

**Annotated Course Catalog for courses held in English language
Fall Semester 2021, B.Sc. Economics**

Changes and updates are published in a separate file: <https://www.vwl.uni-mannheim.de/en/academics/bsc-in-economics/course-catalog/>

Please note that there was a single week to register for seminars in the Bachelor program (7 June until 13 June 2021). Changing or cancelling seminar registrations was only possible in the first week after the registration period.

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

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Introductory Phase

Internationale Ökonomik

[Course dates / form of participation](#)

Responsible teacher of the module: Prof. Harald Fadinger, Ph.D.

Further instructor(s): teaching assistants for exercise classes

Cycle of offer: each fall semester

ECTS credits: 6

Teaching method (hours per week): lecture (2) and practical exercise (2)

Course language: English

Prerequisites: Microeconomics A, Macroeconomics A

Grading: written exam (90 minutes)

Goals and contents of the module: The course gives an introduction to international economics. The covered material corresponds to the international standard for a course in international economics. The first half of the course covers core models of international trade, such as classical theories of comparative advantage (Ricardo and Heckscher-Ohlin) and trade models with scale economies (Krugman), and fundamentals of trade policy and the World Trade Organization. The second half of the course covers international macroeconomics. We will discuss the intertemporal approach to the current account, international capital flows, exchange rates, fiscal and monetary policy in open economies.

1. International Trade

- Introduction and facts about international trade
- The Ricardian model of international trade
- The Heckscher-Ohlin model
- Trade models with imperfect competition
- Trade policy and the WTO
- Foreign direct investment (FDI) and offshoring

2. International Macroeconomics

- The balance of payments
- Theories of international financial flows and the current account
- Short-run theories of exchange rates
- Long-run theories of exchange rates
- Fiscal and monetary policy in open economies
- Sovereign debt crises/exchange rate crises

Expected competences acquired after completion of the module: The student is acquainted with the core theories in international economics, as well as basic knowledge of the relevant international institutions. The student has learned to analyze and evaluate questions in international economics independently. The ability to analyze complex situations using analytical tools and logical thinking is increased.

Further information: Literature:

- Feenstra and Taylor (2011), International Economics, Second Edition, Worth Publishers.
- Schmitt-Grohe and Uribe: International Macroeconomics, Lecture Notes, Duke University.
- Krugman, Obstfeld und Melitz (2014): International Economics, 10th Edition, Pearson.

Contact Information: Prof. Harald Fadinger, Ph.D., E-Mail: harald.fadinger@unimannheim.de; Tel: (0621) 181 3505, Office: L7, 3-5, 419.

Macroeconomics B

[Course dates / form of participation](#)

Responsible teacher of the module: Prof. Antoine Camous, Ph.D.

Further instructor(s): teaching assistants for exercise classes

Cycle of offer: each fall semester

ECTS credits: 8

Teaching method (hours per week): lecture (3) and practical exercise (2)

Course language: English

Prerequisites: we will draw heavily on the contents of the courses Analysis and Microeconomics A, Macroeconomics A recommended.

Grading: written exam (120 minutes)

Goals and contents of the module: This course offers a micro-founded introduction to modern macro models of the business cycle, including a mathematical derivation of these models.

The course will cover macroeconomic models of short run fluctuations (IS-LM, AS-AD, Phillips-curve). In addition, the effects of monetary and fiscal policy on output, unemployment and inflation will be studied. Further, the theory and welfare implications of inflation and time inconsistency of policy decision are discussed.

Topics:

- A one-period model of the macro economy
- Savings and investment
- Money and business cycles
- Topics in banking

Expected competences acquired after completion of the module: The students can quantitatively estimate the effects of policy decision on macroeconomic outcomes. The presented models are also a useful guide to inform macroeconomic debates.

Further information: Literature: Stephen Williamson "Macroeconomics" Fifth (or fourth) Edition, Pearson.

There is also an independent German version of Macro B. Both courses cover essentially the same material and adopt the same book. Moreover, the exercise sessions on both languages will discuss the same problem sets. However, organizational details and grading will be determined by each instructor.

Contact Information: Prof. Antoine Camous, Ph.D., L7, 3-5 – Room 2.43, Phone: +49 152 23626524, E-mail: camous(at)uni-mannheim.de

Microeconomics B

[Course dates / form of participation](#)

Responsible teacher of the module: Prof. Helena Perrone, Ph.D.

