

**Annotated Course Catalog for courses held in English language
Fall Semester 2022, 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 (23 May until 29 May 2022). 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

[Lecture dates](#)

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@uni-mannheim.de; Tel: (0621) 181 3505, Office: L7, 3-5, 419.

Macroeconomics B

[Lecture dates](#)

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: Williamson, S. (2018). Macroeconomics (Sixth edition, global ed., The Pearson series in economics). Harlow, England.

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](mailto:camous(at)uni-mannheim.de)

Microeconomics B

[Lecture dates](#)

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: Pindyck, R., & Rubinfeld, D. (2018). Microeconomics (Ninth edition, global ed., The Pearson series in economics).
- Optional textbook: Varian, H. (2014). Intermediate Microeconomics: A modern approach (Ninth edition, international student ed.).

Contact Information: Prof. Helena Perrone, Ph.D., L 7, 3-5 – room 3.13, phone: +49 621 181-1838, e-mail: helena.perrone@uni-mannheim.de

Advanced Phase

Lectures

Antitrust / Competition Policy

[Course dates](#)

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

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, 90%) + case study presentation (10%)

Goals and contents of the module: This course is designed to introduce students to theoretical models and empirical methods in industrial organization, focusing on competition policy/antitrust. Monopoly and strategic interactions between firms, as well as empirical tools will be studied using research papers and antitrust cases.

Specifically, the course is organized around the following topics:

1. Introduction to Antitrust
2. Effective Competition, Welfare, and Market Power
3. Market Definition
4. Assessment of Market Power
5. Estimation of Demand Functions
6. Estimation of Market Power
7. Collusion and Horizontal Agreements
8. Calculation of Cartel Damages
9. Horizontal Mergers
10. Vertical Restraints and Vertical Mergers
11. Predation, Monopolization, and other Abusive Practices

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 to critically analyze antitrust decisions through presenting an antitrust case in the exercise session.

Contact: Kevin Remmy, Ph.D., E-mail: remmy@uni-mannheim.de

Applied Economics

[Course dates](#)

Responsible teacher of the module: Prof. Philipp Ager, Ph.D.

Cycle of offer: fall semester 2021

ECTS credits: 6

Teaching method (hours per week): lectures (2) and exercises (1)

Course language: English

Prerequisites: Statistik I + II, Grundlagen der Ökonometrie

Grading: based on three assignments (each 25%) and a presentation (25%).

Goals and contents of the module: The course introduces three main empirical strategies that are used in applied work to establish causality: difference-in-differences, event-study designs, and instrumental variables. For example, in applied microeconomics the number of papers in top-5 economics journals with explicit reference to identification has increased from less than 5% at the beginning of the 1980s to around 50% as of today. In these outlets, the use of difference-in-differences and event-studies in applied work gained in popularity over the last 10 years complementing traditional methods such as instrumental variables and fixed effects. Students will be introduced to each concept, and we will discuss common pitfalls of every method that applied researchers might encounter and potential remedies based on recent advances in the field. For each empirical strategy, students are asked to hand in an empirical assignment; each is due after the concept was covered in class. For the assignments, students are allowed to work in groups (maximum 3 students per group). At the end of the semester, students have to present a research article individually. The list of articles for the presentation sessions will be handed out at the beginning of the semester. The students have to pick one of the papers on the list, which will be allocated on a first come and first served basis. The presentation should be 30 minutes long, containing a detailed summary of the presented article (60% of the presentation), a critical evaluation (20%), and an open discussion at the end of the presentation which the presenting student is leading (20%).

Expected competences acquired after completion of the course: Students understand the empirical methods learned in class, know their potential pitfalls and remedies how to solve/circumvent them. Students learn how to implement the empirical methods covered in class and they are able to critically evaluate research papers using these methods.

