Modulkatalog für den Spezialisierungsbereich

des Bachelorstudiengangs Volkswirtschaftslehre

Herbst-/Wintersemester 2022

Foto: Anna Logue

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Inhaltsverzeichnis

Teil A: Vorlesungen des Spezialisierungsbereichs

Antitrust / Competition Policy
Form and usability of the module: elective course for B.Sc. Economics
Responsible teachers of the module: Kevin Remmy, Ph.D. / Prof. Michelle Sovinsky, Ph.D.
Cycle of offer: irregular
Duration: 1 semester
ECTS credits: 7
Teaching method (hours per week): lecture (2) + exercise class (2)
Workload: time in class 42 hours, independent study time and preparation for the exam 154 hours.
Course language: English
Prerequisites: Microeconomics A + B, Grundlagen der Ökonometrie
Grading: written final exam (120 min, 90%) + case study presentation (10%)
Expected number of students in class: depends on students' choice
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.

Applied Economics
Form and usability of the module: elective course for B.Sc. Economics Responsible teacher of the module: Prof. Philipp Ager, Ph.D. Cycle of offer: irregular Duration: 1 semester ECTS credits: 6 Teaching method (hours per week): lectures (2) and exercises (1) Workload: 21 hours lecture, 10.5 hours exercise and 136.5 hours of independent study time and exam preparation Course language: English Prerequisites: Statistik I + II, Grundlagen der Ökonometrie Grading: based on three assignments (each 25%) and a presentation (25%). The take home assignments should have max 10 pages (one week processing time). 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 that the presenting team is leading (20%). Expected number of students in class: depends on students' choice (max. 41) 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

Applied Multivariate Statistics (AMS)
Form and usability of the module: elective course for B.Sc. Economics Responsible teacher of the module: Dr. Toni Stocker Cycle of offer: each fall semester Duration: 1 semester ECTS credits: 7 Teaching method (hours per week): lecture (2) + exercise (2) Workload: total: 196 hours, time in class: 42 hours, independent study time and preparation for the exam: 154 hours 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 form the final written exam. At maximum, there are 100 points to earn, where 20 points are from the tutorials and 80 points from the written exam. Expected number of students in class: depends on students' choice. 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.

Economics of European Integration
Form and usability of the module: elective course for B.Sc. Economics Responsible teacher of the module: Prof. Dr. Eckhard Janeba Cycle of offer: irregular Duration: 1 semester ECTS credits: 7 Teaching method (hours per week): lecture (3) Workload: 31.5 hours for lectures and 164.5 hours of independent study time and exam preparation. Course language: English Prerequisites: Finanzwissenschaft, Wirtschaftspolitik; recommended: Internationale Ökonomik Grading: final exam (90 min, 100%) Expected number of students in class: depends on students' choice. 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.

Economics of Social Insurance and Social Policies

Form and usability of the module: elective course for B.Sc. Economics

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

Cycle of offer: each fall semester

Duration: 1 semester

ECTS credits: 5

Method (hours per week): lecture (2)

Workload: 140 hours; 21 hours in class + 119 hours of independent study and preparation time

Course language: English

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

Grading: final exam (90 min, 100%)

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

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

Financial Economics
Form and usability of the module: elective course for B.Sc. Economics
Responsible teacher of the module: Prof. Nicolas Bonneton, Ph.D.
Cycle of offer: once per academic year
Duration: 1 semester
ECTS credits: 6
Teaching method (hours per week): lecture (2) + exercise (1)
Workload: time in class: lecture 21 hours and exercise 10.5 hours; independent study time and preparation for the exam: 136.5 hours.
Course language: English
Prerequisites: Microeconomics A + B
Grading: 100% final exam (120 min)
Expected number of students in class: depends on students' choice.
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.

Industrial Organization

Form and usability of the module: elective course for B.Sc. Economics

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

Cycle of offer: every fall semester

Duration: 1 semester

ECTS credits: 6

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

Workload: 31.5 hours of time in class and 136.5 hours of independent study time and preparation for the exam.

Course language: English

Prerequisites: Microeconomics A and B

Grading: written exam, 90 minutes

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

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.

Law and Economics
Form and usability of the module: elective course for B.Sc. Economics.

Form and usability of the module: elective course for B.Sc. Economics.

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)

Workload: time in class 42 hours, independent study time and preparation for the exam 154 hours.

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%); there will be two homework assignments with two (long) questions each.

