

**Annotated Course Catalog for courses held in English language  
Fall Semester 2023, 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 (15 May until 21 May 2023). 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.

**Version: 6 May 2023**

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## Introductory Phase

### Internationale Ökonomik

[Lecture dates](#)

[Exercise 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](mailto:harald.fadinger@uni-mannheim.de); Tel: (0621) 181 3505, Office: L7, 3-5, 419.

## Macroeconomics B

[Lecture dates](#)

[Exercise dates](#)

Responsible teacher of the module: tba

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: tba

## Microeconomics B

[Lecture dates](#)

[Exercise 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 Microeconomics 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(at)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](mailto:remmy@uni-mannheim.de)

## Applied Economics

### [Course dates](#)

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

Cycle of offer: irregular

ECTS credits: 6

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

Course language: English

Prerequisites: Statistik I + II, Grundlagen der Ökonometrie

Grading: final exam (120 min)

Expected number of students in class: depends on students' choice (max. 41)

**Please note that you have to register for this course in Portal2. If the number of applications exceeds the number of places, a random selection will take place.**

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: philipp.ager@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, 80 %) + homework assignments to submit plus cooperative learning in tutorials during the semester (20 %). There are 13 exercise sheets spread over the semester, each with 4-8 tasks.

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 throughout the course and also in the final exam.

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](mailto: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 (for international students: basic knowledge in microeconomics and macroeconomics)

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: 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 exam, 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](mailto: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: 6

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

Course language: English

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

Grading: final exam (90 min)

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](mailto: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%)

There will be 4 homework assignments each containing 4 to 6 questions.

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; Causal inference as well as other topics.

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

Further information: References used for this course are:

- Angrist, J. & Pischke, J. (2015), Mastering 'metrics: The path from cause to effect, Princeton Oxford
- Imbens, G. W. & Rubin, D. B. (2015), Casual Inference, Cambridge University Press.
- Cunningham, S. (2021), Causa Inference: The Mixtape, Yale University Press
- Hansen, B. (2022), Econometrics, Princeton Oxford.

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; E-mail: jan.schymik@uni-mannheim.de

### **Political Economy: Elections, Information, 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%). For the final take-home assignment, you have to read an article and answer questions. In total, your answers should not exceed 5,000 words.

Goals and contents of the module: This course will be an introduction to main topics in political economy. We will first study elections, and how well they can map voters' preferences in public policies, as well as the extent to which they allow voters to hold their representatives accountable. We will also consider the role of information, and how recent technological changes (internet, social media) have reshaped the media landscape. We will focus on empirical work that provide case studies of important policies or natural experiments. The goal is to provide students with evidence-based answers on the political economy research questions. In the tutorial sessions, we will use Stata to analyze data and see how we can empirical methods (difference in differences, RDD) to identify causal effects.

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; E-mail: camille.urvoy@uni-mannheim.de.

## **Unemployment, Wages, and Mobility: European Labor Markets**

### [Course dates](#)

Responsible teacher of the module: Prof. Miren Azkarate-Askasua, Ph.D.

Cycle of offer: irregular

ECTS credits: 5

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

Course language: English

Prerequisites: Microeconomics A + B, Macroeconomics A + B, Statistik I + II, and Grundlagen der Ökonometrie, basic R knowledge

Grading: final exam (90 min, 50%), take-home assignments (40%) and classroom discussion (10%)

The take home assignments will require to write from 1 to 4 pages and there will be 2 assignments.

Goals and contents of the module: This course will study topics in labor markets and macroeconomics including unemployment, job search and job creation, wage differentials, worker sorting and geographical mobility.

The course aims at raising interest in commonly discussed labor market issues among students and providing tools and a 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 R is required but the tools on how to use data will be introduced along with the course. Students will be familiar with working with public macro and micro data sources and will learn how to construct aggregate measures.

Some questions that will be discussed during the course are:

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

"What are the determinants of internal mobility?"

"Why do some countries suffer from youth unemployment?"

Expected competences acquired after completion of the module: The goal of the course is to study labor market issues and provide a comparative perspective on labor markets 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: Prof. Miren Azkarate-Askasua, Ph.D.; E-mail: [azkarate-askasua@uni-mannheim.de](mailto:azkarate-askasua@uni-mannheim.de),  
Office: P04, Office hours: by appointment

## Seminars

### **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: 20 min presentation including a pro and con 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](mailto:duersch@uni-mannheim.de)

## Current Challenges for the Energy Transition

### [Course dates](#)

Responsible teacher of the module: Dr. Mateus Souza

Cycle of offer: irregular

ECTS credits: 6

Duration: 1 semester

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

Course language: English

Prerequisites: a strong background in applied econometrics is desirable. Markets and the Environment (lecture + exercise) recommended.