Further information: Useful background material:

Angrist J. and Pischke, J. (2009): Mostly Harmless Econometrics: An Empiricist's Companion

Contact Information: Prof. Philipp Ager, Ph.D.; E-mail: pager@uni-mannheim.de

Applied Multivariate Statistics (AMS)

[Course dates](#)

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: Basic Statistics, Basic Econometrics OR Linear Algebra, Laptop required

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. 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(at)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 European Integration

[Course dates](#)

Responsible teacher of the module: Prof. Dr. Eckhard Janeba

Cycle of offer: irregular

ECTS credits: 7

Teaching method (hours per week): lecture (3)

Course language: English

Prerequisites: Finanzwissenschaft, Wirtschaftspolitik; recommended: Internationale Ökonomik

Grading: final exam (90 min, 100%)

Goals and contents of the module: The course provides an introduction into the economic and political aspects of integration in the European Union. It covers a variety of fields including the historical development of the EU integration process, the integration of product (trade in goods and services) and factor markets (FDI and migration), the governance structures in the EU, as well as the monetary integration and fiscal coordination process. Current policy issues such as Brexit or the reform of institutional structures are addressed.

Expected competences acquired after completion of the module: Students will learn to understand core ideas and key problems of the European integration process and be able to apply their knowledge and understanding in existing but also new situations as the European integration process moves on. Students will also learn theoretical and empirical methodologies used in the current research of this area. This includes the knowledge of major sources of data and documents from EU websites and other sources relating to the EU.

Contact Information: Prof. Dr. Eckhard Janeba; Phone: (0621) 181-1795; E-mail: janeba@uni-mannheim.de; Office: L7, 3-5, room 2.29; Office Hours: by appointment.

Economics of Social Insurance and Social Policies

[Course dates](#)

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; L 7, 3-5 – Room 224; Consultation hour(s): Wed, 5 – 6 p.m.

Financial Economics

[Course dates](#)

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

Cycle of offer: once per academic year

ECTS credits: 6

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

Course language: English

Prerequisites: Microeconomics A + B

Grading: 100% final exam (120 min)

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

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

Contact Information: Prof. Nicolas Bonneton, Ph.D., E-mail: nicolas.bonneton(at)gmail.com

Industrial Organization

[Course dates](#)

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](#)

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.; E-mail: poggi@uni-mannheim.de

Microeconometrics

[Course dates](#)

Responsible teacher of the module: Prof. 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; Cluster data models; Nonparametric models; Causal inference as well as other topics.

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 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), Casual Inference, Cambridge University Press.
- Joshua D. Angrist and Jorn-Steffen Pischke (2014), Mastering 'Metrics, Princeton University Press.

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

Organizational Economics

[Course dates](#)

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

Political Economy: Elections and accountability

[Course dates](#)

Responsible teacher of the module: Prof. Dr. Camille Urvoy

Cycle of offer: fall semester

ECTS credits: 6

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

Course language: English

Prerequisites: Statistik I and II, Grundlagen der Ökonometrie (basic knowledge of statistics and econometrics)

Grading: classroom discussion (10%) + mid-term exam (60 minutes, 40%) + final take-home assignment (50%)

Goals and contents of the module: In this course, we will study recent advances in empirical political economy. We will first study elections: to what extent elections allow representation and accountability in representative democracies, why people vote and what happens when they do not, who runs for elections and how does the identity of the winner impact policy making. We will also talk about other ways some interest groups can influence policy making: campaign contributions, lobbying, and collective action. We will also study the role of information (and in particular the media), both in democracies and non-democracies. Finally, we will study how recent technological changes (internet, social media) reshape media and political landscapes. We will focus on empirical work that provide case studies of important reforms or policies. The goal is to provide students with evidence-based answers on how policies determine how voters' interests are represented and mapped into public policies.

Expected competences acquired after completion of the module: Students are expected to familiarize with reading academic articles.

The goal is that they understand how a research question fits in a broader literature, develop a basic understanding of the econometric methods employed and become able to gauge the credibility of the results. They should also gain a deeper understanding of the topics covered in class and be able to critically analyze policies based on empirical evidence.