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

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.

Markov-Ketten
Art und Verwendbarkeit des Moduls: Wahlveranstaltung im Bachelorstudiengang VWL

Modulverantwortliche/r: Dr. Ingo Steinke

Turnus des Angebots: etwa jedes zweite Herbstsemester

Dauer: 1 Semester

ECTS-Punkte: 8

Lehrmethode: Vorlesung (3 SWS) plus Übung (1 SWS)

Arbeitsaufwand: Präsenzzeit Vorlesung: 31,5 Stunden, Präsenzzeit Übung: 10,5 Stunden; Zeit für Selbststudium, Klausurvorbereitung und Klausur: 182 Stunden

Unterrichtssprache: Deutsch

Teilnahmevoraussetzungen: Statistik I und II

Benotung: Hausaufgaben (20%), Klausur im Umfang von 90 Minuten (80%)

Es gibt über das Semester verteilt 7 Übungsblätter mit jeweils 4-5 Aufgaben.

Erwartete Zahl der Teilnehmer/innen: abhängig von den Wahlentscheidungen im Spezialisierungsbereich.

Ziele und Inhalte des Moduls: Die Vorlesung stellt eine Einführung in die Theorie der Markov-Ketten mit diskretem Zustandsraum dar. Es werden grundlegende Eigenschaften von Markov-Ketten untersucht mit einem besonderen Augenmerk auf das Verhalten von Markov-Ketten über längere Zeiträume. Es werden Beispiele für ihre Anwendung in der Biologie, den Wirtschafts- und Sozialwissenschaften vorgestellt. Neben Beispielrechnungen wird ein Einblick in die wahrscheinlichkeitstheoretischen Grundlagen gegeben. Markov-Prozesse, Markov-Ketten mit stetigem Zustandsraum und Markov-Chain-Monte-Carlo-Methoden zur Simulation von speziellen Verteilungen von Zufallsvariablen werden diskutiert. Der Kurs nutzt eine mathematische Notation und enthält teilweise formale mathematische Herleitungen.

Erwartete Kompetenzen nach Abschluss des Moduls: Die Studierenden haben ihre Kenntnisse im Umgang mit diskreten Zufallsvektoren und bedingten Wahrscheinlichkeiten vertieft. Sie kennen das Konzept der bedingten Unabhängigkeit und können es anwenden. Sie kennen die Definition und wichtige Eigenschaften sowie Anwendungen von Markov-Ketten. Sie können die Markov-Eigenschaft prüfen und für Markov-Ketten Absorptionswahrscheinlichkeiten, Absorptionszeiten und Grenzverteilungen ausrechnen. Zu Markovprozessen können sie Generatormatrizen aufstellen und stationäre Verteilungen ermitteln. Die Studierenden sind in der Lage, Beweise nachzuvollziehen bzw. selbst einfache Beweise zu führen.

Microeconometrics

Form and usability of the module: elective course for B.Sc. Economics

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

Cycle of offer: fall term

Duration: 1 semester

ECTS credits: 6

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

Workload: 31.5 hours of time in class, 136.5 hours of independent study time and preparation for the exam.

Course language: English

Prerequisites: Statistik I + II and Grundlagen der Ökonometrie

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

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

Expected number of students in class: depends on students' choice

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 microeconometric methods that are used in applied econometric papers. They will also be able to apply these microeconometric methods for their own papers. They will also be able to apply these microeconometric 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
- 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