Further instructor(s): teaching assistants for exercise classes

Cycle of offer: each fall semester

ECTS credits: 8

Teaching method (hours per week): lecture (3) + exercise class (2)

Course language: English

Prerequisites: Grundlagen der Volkswirtschaftslehre, Microeconomics A

Grading: Final exam, 120 min

Goals and contents of the module: This course covers sources of market failure and provides an introduction into game theory and information economics. Starting with the two welfare theorems established in Mikroökonomik A, the course is organized around the limitations of these theorems. In the first two parts, which are covered rather quickly, external effects and public goods are analyzed. These topics are further developed in the courses Wirtschaftspolitik and Finanzwissenschaft. In the third part of the course market power is analyzed, both in a monopoly and an oligopoly context. In addition to standard monopoly and oligopoly theory, the course elaborates on price discrimination and bundling in monopoly and on dynamic aspects of competition such as deterrence. This part also contains an introduction into non-cooperative game theory with a particular focus on the knowledge foundation of games. Solution concepts are developed and discussed. The fourth part of the course addresses asymmetric information as a source of market failure. This part is an introduction into information economics and game theory under asymmetric information. This part begins with adverse selection problems and then covers screening and signaling. It then turns to moral hazard in a principal-agent relationship. This course provides basic tools and economic mechanisms that not only play an important role in microeconomics, but also are relevant across different economic sub disciplines. The focus is on the basic mechanism and not on formal apparatus. Lectures are complemented by incentivized classroom experiments (included in the lecture) and exercise sessions.

Expected competences acquired after completion of the module: The student is acquainted with basic concepts of microeconomic theory complementing the course Microeconomics A. In particular, the student is able to use concepts from game theory and information economics to address economic questions. Apart from being able to apply formal tools to a large variety of real-world issues, the student has learnt to choose the appropriate solution concepts and modeling tools for the question of interest. Thus, the student is able to evaluate what is the appropriate model and synthesize his knowledge by focusing on the fundamental economic mechanism at work. The student has improved communication skills through active participation in particular in the exercise sessions.

Further information:

Main textbook: Robert S. Pindyck und Daniel S. Rubinfeld. Microeconomics. (8th Edition) Pearson, 2013.

Optional textbook: Hal R. Varian. Intermediate Economics. (8th Edition) Norton, 2009.

Contact Information: Prof. Helena Perrone, Ph.D., L 7, 3-5 – room 3.13, phone: +49 621 181-1838, e-mail: [helena.perrone\(at\)uni-mannheim.de](mailto:helena.perrone(at)uni-mannheim.de)

Advanced Phase

Lectures

Antitrust / Competition Policy

[Course dates / form of participation](#)

Responsible teachers of the module: Prof. Michelle Sovinsky, Ph.D. / Kevin Remy

Cycle of offer: irregular

ECTS credits: 7

Teaching method (hours per week): lecture (2) + exercise class (2)

Course language: English

Prerequisites: Microeconomics A + B, Grundlagen der Ökonometrie

Grading: written final exam, 120 min.

Goals and contents of the module: This course is designed to provide an introduction to theoretical models and empirical methods in industrial organization, focusing on competition policy/antitrust. Monopoly and strategic interactions between firms will be studied using research papers and antitrust cases. Specifically, topics include collusion, horizontal merger, predation, and vertical restraints.

Expected competences acquired after completion of the module: Upon completion of the course, students will be able to evaluate firm interactions to determine if they violate current antitrust/competition policy laws, to analyze the welfare and competitive impact of firm interactions in the light of policy; and enhancement of communication skills through presentation in the exercise session.

Contact: tba

Applied Multivariate Statistics (AMS)

[Course dates / form of participation](#)

Responsible teacher of the module: Dr. Toni Stocker

Cycle of offer: each fall semester

ECTS credits: 7

Teaching method (hours per week): lecture (2) + exercise (2)

Course language: English

Prerequisites: Statistik I + II, Grundlagen der Ökonometrie, Laptop required. The final grade is based on points from the tutorials and points from the final written exam.

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 from 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: Subject of this course is to provide an overview about classical methods for describing and analyzing high-dimensional data. Thereby the main focus is on their practical application. The Statistical Software R will intensively be used upon many real data examples.