Contact information: Prof. Dr. Camille Urvoy; phone: (0621) 181 - 1885; email: camille.urvoy@gmail.com, office: L7 3-5, 2nd floor, 208, office hours: Tuesday, 5-6pm.

Public Policy and Macroeconomics

[Course dates](#)

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

Wirtschaftsgeschichte der Weimarer Republik***

Termine

Modulverantwortliche/r: Dr. Alexander Donges

Turnus des Angebots: jedes Herbstsemester

ECTS-Punkte: 7

Lehrmethode: Vorlesung (3 SWS)

Unterrichtssprache: Deutsch

Teilnahmevoraussetzungen: keine Vorkenntnisse erforderlich

Benotung: Klausur (120 Minuten)

Ziele und Inhalte des Moduls: In dieser Vorlesung betrachten wir die Wirtschaftsgeschichte Deutschlands in der Zeit der Weimarer Republik (1919-33), die von tiefgreifenden Krisen geprägt war. Der erste Teil der Vorlesung konzentriert sich auf die Inflationsjahre (1919-24), die durch politische und wirtschaftliche Instabilität gekennzeichnet waren. Im Fokus stehen hier die wirtschaftlichen Folgen des Versailler Vertrags, die Ursachen, der Verlauf und die Auswirkungen der Hyperinflation sowie die Währungsreform des Jahres 1924. Darauf aufbauend betrachten wir den Zeitraum zwischen 1924 und 1929, die vermeintlich „goldenen Zwanziger“, in denen die deutsche Wirtschaft eine kurze Scheinblüte erlebte. Hierbei stehen die Entwicklung der Investitionen, des Kapitalmarkts, die Wiedereingliederung in die Weltwirtschaft sowie Kartelle und Unternehmenskonzentration im Vordergrund. Schließlich konzentrieren wir uns im letzten Drittel auf die Zeit der Weltwirtschaftskrise (1929-33). Im Fokus stehen Ursachen, Verlauf und Auswirkungen der Weltwirtschaftskrise sowie die Bankenkrise von 1931. Am Ende der Vorlesung diskutieren wir die Ursachen der politischen Radikalisierung und die Frage, ob der Untergang der Weimarer Republik unter anderen wirtschaftlichen Rahmenbedingungen und alternativen wirtschaftspolitischen Maßnahmen hätte verhindert werden können.

Erwartete Kompetenzen nach Abschluss des Moduls: Die Studierenden haben die fachlichen Kenntnisse und methodischen Fertigkeiten zur Analyse und Interpretation empirischer Zusammenhänge erworben. Dabei haben sie insbesondere gelernt, die Erkenntnisse aus empirischen Daten mit qualitativen Quellen sinnvoll zu verknüpfen und ökonomische Theorie anhand historischer Beispiele zu diskutieren.

Weitere Informationen: Eine detaillierte Gliederung mit Literaturangaben finden Sie vor Semesterbeginn auf meiner Website (<https://www.vwl.uni-mannheim.de/donges/>).

Einführende Literatur:

- Balderston, Theo (2002): Economics and politics in the Weimar Republic, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Knortz, Heike (2010): Wirtschaftsgeschichte der Weimarer Republik. Eine Einführung in Ökonomie und Gesellschaft der ersten Deutschen Republik, Göttingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht.

Kontakt: Dr. Alexander Donges; Telefon: 0621-181-3428; E-Mail: donges@uni-mannheim.de; Büro: L7, 3-5, Raum 403.