Öffentliche Investitionen und inklusives Wachstum
Art und Verwendbarkeit des Moduls: Wahlveranstaltung im Bachelorstudiengang Volkswirtschaftslehre; ggf. Wahlveranstaltung in anderen Bachelorstudiengängen der Universität Mannheim Modulverantwortliche/r: Prof. Tom Krebs, Ph.D. Turnus des Angebots: nur im Herbstsemester Dauer: 1 Semester ECTS-Punkte: 9 Lehrmethode: Vorlesung (3 SWS) + Übung (2 SWS) Arbeitsaufwand: Präsenzzeit Vorlesung und Übung: 52,5 Stunden; Zeit für Selbststudium, Klausurvorbereitung und Klausur: 199,5 Stunden Unterrichtssprache: Deutsch Teilnahmevoraussetzungen: Makroökonomik A und B, Mikroökonomik A und B, Wirtschaftspolitik und Finanzwissenschaft Benotung: Klausur (90 Minuten) Erwartete Zahl der Teilnehmer/innen: abhängig von den Wahlentscheidungen im Spezialisierungsbereich. Ziele und Inhalte des Moduls: Diese Vorlesung beschäftigt sich mit den Auswirkungen öffentlicher Investitionen auf Wachstum, öffentliche Finanzen und Ungleichheit. Dabei werden sowohl Investitionen in Sachkapital (Verkehrsinfrastruktur, digitale Infrastruktur, Wohnungsbau) als auch Bildungsinvestitionen besprochen. Ein besonderer Fokus liegt auf der Frage, inwieweit öffentlichen Investitionen die Chancengerechtigkeit stärken (Verteilung der Lebenschancen). Erwartete Kompetenzen nach Abschluss des Moduls: Studierende sollen die Fähigkeit entwickeln, die Auswirkungen öffentlicher Investitionen auf Wohlstand und Chancengleichheit auf Basis ökonomischer Methoden zu analysieren. Darüber hinaus soll den Studierenden die Möglichkeit geboten werden, sich kritisch mit der ökonomischen Literatur zum Thema auseinanderzusetzen. Weitere Informationen: Eine Literaturliste wird in der ersten Vorlesung ausgegeben.

Organizational Economics

Form and usability of the module: elective course for B.Sc. Economics

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

Cycle of offer: irregular

Duration: 1 semester

ECTS credits: 5

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

Workload: 21 hours for lectures and 119 hours of independent study time and exam preparation

Course language: English

Prerequisites: Microeconomics A + B, Principles of Econometrics

Grading: final exam (90 min); in addition, students may hand in a midterm assignment requiring the completion of 3 tasks to earn bonus points on the exam

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

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.

Political Economy: Elections and Accountability
Form and usability of the module: elective course for B.Sc. Economics

Form and usability of the module: elective course for B.Sc. Economics

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

Cycle of offer: fall semester

Duration: 1 semester

ECTS credits: 6

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

Workload: 168 hours, with 21 hours of lecture (a 90-minute session per week), 10.5 hours of exercise (a 90-minute session every other week), and 136.5 hours of independent study.

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.

Expected number of students in class: depends on students' choice

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.

Public Policy and Macroeconomics

Form and usability of the module: elective course for B.Sc. Economics

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

Cycle of offer: each fall semester

Duration: 1 semester

ECTS credits: 5

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

Workload: 21 hours in class + 119 hours of independent study time

Course language: English

Prerequisites: Microeconomics A + B, Macroeconomics A + B

Grading: final exam, 90 min (70%); assignment (either presentation or summary report, 30%)

- Summary report on the following paper: Rogerson, Richard. "Taxation and market work: is Scandinavia an outlier?." Economic theory 32, no. 1 (2007): 59-85. Your report should include a summary of the paper (about 2-3 pages) and your critical assessment of the paper (1-2 pages).
- Presentation near the end of semester. Each presenter summarizes their assigned paper for 40 minutes (including discussions). Be ready for questions during the presentation.

Expected number of students in class: depends on students' choice

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 counties 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

Resampling-Verfahren
Art und Verwendbarkeit des Moduls: Wahlveranstaltung im Bachelorstudiengang VWL
Modulverantwortlicher: Dr. Ingo Steinke
Turnus des Angebots: unregelmäßig
Dauer: 1 Semester
ECTS-Punkte: 5
Lehrmethode: Vorlesung (2 SWS)
Arbeitsaufwand: Präsenzzeit Vorlesung: 21 Stunden, Zeit für Selbststudium, Klausurvorbereitung und Klausur: 119 Stunden
Unterrichtssprache: Deutsch
Teilnahmevoraussetzungen: Statistik I und II
Benotung: Klausur (90 Minuten)
Erwartete Zahl der Teilnehmer/innen: abhängig von den Wahlentscheidungen im Spezialisierungsbereich.
Ziele und Inhalte des Moduls: Bei Resampling-Verfahren werden mithilfe vorliegender Stichproben neue Stichproben generiert, die dazu dienen, vorhandene Schätz- und Testverfahren zu verbessern bzw. die Bestimmung von Konfidenzintervallen und die Durchführung von Tests erst zu ermöglichen. Die Resampling-Verfahren Jackknife und Bootstrap werden aus theoretischer Sicht besprochen. Angewandt werden die Verfahren zur Verbesserung von Schätzern, Konfidenzintervallen und Tests in einfachen parametrischen Modellen und Regressionsmodellen. Berechnungen zu den Resampling-Verfahren werden in R durchgeführt. Grundkenntnisse in R sollten vorhanden sein.
Erwartete Kompetenzen nach Abschluss des Moduls: Die Studierenden sind mit Ergebnissen der asymptotischen Statistik vertraut und können diese anwenden. Sie kennen Landau-Symbole und können mit ihnen rechnen. Sie haben ein grundlegendes Verständnis von der Funktionsweise von Resampling-Verfahren. Sie verstehen die Ideen hinter den theoretischen Ergebnissen zu Resampling-Verfahren. Mithilfe von R können die Studierenden Resampling-Verfahren anwenden.