Contents: Introduction to AMS, Matrix Algebra, Multivariate Samples, Principal Component Analysis (PCA), Biplots, Factor Analysis, Multidimensional Scaling (MDS), Cluster Analysis, Linear Discriminant Analysis (LDA), Binary Response Models, Statistical Methods for Data Science

Expected competences acquired after completion of the module: At the end of the semester students know and understand most common methods for analyzing multivariate data and their theoretical background can proficiently use R when using multivariate techniques: data import, constructing graphics, inference, model diagnosis and assessment have experienced the possibilities and limitations of multivariate methods on the basis of real data examples

Further information: Students should have a solid background in Statistics (e.g. two or more courses in Statistics). A course in Basic Econometrics is helpful but not strictly required. 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\(at\)uni-mannheim.de](mailto:stocker@uni-mannheim.de)
Office: L7,3-5; 1st floor, room 143; Office hours: Wednesday, 3:00-4:30 p.m. or upon appointment.

Economics of Social Insurance and Social Policies

[Course dates / form of participation](#)

Responsible teacher: Prof. Arthur Seibold, Ph.D.

Cycle of offer: each fall semester

ECTS credits: 5

Method (hours per week): lecture (2)

Course language: English

Prerequisites: introductory classes in Microeconomics and Econometrics; having taken Introductory Public Economics is desirable

Grading: final exam (90 min, 100%)

Goals and contents of the module: This course offers an introduction to the economics of Social Insurance and other public social expenditure policies. The first part focuses on social insurance, including unemployment insurance, health insurance and retirement pensions. The second part deals with other social expenditure policies, including education and low-income transfers. The course discusses the rationales for government intervention in different areas, as well as potential problems associated with it. Students will become familiar with recent empirical evidence on individual behavioral responses as well as the effectiveness of different government policies.

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

- Critically analyze government intervention based on theoretical reasoning and empirical evidence
- Apply microeconomic methods to the area of social insurance and social policies
- Critically evaluate empirical evidence based on their knowledge of econometrics
- Have an understanding of the topics covered corresponding to recent research, and usefully apply this to real-world issues in public policy

Contact Information: Prof. Arthur Seibold, Ph.D.; Phone: +49 621 181-1781; E-mail: [seibold\(at\)uni-mannheim.de](mailto:seibold@uni-mannheim.de); L 7, 3-5 – Room 224; Consultation hour(s): Wed, 5 – 6 p.m.

Energy, Environment and Development

[Course dates / form of participation](#)

Responsible teacher of the module: Dana Kassem, Ph.D. / Prof. Ulrich Wagner, Ph.D.

Cycle of offer: irregular

ECTS credits: 7

Teaching method (hours per week): lecture (2) + exercise (2)

Course language: English

Prerequisites: Microeconomics A + B, Principles of Econometrics. A good background in applied econometrics is essential.

Grading: written final exam, 90 minutes

Goals and contents of the module: This course covers topics in energy and environmental economics with a special focus on developing countries.

The overall goal of the course is to introduce advanced undergraduate students to the recent surge in research on environmental and energy economics as applied to developing countries. There are three broad topics. The first topic examines the relationship between access to energy and economic development. We will explore the recent findings on how access to energy and the reliability of its supply affect various economic outcomes. The second broad topic is about the environment and development. In this part, we will cover topics like pollution problems in developing countries and the role of political economy (institutions, regulation, enforcement) in developing countries in affecting the environment. The final topic focuses on climate change and development. This part will cover papers on the effect of climate change, including rising temperatures, on people in developing countries and their adaptation risk. This includes the effect of climate change on agriculture, migration, and mortality.

Expected competences acquired after completion of the module: The first goal is to understand the nature of energy and environmental issues faced by developing countries, where these issues are different from those faced by developed countries. The second goal is to have an overview of the frontier economic research in energy and environmental economics applied to developing countries.

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.

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3-5 Room 211/12

Industrial Organization

[Course dates / form of participation](#)

Responsible teacher of the module: Prof. Nicolas Schutz, Ph.D.

Cycle of offer: every fall term

ECTS credits: 6

Teaching method (hours per week): lecture (2) + practical exercise (1)

Course language: English

Prerequisites: Microeconomics A and B

Grading: written, 90 minutes

Goals and contents of the module: In a market economy, firms are in charge of deciding what and how much to produce, and consumers respond to this by shopping for the best alternative. This course analyzes the behavior of firms. It aims to answer the following questions: What is a firm? What defines the boundaries of a firm? Given established boundaries, how do firms make production decisions and how do they compete with each other? Should government meddle with the operation of firms?

