families (e.g., the demographic transition and the increase in female labor force participation
- The relationship between economic development and family laws
- The effect of policies that target families/children (e.g., parental leave policies, social security, childcare subsidies).

Expected competences acquired after completion of the module: The course will provide a solid background in economic models of family behavior by analyzing the determinants of family formation, household specialization and decision-making, fertility decisions, and intergenerational relationships. Students will be able to understand the role of families in traditional and modern societies and their evolution over time.

Contact Information: Dr. Effrosyni Adamopoulou, email: adamopoulou@uni-mannheim.de, Office: L7, 3-5, Room P.26, Office hours: Wednesdays 13:45-15:15.

Game Theory****

Schedule

Responsible teacher of the module: Prof. Dr. Vitali Gretschko
Cycle of offer: once a year
ECTS credits: 6
Teaching method (hours per week): lecture (2) + exercise (1)
Course language: English
Prerequisites: Microeconomics A and Microeconomics B or equivalent
Grading: final 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 5 parts:

1. Bayesian Games
2. Extensive Games
3. Repeated Games
4. Refinements
5. Advanced Solution Concepts

Expected competences acquired after completion of the module: In learning this cross-sectional subject, the students have obtained in particular methodological knowledge. This knowledge enables them to analyze strategic interactions. They distinguish the most important non-cooperative solution concepts with respect to their domains of applicability.
They are able to use these concepts in order to compute solutions to concrete games of appropriate difficulty. In addition, successful participants can read scientific literature and articles of appropriate difficulty insofar game-theoretic methods are applied.

Further information: Main Text: Martin Osborne, “An Introduction to Game Theory”

Additional Reading:

- Drew Fudenberg and Jean Tirole, “Game Theory”
- Michael Maschler, Eilon Solan, and Shmuel Zamir, „Game Theory“

Contact Information: Prof. Dr. Vitali Gretschko, e-mail: vitali.gretschko@zew.de

Impact Evaluation

Schedule

Responsible teacher of the module: Dr. Benjamin K. Chibuye / N. N.
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: exam (90 minutes) and presentation, 80% final exam (90 minutes), 20% presentation (30 minutes including 5 minutes paper critique and 5 minutes group discussion).
Maximum number of students in class: 41

Please note that you must register for the course in portal2 from 16 January to 12 February 2023.

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. The lecture and the tutorial will take place every week. Lecture contents will be practiced during Stata exercise sessions in the tutorial or deepened with discussions of the current literature presented by students. 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 5-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 5-minute 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 judgements about what specific impact evaluation technique is appropriate to use according to the context and type of intervention

Further information: Main reading: Frölich, M. & Sperlich, S. (2019): Impact Evaluation – Treatment effects and causal analysis, Cambridge University Press. Other useful material:

- Khandker S. et al. (2010): Handbook on Impact Evaluation: Quantitative Methods and Practices
- Caliendo M. & Kopeinig S. (2005): Some Practical Guidance for the Implementation of Propensity Score Matching
- Angrist, J., Imbens, G. & Rubin, D. (1996): Identification of causal effects using instrumental variables. Journal of the American Statistical Association, 91(434), 444-455.

- Lee, D. & Lemieux, T. (2010): Regression discontinuity designs in economics. Journal of economic literature, 48 (2), 281-355.

Contact Information: Dr. Benjamin K. Chibuye, e-mail: bchibuye(at)mail.uni-mannheim.de

Markets and the Environment

Schedule

Responsible teacher of the module: Prof. Dr. Philipp M. Richter
Cycle of offer: every spring semester
ECTS credits: 7
Teaching method (hours per week): lecture (2) + exercise (2)
Course language: English
Prerequisites: Microeconomics 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. Dr. Philipp M. Richter, e-mail: philipp.richter@uni-mannheim.de; office hours: by appointment (meetings on-site or in zoom).

Statistics and Stata

Schedule

Responsible teacher of the module: Dr. Ingo Steinke / N. N.
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).

Please note that you must register for the course in portal2 from 16 January to 12 February 2023.

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: Literature: Cameron/Trivedi (2009). Microeconometrics using Stata. Stata Press.
Contact Information: Dr. Ingo Steinke; Phone: (0621) 181 1940; e-mail: ingo.steinke@uni-mannheim.de

Time Series Analysis (TSA)

Schedule

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: Students should have a solid understanding of Basic Statistics and Basic Econometrics.
Grading: final written exam (120 minutes) + homework assignments to submit plus cooperative learning in tutorials during the semester. Achieving a minimum of points in the homework gradings is required for participating in the exam (please check the course guidelines for details). 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: The course should be attended from the first session. Entering the course later is strongly discouraged.
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

Behavioral Public Economics

Schedule

Responsible teacher of the module: Prof. Arthur Seibold, PhD
Cycle of offer: spring semester
ECTS credits: 6
Method (hours per week): block seminar (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: 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
- understand 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.