Wirtschaftsgeschichte der Weimarer Republik

Art und Verwendbarkeit des Moduls: Wahlveranstaltung im Bachelorstudiengang Volkswirtschaftslehre; ggf. Wahlveranstaltung in anderen Bachelorstudiengängen der Universität Mannheim.

Modulverantwortliche/r: Dr. Alexander Donges

Turnus des Angebots: jedes Herbstsemester

Dauer: 1 Semester

ECTS-Punkte: 7

Lehrmethode: Vorlesung (3 SWS)

Arbeitsaufwand: Insgesamt 196 Stunden (davon Präsenzzeit Vorlesung: 31,5 Stunden; Zeit für Selbststudium, Klausurvorbereitung und Klausur: 164,5 Stunden).

Unterrichtssprache: Deutsch

Teilnahmevoraussetzungen: keine Vorkenntnisse erforderlich.

Benotung: Klausur (120 Minuten)

Erwartete Zahl der Teilnehmer/innen: abhängig von den Wahlentscheidungen im Spezialisierungsbereich.

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 & Laudenberg, Beate (2021): Deutsche Wirtschaftsgeschichte der Weimarer Zeit: Eine Einführung in Ökonomie, Gesellschaft und Kultur der ersten deutschen Republik, Göttingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht Verlag.

Teil B: Seminare des Spezialisierungsbereichs

Applied Econometrics
Form and usability of the module: elective course for B.Sc. Economics

Form and usability of the module: elective course for B.Sc. Economics

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

Cycle of offer: irregular

Duration: 1 semester

ECTS credits: 6

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

Workload: 21 hours in class and 147 working hours for preparation of the seminar paper, handout, and presentation

Course language: English

Prerequisites: Grundlagen der Ökonometrie and Statistik I + II

Grading: seminar paper (max. 16 pages; 75%), presentations and handout (25%): 15-20 min. short presentation with max. 5 min. Q&A, 30-35 min. main presentation with max. 10-15 min. Q&A, and max. 2 pages handout.

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 microeconometric, panel data, and time series models. Thereby, students should gain a broad overview on the various model classes through their own and their colleagues' projects.

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

Biases in Economic Decision Making
Form and usability of the module: elective course for B.Sc. Economics
Responsible teacher of the module: Prof. Dr. Henrik Orzen
Cycle of offer: each fall semester
Duration: 1 semester
ECTS credits: 6
Teaching method (hours per week): block seminar (2)
Workload: 168 working hours for organizational meeting, block seminar, preparation of the seminar paper and presentation.
Course language: English
Prerequisites: Microeconomics A + B
Grading: 10 pages seminar paper (50%), 45 min. 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.

Controversial Topics in Economics

Form and usability of the module: elective course for B.Sc. Economics

Responsible teacher of the module: Dr. Peter Duersch

Cycle of offer: irregular

Duration: 1 semester

ECTS credits: 6

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

Workload: 21 hours in class and 147 working hours for preparation of the seminar paper, discussion, and presentation.

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.