The course is organized as follows:

1. Review on perfect competition
2. Review on game theory
3. Monopoly
4. Static oligopoly
5. Dynamic oligopoly and collusion
6. Product differentiation
7. Information
8. Advertising
9. Merger, entry and market structure
10. Network effects
11. Vertical relations
12. Patents and R&D
13. Antitrust

Expected competences acquired after completion of the module: Students acquire a broad knowledge in the field of industrial organization. They understand, among others, why monopolies harm social welfare, why price discrimination may benefit final consumers, why firms have incentives to escape the so-called Bertrand paradox, why collusion becomes harder to sustain in a shrinking industry, why firms have incentives to differentiate themselves as much as possible from their competitors, etc. To deal with these issues, and to solve the relevant theoretical models, students apply various game theoretical and mathematical tools, such as optimization methods and multivariate calculus. 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. They will understand the limitations of these theories, and how these limitations can be overcome. The focus on model-building, and not on mindless memorization, will enable students to deepen their knowledge in the field of industrial organization if they need to do so. In particular, students will be able to teach themselves theories which are not dealt with in this course, or to read more advanced research articles. The field of industrial organization has a lot of real-world applications. For instance, a graduate working in an antitrust authority will be able to apply monopoly, oligopoly and cartel theory, when deciding whether to clear a horizontal merger. A graduate working for a management consulting firm, or for any corporation, will be able to apply industrial organization theory to pricing strategy. More generally, this course promotes strategic, analytical and critical thinking, which is crucial in any professional career.

Graduates are able to apply industrial organization theory to real world situations. For instance, when conducting a market analysis, they are able to identify what are the most important characteristics of this specific market. What are the available technologies? Are they likely to evolve in the near future? Is there a scope for product differentiation? Is entry likely to occur in the short run? In the longer run? The field of industrial organization uses analytical and quantitative tools. Theories are formulated using formal, mathematical models. However, as already pointed out, 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 industrial organization.

Contact Information: Prof. Nicolas Schutz, Ph.D., E-Mail: schutz@uni-mannheim.de, L7, 3-5, room 310, Tel. 181-1872, Office hours: Monday, 2:15 pm to 4:15 pm.

Law and Economics

[Course dates / form of participation](#)

Responsible teacher of the module: Prof. Francisco Poggi, Ph.D.

Cycle of offer: once a year

ECTS credits: 7

Teaching method (hours per week): lecture (2) + exercise (2)

Course language: English

Prerequisites: intermediate Microeconomics, Game Theory. (No knowledge of the law is required.)

Grading: midterm exam (60 min, 30%) + final exam (90 min, 50%) + assignments (20%).

Goals and contents of the module: The goal of the course is to present a cohesive theory of the law, through the lens of economic theory. The course covers critical areas of law where monetary incentives play a central role (tort law, contract law, and property law) as well as areas where other type of incentives are used (e.g. incapacitation in criminal law). The course is organized in the following way:

1. Coase Theorem
2. Tort Law
3. Contract Law
4. Property Law
5. Intellectual Property Law
6. Economics of Litigation
7. Economics of Crime

Expected competences acquired after completion of the module: Participants who successfully complete the course will become familiar with the most fundamental concepts in the theory of law. Moreover, students will be able to apply microeconomic theory to analyze and critically evaluate law and public policy. Finally, students will improve their analytical skills by working on exercises that are designed to illustrate key points.

Contact Information: Prof. Francisco Poggi, Ph.D.; tba

Microeconometrics

[Course dates / form of participation](#)

Responsible teacher of the module: Yoshiyasu Rai, Ph.D.

Cycle of offer: fall term

ECTS credits: 6

Teaching method (hours per week): lecture (2) + exercise (1)

Course language: English

Prerequisites: Statistik I + II und Grundlagen der Ökonometrie

Grading: final exam (120 min, 70%) + assignments (30%)

Goals and contents of the module: The purpose of this module is to provide an introduction to modern microeconometrics – the statistical methods that economists use to analyze microlevel data. This module is primarily designed for Bachelor students who already have some background knowledge in econometrics and would like to learn more econometric tools and theories. We will cover various topics including OLS; Panel data models; Causal inference; Binary choice models; Generalized method of moments; Nonparametric models and Penalized regression in the module.

Expected competences acquired after completion of the module: Upon course completion, students will be able to understand microeconomic methods that are used in applied econometric papers. They will also be able to apply these microeconomic methods for their own project. In addition to that, students will acquire knowledge of theoretical foundations behind these methods.