Climate Policy

Schedule

Responsible teacher of the module: Prof. Dr. Philipp M. Richter
Cycle of offer: irregular
ECTS credits: 6
Teaching method (hours per week): block seminar (2)
Course language: English
Prerequisites: Microeconomics A + B, Grundlagen der Ökonometrie; Markets and the Environment (can be taken concurrently)
Grading: presentation (40%), classroom discussion (10%) and seminar paper (50%)
Expected number of students in class: depends on students' choice (15 max)

Goals and contents of the module: Understanding climate change as "the result of the greatest market failure the world has ever seen" (Sir Nicholas Stern, 2007), policy intervention is justified. Various climate policy instruments are available. This seminar will take an economic perspective on already implemented and currently debated climate policies and their design options. Each student will present and discuss an assigned topic in class and write a ten-page seminar paper. Emphasis will be on the methods and findings of relevant research papers and the critical assessments of current policy initiatives.

Expected competences acquired after completion of the module: In this course, students will gain knowledge of implemented and currently debated climate policies and their economic assessment. Students will develop skills to motivate and contextualise a specific topic independently. They will develop skills in reading, understanding, and critically assessing research papers. Students will also improve their presentation and academic writing skills and gather experience in scientific debates.

Further information: Seminar topics will be provided after the registration. Presentations will be blocked. Please note that you have to register for this seminar within the common registration week.
Contact Information: Prof. Dr. Philipp M. Richter, philipp.richter@uni-mannheim.de; office hours: by appointment (meetings on-site or in zoom).

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)/****

Schedule

Responsible teachers of the module: Prof. Nicolas Bonneton, Ph.D.
Cycle of offer: once a year
ECTS credits: 6
Teaching method (hours per week): block seminar (2)
Course language: English
Prerequisites: none
Grading: presentation (30%), seminar paper (60%), and classroom discussion (10%)
Expected number of students in class: max. 15

Goals and contents of the module: students must choose one of the following two options. First, students can pick a paper in selected topics relating to CSR and give a presentation to discuss the paper's strengths and weaknesses. Alternatively, students can create their own case study documenting one firm/sector's CSR activities (or lack of CSR).

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/case study and synthesizing the findings from other presentations. 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: the students will improve their ability to critically think about societal issues. They will improve their competencies in scientific writing and further their presentation skills.

Contact: Prof. Nicolas Bonneton, Ph.D., E-mail: nicolas.bonneton@gmail.com

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): block seminar (2 SWS)
Course language: English
Prerequisites: Mikroökonomik A + B, Statistik I + II und Grundlagen der Ökonometrie
Grading: presentation (40%) + classroom discussions (10%) + written report (50%)
Expected number of students in class: max. 15

Goals and contents of the module: The aim of this course is introducing 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. 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.

Economics of Crime

Schedule

Responsible teacher of the module: Prof. Dr. Wladislaw Mill
Cycle of offer: every second spring semester
ECTS credits: 6
Teaching method (hours per week): block seminar (2)
Course language: English
Prerequisites: Statistics I + II and Basic Econometrics are mandatory. Microeconomics A+B would be also very useful.
Grading: classroom discussion (20%) + seminar presentation (25min, 30%) + paper summary (50%). Students will choose a paper from the reading list and present it in the seminar. Moreover, they will write a short seminar paper (max. 10 pages), which summarizes and critically evaluates the chosen paper
Expected number of students in class: depends on students' choice (max. 13)

Goals and contents of the module: This course focuses on the economic study of crime. In particular, we will view criminals – different from the traditional approach of criminologists or sociologists – as utility-maximizing decision makers and study how incentives change criminal behavior.
To do so, we will focus on socio-economic determinants of crime and how crime can be deterred. More specifically, we will discuss how unemployment, poverty, and education lead to criminal behavior; how police, incapacitation and death penalty reduce crime. We will also discuss the topics of guns and alcohol.

Expected competences acquired after completion of the module: Students develop skills in reading and analyzing research papers. They are asked to read a research paper in detail and write a critical summary of it. Students also learn to communicate their understanding through an oral presentation. Students develop skills in analyzing issues in economics of crime and understanding their effects on economic agents using models, and empirical methods. Furthermore, this course will teach students how the issues of crime can be evaluated using widely used methods such as applying matching, difference-in-difference, and instrumental variable approaches.

Further information: Please note that you have to register for this seminar within the common registration week.
Contact Information: Wladislaw Mill; Phone: (0621) 181 -1897; email: mill@uni-mannheim.de, Office: 418, Office hours: Tue 16-17.