Grading: seminar paper (max. 10 pages, 50%), presentation (20 min, 35%), classroom discussion (15%)

Expected number of students in class: depends on students' choices (maximum 15)

Goals and contents of the module: The course will broadly discuss both demand- and supply-side challenges to decarbonize energy systems (i.e., to transition the economy from fossil fuels to carbon-free energy). This includes topics related to energy efficiency, consumers' responsiveness to energy prices, electricity market design, and investments in renewables. Students will pick one of these topics at the beginning of the term. During the term, students should carefully read at least 5 recent research papers within the chosen topic, published in top journals in economics. A non-exhaustive list of potential papers will be provided. Students will be asked to write a "literature review", of no more than 10 pages, including those 5 papers and potentially others. The literature review should clearly state, with the student's own words, what are the contributions of the papers, the methods used, and how the papers are connected. Students will also present to the class an overview of the chosen topic, including summaries of the chosen papers.

Expected competences acquired after completion of the module: The course will help students to develop skills in academic writing. By working on a literature review, students will learn how to summarize complex information, and to identify connections between the breadth of literature in a given topic. These skills will be especially useful when writing their Bachelor theses. The presentation to class will help students to develop communication skills, and to engage in scientific debate. These skills are highly valuable also for non-academic careers.

Further information: At the beginning of the term, students will be provided with a syllabus, including a non-exhaustive list of research articles related to the topics of the course.

Contact Information: Dr. Mateus Souza; E-mail: [mateusmeirelles@gmail.com](mailto:mateusmeirelles@gmail.com)



## International Economics

### [Course dates](#)

Responsible teacher of the module: Prof. Lei Li, Ph.D.

Cycle of offer: each fall semester

ECTS credits: 6

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

Course language: English

Prerequisites: Grundlagen der Ökonometrie (Econometrics)

Grading: 3-5 pages seminar paper (30%) + 45 minutes presentation (40%) + classroom discussion (30%).

Classroom discussion includes asking other presenters questions during/after their presentations and participating in the in-class discussion for each topic proposed by the teacher.

Expected number of students in class: depends on students' choice, maximum 20.

Goals and contents of the module: International trade has grown remarkably over the last few decades, and it has dramatic impacts on the way the economies are organized. The first goal of the seminar is to introduce frontier research topics in international economics and to provide students with the necessary knowledge about these research topics. A tentative list of topics includes the US-China trade war, Brexit, the impact of international trade on wage structure and employment structure, global value chain, and the welfare gain of international trade.

The second goal is to help students develop research skills. This seminar will help students learn how to find good research topics, how to search for relevant literature for a given the research topic, how to present papers, and how to write paper summary. To achieve these goals, students will choose a paper from the reading list and present it in the seminar. Moreover, they will write a seminar paper (about 3 pages) that summarizes the chosen paper. The third goal is to present the empirical tools used in international trade to students. We will focus on discussing empirical papers and students are expected to have a better understanding of several widely used applied econometrics tools after this seminar. Before taking this block seminar, students should have taken the prerequisite Econometrics and have a good understanding of the commonly used econometric methods, especially the OLS.

Expected competencies acquired after completion of the module: Students develop skills in reading, understanding, and critically evaluating research papers in the field of international economics. They are also expected to have a good understanding of the widely used empirical tools in international economics. They will improve their competencies in literature review, scientific writing, and presentation skills. They are expected to hand in a three-page summary report and give a 45 minutes presentation.

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

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

### [Course dates](#)

Responsible teacher of the module: Prof. Dr. Antonio Ciccone

Cycle of offer: each semester

ECTS credits: 6

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

Course language: English

Prerequisites: Analysis und lineare Algebra A, Statistik I + II, Grundlagen der Ökonometrie, Macroeconomics A + B

Grading: 25 min. presentation (50%) and 12-18 pages seminar paper (50%)

Expected number of students in class: depends on students' choice (max. 15)

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

Expected competences acquired after completion of the module:

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

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

## Topics of Empirical Industrial Organization and Competition Policy

### [Course dates](#)

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

Cycle of offer: each fall semester

ECTS credits: 6

Teaching method (hours per week): block seminar (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; E-mail: [laura.grigolon@uni-mannheim.de](mailto:laura.grigolon@uni-mannheim.de)

## Additional courses for Economists

### Forschungsseminar in Wirtschaftsgeschichte

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/>.

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.

### 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/>