Further information: References used for this course are:

- Bruce E. Hansen (2020), Econometrics, Manuscript, University of Wisconsin.
- Guido W. Imbens and Donald B. Rubin (2015), Causal Inference, Cambridge University Press.
- Joshua D. Angrist and Jorn-Steffen Pischke (2014), Mastering 'Metrics, Princeton University Press.
- Gareth James, Daniela Witten, Trevor Hastie, and Robert Tibshirani (2013), An Introduction to Statistical Learning, Springer.

Contact Information: Name Yoshiyasu Rai, Phone: +49 621 181-1930, email: yrai(at)mail.uni-mannheim.de, Office: L7, 3-5 – Room 1.45, Office hours: By appointment

Organizational Economics

[Course dates / form of participation](#)

Responsible teacher of the module: Prof. Dr. Harald Fadinger / Dr. Jan Schymik

Cycle of offer: irregular

ECTS credits: 5

Teaching method (hours per week): lecture (2)

Course language: English

Prerequisites: Microeconomics A + B, Principles of Econometrics

Grading: final exam (90 min); in addition, students may hand in a midterm assignment to earn bonus points on the exam

Goals and contents of the module: The course gives an introduction into organizational economics. The covered materials meet the international standard of a course in organizational economics and combines the discussion of microeconomic models with modern data analysis.

The course covers the following topics:

Part I: Within-Firms

- Management Practices
- Moral Hazard and Incentives
- Hierarchies and the Division of Labor
- Authority and Decision-Making in Organizations
- Corporate Governance

Part II: Between Firms

- Misallocation of Production Factors
- Boundaries of the Firm: Property Rights Approach
- Boundaries of the Firm: Transaction Cost Approach
- Firms and Capital Markets

Expected competences acquired after completion of the module: Graduates have developed a critical understanding of the most important theories in organizational economics. They are able to evaluate problems inside organizations and other social environments. Graduates are able to apply their understanding of organizations for their professional careers.

Contact Information: Dr. Jan Schymik; Phone: (0621) 181 - 3426; Mail: jschymik@mail.uni-mannheim.de

Public Choice Theory***

[Course dates / form of participation](#)

Responsible teacher of the module: Prof. Duk Gyoo Kim, Ph.D.

Cycle of offer: each fall semester

ECTS credits: 6

Teaching method (hours per week): lecture (2) + exercise (1)

Course language: English

Prerequisites: basic knowledge in game theory, macroeconomics, and calculus. The course assumes knowledge of concepts that are covered in Microeconomics A, Macroeconomics A, and calculus. This is an advanced course intended for upper level economics undergraduates who enjoy learning about and analyzing economic models.

Economic models of politics tend to be game theoretic, so familiarity with game theoretic reasoning is useful.

Grading: final exam (90 min, 100%)

Goals and contents of the module: This course provides an introduction to the economic analysis of politics. This course consists of three parts. Part I provides an overview of economic theories on the political behavior of the key actors in the political arena: voters, candidates, legislatures, political parties, and interest groups. Part II discusses alternative voting rules and introduces some important ideas from social choice theory. Part III discusses how political decisions are distorted away from those that would be made by the benevolent governments from economics textbooks. If time permits, we also discuss contemporary issues in politics, including citizen initiatives, media bias, and campaign finance reforms.

Expected competences acquired after completion of the module: The students are able to describe core concepts widely used in political economy and formal political science theory.

The students can explain the economic incentives and strategic actions of agents in the political arena, such as voters, candidates, legislators, political parties, interest groups, and citizen's initiatives. The topics require an advanced level of analyzing skills. The students are able to apply game-theoretic models to various political issues.

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

Public Policy and Macroeconomics

[Course dates / form of participation](#)

Responsible teacher of the module: Prof. Minchul Yum, Ph.D.

Cycle of offer: each fall semester

ECTS credits: 5

Teaching method (hours per week): lecture (2)

Course language: English

Prerequisites: Microeconomics A + B, Macroeconomics A + B

Grading: final exam, 90 min (70%); assignment (30%)

Goals and contents of the module: This course aims to understand various public policies in the advanced economies, and how they affect the macroeconomy. An important content of the lecture is to review and understand various, mostly descriptive, empirical facts on public policy in the US and some other European countries as well. In the meantime, we also review empirical evidence on economic inequality and study how it is related to public policy. Another important content of this lecture is to apply economic theories to understand the effects of public policy on the macroeconomy while taking into account people's optimal responses to such a policy. We will review the basic theoretical framework, and consider more advanced theoretical frameworks relevant for macroeconomic analysis.