Seminars

Applied Econometrics

[Course dates](#)

Responsible teacher of the module: Prof. Dr. Carsten Trenkler

Cycle of offer: irregular

ECTS credits: 6

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

Course language: English

Prerequisites: Grundlagen der Ökonometrie and Statistik I + II

Grading: seminar paper (75%), presentations and hand-out (25%)

Expected number of students in class: maximum 14

Goals and contents of the module: Students will conduct an own empirical study in order to become familiar with applied research, what includes the ability to interpret empirical results in a meaningful way. Based on the material covered in the course Grundlagen der Ökonometrie, students will extend their knowledge on econometric models, estimation methods, and test procedures in order to solve empirical problems. The seminar topics will refer to the multiple regression models for cross-section data as well as to microeconomic, panel data, and time series models. Thereby, students should gain a broad overview on the various model classes through their own and their colleagues' projects.

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

Contact information: Carsten Trenkler, Tel. 181-1851, E-mail: trenkler<at>uni-mannheim.de, L7, 3-5, room 105

Biases in Economic Decision Making

[Course dates](#)

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

Cycle of offer: each fall semester

ECTS credits: 6

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

Course language: English

Prerequisites: Microeconomics A + B

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

Expected number of students in class: max. 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](#)

Responsible teacher of the module: Dr. Peter Dürsch

Cycle of offer: irregular

ECTS credits: 6

Teaching method (hours per week): block seminar (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: Dr. Peter Dürsch; E-mail: duersch@uni-mannheim.de

European Economic Policy

[Course dates](#)

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, Macroeconomics A + B, Grundlagen der Ökonometrie

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: Various economic policies are debated and decided at the EU level, including energy policy and energy security, climate policy, competition policy, trade policy, monetary policy and further EU integration and disintegration. This seminar will discuss current topics drawing on economic research, policy briefs, and our own critical reasoning. 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 on how to apply academic research to current policies.

Expected competences acquired after completion of the module: In this course, students will gain knowledge regarding different European economic policies and their economic evaluation. 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 in two days. Please note that you have to register for this seminar within the common registration week.

Contact Information: Prof. Dr. Philipp M. Richter, E-mail: tba; office hours: by appointment (meetings on-site or in zoom).

Experimental Economics***

[Course dates](#)

Responsible teacher of the module: Dr. Peter Dürsch

Cycle of offer: irregular

ECTS credits: 6

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

Course language: English (final thesis can also be in German)

Prerequisites: none (but having taken part in Experimental Economics or Behavioral Economics will be helpful)

Grading: 50% presentation + 50% seminar paper

Expected number of students in class: max. 15

Goals and contents of the module: Students will design and possibly implement their own experiment during the seminar. In the meetings, we will discuss design ideas, writing of instructions and how to implement the experiment. During the later part of the semester, we will discuss the evaluation of the experimental data.

Expected competences acquired after completion of the module: Students will be able to conduct economic experiments, including the design of the experiment, issues of subjects and payment, writing instructions, analyzing the data, and writing a final report.

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

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

Intergenerational Mobility

[Course dates](#)

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 study inequalities by focusing on intergenerational mobility, that is to what extent children's income is determined by their parents'. First, we will study different measures of inequalities, and how they have evolved over time. We will then consider the (relative) role of taxation and redistribution: how it has evolved over time, and how fair people consider it to be. We will next move to spatial variation in intergenerational mobility: does the neighborhood you grew up in determine your future income, and if so, what are the local mechanisms at play? We will try to understand whether people do move to better neighborhoods (or what prevents them from doing so), and if they do, to what extent they can reap the benefits of moving to these high opportunity neighborhoods. In a third segment of the class, we will consider different aspects of inequalities.

We will study potential mechanisms behind income inequalities along gender and racial lines, as well as the role of educational policies, often seen as one of the main tools to fostering income mobility.

Expected competences acquired after completion of the module: The competence acquired fall mainly into three categories. First, students will learn about recent trends in inequalities, where they come from, and what policies can be implemented to improve equality of opportunity, as well as the challenges associated with their implementation. This knowledge is relevant from a practitioner's perspective to understand the world we currently live in. 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 mobilize a large range of methods, giving students a broad overview of how data can be mobilized to inform policy making. Students will also have the opportunity to 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.