Das Wirtschaftssystem des Nationalsozialismus
Art und Verwendbarkeit des Moduls: Wahlveranstaltung im Bachelor-Studiengang Volkswirtschaftslehre Modulverantwortliche/r: Dr. Alexander Donges Turnus des Angebots: unregelmäßig Dauer: 1 Semester ECTS-Punkte: 6 Lehrmethode: Blockseminar (2 SWS) Arbeitsaufwand: 168 (Einführungsveranstaltung, Blocktermine, Zeit für die Anfertigung der Seminararbeit und der Präsentation sowie für das Selbststudium) Unterrichtssprache: Deutsch Teilnahmevoraussetzungen: keine Benotung: Seminararbeit (10-20 Seiten) (70%), Präsentation (20-25 Minuten) (20%) und Diskussionsbeteiligung (10%). Erwartete Zahl der Teilnehmer/innen: maximal 14 Teilnehmer. Ziele und Inhalte des Moduls: In diesem Seminar diskutieren wir die jüngere Forschungsliteratur zum Wirtschaftssystem des Nationalsozialismus. Schwerpunktmäßig betrachten wir die Auswirkungen staatlicher Lenkungsmaßnahmen und Marktrestriktionen (z.B. staatliche Preissetzung oder die Kontingentierung von Rohstoffen) sowie die Frage, wie groß die Handlungsspielräume privater Unternehmen im „Dritten Reich" waren (z.B. bei Investitionsentscheidungen). Erwartete Kompetenzen nach Abschluss des Moduls: Zentrales Anliegen des Blockseminars ist es, die Teilnehmer zur eigenständigen Bearbeitung einer mit dem Lehrenden abgestimmten wissenschaftlichen Problemstellung zu befähigen. Die Studierenden sind nach dem Besuch der Veranstaltung in der Lage, die für eine abgegrenzte Problemstellung einschlägige Literatur systematisch zu identifizieren, deren Inhalte zu durchdringen, einzuordnen und kritisch zu hinterfragen, die zu behandelnde Fragestellung im jeweiligen Forschungszusammenhang zu positionieren und mit Hilfe historischer und ökonomischer Methoden zu bearbeiten. Darüber hinaus sind sie damit vertraut, die Ergebnisse ihrer Arbeit zu präsentieren und in einer fachlichen Diskussion zu vertreten.

Entwicklungsökonomie
Art und Verwendbarkeit des Moduls: Wahlveranstaltung im Bachelorstudiengang Volkswirtschaftslehre Modulverantwortliche/r: Prof. Dr. Markus Frölich Turnus des Angebots: jedes Semester Dauer: 1 Semester ECTS-Punkte: 6 Lehrmethode (Umfang): Blockseminar (2 SWS) Arbeitsaufwand: Präsenzzeit Seminar 21 Stunden; Zeit für die Anfertigung der Seminararbeit, für die Vorbereitung der Referate sowie für das Selbststudium 147 Stunden. Unterrichtssprache: Deutsch Teilnahmevoraussetzungen: Grundlagen der Ökonometrie Benotung: 15 Seiten schriftliche Seminararbeit (50%), 30 Min. Vortrag (25%), 10 Min. Koreferat (25%) Erwartete Zahl der Teilnehmer/innen: max. 13 Ziele und Inhalte des Moduls: Das Seminar umfasst aktuelle Themen bezogen auf Arbeitsmärkte in Entwicklungsländern mit einem empirischen mikroökonometrischen Fokus. Die Themen beinhalten unter anderem: Kinderarbeit, informelle Arbeitsmärkte, Unternehmertum, die Schaffung von Firmen, Arbeitsmarktregulierungen, Mikrokredite, Mikroversicherungen, etc. Die Seminartermine werden nach den Wünschen der Studierenden ausgewählt. Die Studierenden sollen aktuelle Probleme von Entwicklungsländern erörtern und erkennen sowie empirische Studien zu diesen Fragen bewerten und diskutieren. In diesem Sinne ist es eine Mischung zwischen einem reinen Seminar zu Entwicklungsländern und einem angewandten Ökonometrieseminar. Die Studierenden sollen also auch angewandte ökonometrische Papiere verstehen, diskutieren und vorstellen, um die konkrete empirische Forschungsweise zu erlernen. Das Seminar ist insbesondere auch als eine Vorbereitung auf eine mögliche Bachelorarbeit im Bereich der angewandten empirischen Forschung gedacht, welche dann üblicherweise eine eigenständige ökonometrische Analyse mit Sekundärdaten verlangt. Das Seminar stellt somit eine Brückenfunktion zwischen den Grundlagenvorlesungen zur Ökonometrie, welche eher das Methodenwissen vermitteln, und der eigenständigen empirischen Analyse in der wissenschaftlichen Forschung, dar. Erwartete Kompetenzen nach Abschluss des Moduls: Die Studierenden haben gelernt, einen Aufsatz zu einem Thema aus der Entwicklungsökonomie zu schreiben und zu präsentieren, wobei sie den Bezug zu mikroökonomischen Modellen und insbesondere empirisch-ökonometrischer Analyse herausgearbeitet haben. Dies umfasst somit auch eine kritische Analyse und Begutachtung von empirischen Studien und deren Methodik, insbesondere der Ökonometrie, der Datengrundlage und der Umsetzung der empirischen Herangehensweise.