Expected competences acquired after completion of the module: At the end of the semester, students are expected to

- Deepen the understanding of empirical facts on public policy in advanced countries
- Develop a critical understanding of the key theoretical methods useful for policy analysis
- Apply the theoretical frameworks to the macroeconomic problems
- Evaluate policy reforms based on their own thought processes and social processes in groups

Contact information: Prof. Minchul Yum, Ph.D. (0621) 181-1853; myum@mail.uni-mannheim.de; L7, 3-5, P09; Tue 4-5 pm

Unemployment and Wages in Europe

[Course dates / form of participation](#)

Responsible teacher of the module: Prof. Michele Tertilt, Ph.D. / Sena Coskun, Ph.D.

Cycle of offer: irregular

ECTS credits: 5

Teaching method (hours per week): lecture (2)

Course language: English

Prerequisites: Mikroökonomik A + B, Makroökonomik A + B, Statistik I + II und Grundlagen der Ökonometrie, basic Stata knowledge

Grading: final exam (60%) + assignments (40%)

Goals and contents of the module: This course will study topics in labor markets and macroeconomics including human capital formation, skill differentials, unemployment, job search and job creation, wage differentials and hours worked. The course aims at raising the interest on commonly discussed labor market issues among students and also providing tools and view on how to think about them.

The main objective of the course is to provide a comprehensive view on labor markets to understand the major issues on unemployment and wages. The course will be a mixture of theory and empirical analysis. Some basic knowledge of software (Stata) is required but the tools on how to use data will be introduced along with the course. Students will be familiar with public macro and micro data sources and will learn how to construct aggregate measures such as youth unemployment rate, college wage premium by using micro data. Some questions that will be discussed during the course are:

"What are the implications of different labor market regimes in Europe?"

"Why do some countries suffer from youth unemployment?"

"What is college wage premium, how it changed over time and why it is different across countries?"

"Why do some people work more than others?"

Expected competences acquired after completion of the module: The goal of the course is to provide comparative perspective on labor markets and commonly discussed issues in the context of Europe. Students will be able to understand and evaluate observed phenomena with their theoretical knowledge and critical view on how to analyze the data obtained in this course.

Contact Information: Sena Coskun, Ph.D.; E-mail: sena.coskun@uni-mannheim.de; Phone: +49 621 181-1978; Office: L7, 3-5, Room P.24

Seminars

Biases in Economic Decision Making

[Course dates / form of participation](#)

Responsible teacher of the module: Prof. Dr. Henrik Orzen

Cycle of offer: each fall semester

ECTS credits: 6

Teaching method (hours per week): blockseminar (2)

Course language: English

Prerequisites: Microeconomics A + B

Grading: seminar paper (50%), presentation (40%), classroom discussion (10%)

Expected number of students in class: depends on students' choices. Maximum number of students in class: 13

Goals and contents of the module: The goal of this seminar is to introduce students to a range of empirical and experimental findings that reveal systematic biases in human decision making—behavior which deviates systematically from the rational choice benchmark. Thus, these biases directly contradict conventional homo economicus assumptions and therefore raise the question to what extent traditional modelling approaches are tenable. In this seminar we will discuss various topics in this field.

Expected competences acquired after completion of the module: By the end of the module participants will be able to demonstrate a critical understanding of particular behavioral biases in the context of individual choice and strategic decision making. Students will have gained knowledge of where and how conventional assumptions in economics such as unlimited rationality and own-payoff maximization can fail. They will have improved their ability to critically evaluate empirical evidence and theoretical approaches in economics. Furthermore, they will have improved their presentation and communications skills.

Further information: Please note that you have to register for this seminar within the common registration week.

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).

Controversial Topics in Economics***

[Course dates / form of participation](#)

Responsible teacher of the module: Dr. Peter Dürsch

Cycle of offer: irregular

ECTS credits: 6

Teaching method (hours per week): blockseminar (2)

Course language: English

Prerequisites: none

Grading: classroom discussion 50% & 5 pages paper 50%

Expected number of students in class: maximum number of participants: 20

Goals and contents of the module: Students will pick a controversial economic topic to discuss together with another student.

Within each pair of students, one person will argue the pro position and one person will argue the contra position. Each student will give a short presentation of their side, followed by a discussion of the topic by both sides of the topic. Each student will hand in a 5 pages long paper putting forward their position.