Firm Dynamics and Economic Growth

Schedule

Responsible teacher of the module: Prof. Anne Hannusch, Ph.D.
Cycle of offer: irregular
ECTS credits: 6
Teaching method (hours per week): block seminar (2)
Course language: English
Prerequisites: Microeconomics A + B, Macroeconomics A, Introduction to Econometrics (recommended for empirical papers)
Grading: presentation (40%), term paper (50%), classroom discussion (10%)
Expected number of students in class: max. 13

Goals and contents of the module: This block seminar will focus on the theory and empirics of modern economic growth. We will follow a micro-to-macro approach, that is, we will study microfoundations for aggregate trends in total factor productivity. Special emphasis will be given to firms and inventors to uncover forces that shape total factor productivity. The main focus of the seminar will be on recent ideas in economic growth theory, including but not limited to:

- Economic Growth and the Data Economy
- Declining Business Dynamism
- Environment and Directed Technical Change
- Inequality, Taxation, and Innovation

Expected competences acquired after completion of the module: At the end of the course, students are able to compare and contrast various theories that link firm decisions to aggregate trends in productivity. Students learn to analyze, summarize, and critically evaluate original articles at the frontier of economic growth theory. The seminar also serves as a bridge towards the Bachelor Thesis. Students learn to develop new and exciting research ideas based on their critical evaluation of the material presented in this seminar. All of these skills are essential for the successful completion of the thesis.

Contact Information: Prof. Anne Hannusch, Ph.D.; Phone: (0621) 181 - 3751; E-mail: hannusch@uni-mannheim.de, Office: L7, 3-5 room P.03, Office hours: by appointment

International Economics

Schedule

Responsible teacher of the module: Prof. Lei Li, Ph.D.
Cycle of offer: each spring semester
ECTS credits: 6
Teaching method (hours per week): block seminar (2)
Course language: English
Prerequisites: Microeconomics A + B, Grundlagen der Ökonometrie (Econometrics)
Grading: seminar paper (50%) + presentation (40%) + classroom discussion (10%).
Expected number of students in class: depends on students' choice, maximum 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. The first goal of the seminar is to introduce frontier research topics in international economics and to provide students with the necessary knowledge about these research topics. A tentative list of topics includes the US-China trade war, Brexit, the impact of international trade on wage structure and employment structure, global value chain, and the welfare gain of international trade.
The second goal is to help students develop research skills. This seminar will help students learn how to find good research topics, how to search for relevant literature for a given the research topic, how to present papers, and how to write paper summary. To achieve these goals, students will choose a paper from the reading list and present it in the seminar. Moreover, they will write a seminar paper (max. 5 pages) that summarizes the chosen paper.
The third goal is to present the empirical tools used in international trade to students. We will focus on discussing empirical papers and students are expected to have a better understanding of several widely used applied econometrics tools after this seminar. Before taking this block seminar, students should have taken the prerequisite Econometrics and have a good understanding of the commonly used econometric methods, especially the OLS.

Expected competencies acquired after completion of the module: Students develop skills in reading, understanding, and critically evaluating research papers in the field of international economics. They are also expected to have a good understanding of the widely used empirical tools in international economics. They will improve their competencies in literature review, scientific writing, and presentation skills.

Contact Information: Prof. Lei Li, Ph.D.; L7, 3-5, Room 301; Phone: +49 621 181-1911

Introduction to predictive analytics and machine learning

Schedule

Responsible teacher of the module: Prof. Krzysztof Pytka, Ph.D.
Cycle of offer: spring semester
ECTS credits: 6
Teaching method (hours per week): block seminar (2)
Course language: English
Prerequisites: Grundlagen der Ökonometrie
Grading: final report (50%), and the presentation (50%)
Expected number of students in class: max. 14

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 seminar will introduce to the basics of statistical learning with emphasis put on building models that provide the most accurate predictions. Each participant will have to study on her own using materials pre-recorded and shared by me. In those video materials, I 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. During the seminar the students will present their prediction model built with the use of artificial datasets prepared by me.

Course roadmap:

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

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: 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'”

Contact Information: Prof. Krzysztof Pytka, Ph.D.; e-mail: pytka@uni-mannheim.de; phone: (0621) 181-1817; Office: L7 3-5, room 2.09, Office hours: by appointment.