International Macroeconomics

[Course dates](#)

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

Cycle of offer: irregular

ECTS credits: 6

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

Course language: English

Prerequisites: Macroeconomics A

Grading: term paper (50%) + presentation (40%) + classroom discussion (10%)

Expected number of students in class: max. 15

Goals and contents of the module: The seminar deals with the macroeconomics of open economies.

Covered topics include (i) the foreign exchange market and the determination of exchange rates in international money markets; (ii) determinants of the trade balance, national income, the balance of payments, money flows, and interest rates; (iii) capital flows in integrated financial markets; monetary and fiscal policy in open economies; (iv) international macroeconomic interdependence and policy coordination; (v) supply-chain relationships.

Expected competences acquired after completion of the module: The students will acquire the ability to understand and critically evaluate academic articles in the field. They will improve their competencies in scientific writing and further their presentation skills by presenting an academic paper.

Further information: Topics will be introduced in the first meeting.

Contact Information: Dr. Jan Schymik; Phone: 0621 / 181 3426, email: jschymik@mail.uni-mannheim.de

Labor Market Policies

[Course dates](#)

Responsible teacher of the module: Prof. Philipp Ager, Ph.D. / Dr. Effrosyni Adamopoulou

Cycle of offer: irregular

ECTS credits: 6

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

Course language: English

Prerequisites: Microeconomics A + B, Macroeconomics A + B, Statistik I + II, Grundlagen der Ökonometrie.

Grading: term paper (40%) + presentation (40%) + classroom discussion (20%)

Expected number of students in class: max. 13

Goals and contents of the module: This is a seminar for Bachelor students interested in labor economics, and more specifically labor market policies. It will analyze policies and institutions all over the world targeting various aspects of the labor market such as minimum wages, unemployment benefits, short time work schemes, temporary contracts and hiring subsidies. The goal is to study both from a positive and a normative perspective (i.e., what is optimal) how these policies affect employment, wages, 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 labor market policies and will be able to assess them both from a positive and a normative perspective. They will learn to work independently, synthesize the literature, and formulate the most important arguments regarding a topic. Throughout the seminar, students will develop communication, presentation and writing skills in English.

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

Topics in Economics of Education

[Course dates](#)

Responsible teacher of the module: Prof. Michelle Sovinsky, Ph.D. / Cristina Bellés-Obrero, Ph.D.

Cycle of offer: irregular

ECTS credits: 6

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

Course language: English

Prerequisites: Microeconomics A, Statistik and Grundlagen der Ökonometrie

Grading: seminar paper/research review (60%), presentation (35%), classroom discussion (5%)

Expected number of students in class: max. 13

Goals and contents of the module: This course is intended to provide an overview of the main research questions, theoretical frameworks, sources of identification, and applied econometric methods used in Economics of Education. The specific topics to be covered include, among others, the impact of class-size, educational tracking, economic incentives in the educational system, teachers' quality, and the socioeconomic returns to education.

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

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

Topics in Game Theory

[Course dates](#)

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

Additional courses for Economists

Forschungsseminar in Wirtschaftsgeschichte

Modulverantwortlicher: Prof. Dr. J. Streb

Turnus des Angebots: jedes Semester

ECTS-Punkte: keine

Lehrmethode: Seminar (2 SWS)

Unterrichtssprache: Deutsch oder Englisch je nach Vortrag

Teilnahmevoraussetzungen: 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“.

Kontakt: Prof. Dr. J. Streb, Tel.: 181-1932. E-Mail: streb@uni-mannheim.de, Sprechstunde: Mo 14.15 - 16:15 Uhr. Um Terminvereinbarung per E-Mail wird gebeten.

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.

The **University Library** offers regular trainings on research in Economics: <https://www.bib.uni-mannheim.de/en/resources/subject-specific-research/economics/>

The **University Library** offers consulting services and courses on reference management with Citavi and Zotero: <https://www.bib.uni-mannheim.de/en/services/reference-management-software/>