Potential topics could include, but are not limited to:

- Peer punishment in overcoming under provision of public good.
- Fixed-pay vs. performance pay in labor markets.
- Is the utility function a good way to describe human behavior?
- Are teams better than individuals in decision making?
- Should food be subject to lower a consumption tax than other goods?
- Should recipients of Social Service (like welfare) be required to do community service?
- For a developed country, is it good to accept more immigrants to sustain its economic growth?

Expected competences acquired after completion of the module: Students will be able to conduct independent research into a topic of interest and evaluate the found fact. They can put forward logical arguments for a position, even if this position does not match their personal opinion. Students will be able to hold a presentation on their own and effectively coordinate their presentation with another student. In writing their final paper, they will hone their ability to write a scientific text.

Contact Information: tba

Cultural Economics***

[Course dates / form of participation](#)

Responsible teacher of the module: Dr. Andrej Svorenčik

Cycle of offer: once

ECTS-Credits: 6

Teaching method (hours per week): blockseminar (2)

Course language: English

Prerequisites: Microeconomics A and Macroeconomics A

Grading: preparation (10%), presentation (30 minutes plus Q&A) & classroom discussion (50%), seminar paper (40%).

Expected number of students in class: 13 students maximum

Goals and Contents of the module: Cultural economics is the application of economic analysis to the creative and performing arts, the heritage and cultural industries, in both the public and private sectors. It is concerned with the economic organization of the cultural sector and with the behavior of producers, consumers and governments in that sector. Topics from which students can choose their presentation include for instance: economics of art (demand and supply for art, art auctions), economics of luxury goods, economics of the performing arts, economics of cultural heritage, economics of creative industries (music industry, film industry, festivals, museums), economics of broadcasting, book publishing, and cultural policy,

Expected Competences acquired after completion of the module: Students develop skills in analyzing cultural economics issues and understanding their effects on economic agents using models, case studies and empirical methods.

Further information: registration week 7-13 June 2021.

- Towse, Ruth. 2010. A Textbook of Cultural Economics. Cambridge, UK; New York: Cambridge University Press.

- Ginsburgh, Victor A. and Throsby, David (Eds.) 2006 & 2014. Handbook of the Economics of Art and Culture. 2 volumes. Available online through the university library
 - <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/handbooks/15740676/1>
 - <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/handbooks/15740676>
- Contact: Dr. Andrej Svorenčik, e-mail: svorencik@uni-mannheim.de

Family Policies - An Economic Perspective

[Course dates / form of participation](#)

Responsible teacher of the module: Effrosyni Adamopoulou, Ph.D. / Prof. Dr. Michèle Tertilt

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 student's 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: Effrosyni Adamopoulou, Ph.D., email: adamopoulou@uni-mannheim.de, Office: L7, 3-5, Room P.26, Skype name: adefi81, Office hours via skype: Tuesdays 13:30-15:00.

Firm Dynamics and Economic Growth

[Course dates / form of participation](#)

Responsible teacher of the module: Prof. Anne Hannusch, Ph.D.

Cycle of offer: irregular

ECTS credits: 6

Teaching method (hours per week): blockseminar (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

Introduction to Statistical Learning

[Course dates / form of participation](#)

Responsible teacher of the module: Prof. Dr. Cathrine Aeckerle-Willems

Cycle of offer: irregular

ECTS credits: 6

Teaching method (hours per week): seminar (2) (presentations will be held during the semester)

Course language: English

Prerequisites: Grundlagen der Ökonometrie and Statistik I + II

Grading: seminar paper (50%), and presentation (50%)

Expected number of students in class: maximal 13

Goals and contents of the module: Technical advances in particular in the computer and information science have revolutionized the possibilities to collect, to store and to work with huge amounts of data. As a result, statisticians have been and still are confronted with new complexity in problems arising in particular from size and high dimensionality and with the need to develop methods suitable to make sense of the data. The fields of machine/statistical learning have emerged and grown rapidly. This seminar focuses on theory and methods in statistical learning, mostly supervised learning. Roughly speaking, this is about learning from training data in order to predict an outcome. Topics will cover e.g. kernel smoothing methods, trees, neural networks, support vector machines, random forests. The seminar will be based on the book: Hastie, Trevor, Robert Tibshirani, and Jerome Friedman. The elements of statistical learning: data mining, inference, and prediction. Springer Science & Business Media, 2009.