Media Economics

Schedule

Responsible teacher of the module: Prof. Camille Urvoy, Ph.D.
Cycle of offer: fall semester
ECTS credits: 6
Teaching method (hours per week): block seminar (2)
Course language: English
Prerequisites: Microeconomics A and B. A basic knowledge of econometrics is preferable as we will study empirical papers, but office hours can also be arranged to answer questions.
Grading: 40% presentation and presentation slides + 40% seminar paper + 20% classroom discussion
Expected number of students in class: max. 13

Goals and contents of the module: The aim of this seminar is to gain a better understanding of how the information is produced and disseminated by media outlets, and how it impacts people down the line. We will first motivate the study of media by exploring the impact of information provision on how it helps voters monitor elected officials, and how elected officials respond to the incentives thus created. We will then consider how to measure media bias, whether media outlets are indeed biased, and if so, what are economic forces at play, i.e., demand and supply of media bias. Then, we will turn to understanding whether people are persuaded by biased reporting, or ‘fake news’, as well as the resulting effects on real life behaviors such as voting or social distancing. Finally, we will take a deeper dive into what shapes media market. In particular, we will discuss the competition environment and business model of media outlets: how is has been impacted by increased competition, the internet, and social media.

Expected competences acquired after completion of the module: The competences acquired fall mainly into three categories. First, students will gain a general understanding of the role of the media in democratic systems, as well as the changes the sector is currently experiencing. This knowledge is relevant from a practitioner’s perspective. It will also inform students on today’s research frontier, and what we still need to understand better to tackle inequalities. Second, the papers studied use a variety of methods, and some of them make use of recent advances in text analysis to study media content. Students will also study how these methods are used in practice and will learn how to critically evaluate them.
Finally, students will also become more familiar with reading empirical research papers and improve their presentation skills.

Further information: Please note that you have to register for this seminar within the common registration week.
Contact Information: Prof. Camille Urvoy, Ph.D.; email: camille.urvoy@uni-mannheim.de,
Office: 208, L7, 3-5.

Nudging/****

Schedule

Responsible teacher of the module: Dr. Franziska Heinicke
Cycle of offer: irregular
ECTS credits: 6
Teaching method (hours per week): block seminar (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): block seminar (2)
Course language: English
Prerequisites: Analysis und lineare Algebra A, Statistik I + II, Grundlagen der Ökonometrie, Macroeconomics 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 Financial Economics****

Schedule

Responsible teacher of the module: Prof. Nicolas Bonneton, Ph.D.
Cycle of offer: once a year
ECTS credits: 6
Teaching method (hours per week): block seminar (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 (16 max)

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 note that you have to register for this seminar within the common registration week.
Contact Information: Prof. Nicolas Bonneton, Ph.D., e-mail: nicolas.bonneton(at)gmail.com

Topics in Information Economics****

Schedule

Responsible teacher of the module: Andrei Matveenko, Ph.D. / Prof. Dr. Volker Nocke
Cycle of offer: each spring semester
ECTS credits: 6
Teaching method (hours per week): block seminar (2)
Course language: English
Prerequisites: Microeconomics A + B
Grading: presentation (40%) and report (60%)
Expected number of students in class: max. 15

Goals and contents of the module: Participants of the seminar will choose an article in selected topics relating to Information Economics and give a presentation of the article's content with a focus on its strengths and weaknesses.
After the presentations, each student will write a critical review of the presented article, which summarizes and critically discusses it. Topics of the articles can include attention and focusing, search and learning, strategic transition and disclosure of information and global games. 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: The students will become familiar with several topics of the recent research related to Information Economics with some focus on Behavioral Economics. They will also improve their critical thinking, presentation, and academic writing skills.

Further Information: Please note that you have to register for this seminar within the common registration week
Contact person: Andrei Matveenko, Ph.D.; email: andrei.matveenko@uni-mannheim.de

Additional courses for Economists

Forschungsseminar in Wirtschaftsgeschichte

Termine

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 aus Mannheim und auswärts 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: Sekretariat; E-Mail: wisoge@rumms.uni-mannheim.de
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

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/.

University Library

Business Studies & Economics: Literature Search

Course format: hybrid seminar on March 30th, 10:15 a.m. - 11:45 a.m. Registration: via Portal2
The course teaches techniques of a scientific literature search by the example of Economics and Business databases (Primo, Business Source Premier, Google Scholar) and describes how to get access to the books and electronic documents.

Key subjects:

- Overview UB Mannheim
- Which forms of literature are appropriate for your paper?
- How and where can you find literature (Primo, Business Source Premier, Google Scholar)?
- Tips for your literature search, literature search strategies, quality aspects, interlibrary loan etc.

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.

Subject librarian: Lorena Steeb, E-Mail: lorena.steeb@uni-mannheim.de
Note for registration: Interested persons, who are not students of the University of Mannheim, please contact the responsible subject librarian by email for registration.

Course Series Academic Information Research

This series provides you with useful tips on academic writing and research. The thirty-minutes courses take place online on Mondays at 12:30 p.m. during the semester and are aimed at all students at the University of Mannheim whose native language is not German.

Here you will find more information.