Expected competences acquired after completion of the module: Upon successfully completing the seminar, students will have gained an overview of important methods in statistical learning.

They will have learned to independently familiarize themselves with the theory and they will be able to summarize and explain their acquired knowledge. They will have trained their presentation and communication skills in written and oral form. Students will have gained experience in discussing advances concerning the theory in current research literature and critically examining developments and application examples.

Further information: Please note that you have to register for this seminar within the common registration week.

Contact information: Cathrine Aeckerle-Willems, Tel. 181-1929, E-mail: aeckerle<at>uni-mannheim.de, L7, 3-5, room 129

Topics in Digital Markets

[Course dates / form of participation](#)

Responsible teacher of the module: Prof. Dr. Volker Nocke / Daniel Savelle

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)

Grading: presentation (40%) and report (60%)

Expected number of students in class: max. 15

Goals and contents of the module: Students are required to pick a paper in selected topics relating to Digital Markets 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 platforms, network goods, reputation systems, online auctions, big data techniques, machine learning and other topics relevant for digital markets. 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 digital markets. 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: The reading list will be provided in the first meeting (September). Please note that you have to register for this seminar within the common registration week.

Contact Information: Daniel Savelle, E-Mail: dsavelle@mail.uni-mannheim.de

Topics in Game Theory

[Course dates / form of participation](#)

Responsible teacher of the module: Prof. Dr. Thomas Tröger

Cycle of offer: once a year

ECTS credits: 6

Teaching method (hours per week): seminar (2)

Course language: English

Prerequisites: lecture Game Theory

Grading: seminar presentation (2/3), seminar paper (1/3)

Expected number of students in class: max. 13

Goals and contents of the module: Building on the abilities obtained in the course on game theory, students are led to independent reading of scientific articles. To this end, selected articles from current research are used. The students present these articles in front of other students and in a written homework assignment.

Expected Competences acquired after completion of the module: Successful participants can grasp scientific contributions building on game-theoretic methods at a level of difficulty that is appropriate to advanced undergraduate studies. They can communicate the essential hypotheses of such works to fellow students. They begin to have the ability to judge these hypotheses critically. They can communicate and defend these judgments convincingly to experts and laymen.

Contact: Prof. Dr. Thomas Tröger, Phone: +49 621 181-3423, E-mail: troeger@uni-mannheim.de, L7, 3-5, Room 3.47

Topics of Empirical Industrial Organization and Competition Policy

[Course dates / form of participation](#)

Responsible teacher of the module: Prof. Laura Grigolon, Ph.D.

Cycle of offer: each fall semester

ECTS credits: 6

Teaching method (hours per week): blockseminar (2)

Course language: English

Prerequisites: Grundlagen der Ökonometrie and Industrial Organization

Grading: seminar paper (completion within 4 weeks, approx. 10 pages with figures and tables) and presentation (approx. 20 minutes); seminar paper (50%), presentation (50%).

Expected number of students in class: max. 13

Goals and contents of the module: The seminar has the main goal to train the necessary skills to read, understand, summarize and present scientific work applied to policy-relevant questions in Industrial Organization, with a focus on competition policy. There will be a choice of papers for which a dataset is also available. Students will receive the paper and, depending on their interest, the dataset and code that allows an empirical study of the paper.

Expected competences acquired after completion of the module: Students will be able to:

1. Understand the general motivation of the subject: What is the topic about? Why is it an important policy problem?

2. (Optional) Perform their own empirical analysis. Based on the dataset and code, students can implement their own empirical analysis. Papers may sometimes use complex econometric methods and it is not the intention to copy or replicate the paper exactly.
3. Reflect about the application of the policy to Germany or other countries. Students will be able to discuss policy issues applied to industrial organization, with a focus on competition issues, and whether the problem is interesting for Germany (or other countries) and how a policy recommendation can be applied.

Further information: Please note that you have to register for this seminar within the common registration week.

Contact information: Prof. Laura Grigolon, Ph.D.; Phone: 0621-181 1913; laura.grigolon@uni-mannheim.de

Additional courses for Economists

Forschungsseminar in Wirtschaftsgeschichte

[Termine / Teilnahmemöglichkeit](#)

Modulverantwortlicher: PD Dr. Tobias Jopp

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. Das aktuelle Programm entnehmen Sie bitte dem gesonderten Aushang „Research in Economic History“ unter folgendem 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.