European Economic Policy
Form and usability of the module: elective course for B.Sc. Economics

Form and usability of the module: elective course for B.Sc. Economics

Responsible teacher of the module: Prof. Dr. Philipp M. Richter

Cycle of offer: irregular

Duration: 1 semester

ECTS credits: 6

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

Workload: 21 hours in class and 147 hours of independent study time for preparation of the seminar paper and presentation

Course language: English

Prerequisites: Microeconomics A + B, Macroeconomics A + B, Grundlagen der Ökonometrie

Grading: 25 min. presentation (40%), 15 min. classroom discussion (10%) and 10 pages 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.

Experimental Economics
Responsible teacher of the module: Dr. Peter Duersch Cycle of offer: irregular Duration: 1 semester ECTS credits: 6 Teaching method (hours per week): seminar (2) Workload: 21 hours in class and 147 working hours for preparation of the seminar paper and presentation 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 (20 min) + 50% seminar paper (5 pages) 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.

Inflation aus wirtschaftshistorischer Perspektive

Art und Verwendbarkeit des Moduls: Wahlveranstaltung im Bachelor-Studiengang Volkswirtschaftslehre, ggf. Wahlveranstaltung in anderen Bachelorstudiengängen der Universität Mannheim

Modulverantwortliche/r: Prof. Dr. Jochen Streb

Turnus des Angebots: Jedes Semester ein angebotenes Seminar mit wechselnden Themen

Dauer des Moduls: 1 Semester

ECTS-Punkte: 6

Lehrmethode: Blockseminar (2 SWS)

Arbeitsaufwand: 168 Stunden (Einführungsveranstaltung, Blocktermine, Zeit für die Anfertigung der Seminararbeit und der Präsentation sowie für das Selbststudium)

Unterrichtssprache: Deutsch

Teilnahmevoraussetzungen: „Einführung in die Wirtschaftsgeschichte für Volkswirte" oder ähnlicher Kurs empfohlen.

Benotung: Der Leistungsnachweis wird durch das Anfertigen einer schriftlichen Hausarbeit (80%, mit einem Textteil von etwa 15 Seiten zuzüglich Deckblatt, Gliederung, Literaturverzeichnis und Anhang), ein Referat zum gleichen Thema (10%) und die Übernahme eines Koreferats (10%) erbracht.

Erwartete Zahl der Teilnehmer/innen: max. 15

Ziele und Inhalte des Moduls: In diesem Seminar untersuchen wir Ursachen und Folgen von Inflationen in Münzgeld- und Papiergeldsystemen.

Erwartete Kompetenzen nach Abschluss des Moduls: Zentrales Anliegen des Hauptseminars ist es, die Teilnehmer zur eigenständigen Bearbeitung einer mit dem Lehrenden abgestimmten wissenschaftlichen Problemstellung zu befähigen. Die Studierenden sind nach dem Besuch der Veranstaltung in der Lage, die für eine abgegrenzte Problemstellung einschlägige Literatur systematisch zu identifizieren, deren Inhalte zu durchdringen, einzuordnen und kritisch zu hinterfragen, die zu behandelnde Fragestellung im jeweiligen Forschungszusammenhang zu positionieren und mit Hilfe historischer und ökonomischer Methoden zu bearbeiten. Darüber hinaus sind sie damit vertraut, die Ergebnisse ihrer Arbeit zu präsentieren und in einer fachlichen Diskussion zu vertreten.

Intergenerational Mobility

Form and usability of the module: elective course for B.Sc. Economics

Responsible teacher of the module: Prof. Camille Urvoy, Ph.D.

Cycle of offer: fall semester

Duration: 1 semester

ECTS credits: 6

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

Workload: 21 working hours for organizational meeting and block seminar, 147 working hours for preparation of the seminar paper and presentation.

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 (appr. 10 pages) + 20% classroom discussion

Presentations should last around 35 minutes (roughly 20-25 slides), and will be followed by a 15 minutes Q&A session. Students are invited to ask questions, whether for clarification, for complementary information, or on the policy implications of the article. Active participation in the seminar discussion, including questions to the presenters, are part of your grade.

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.

International Macroeconomics
Form and usability of the module: elective course for B.Sc. Economics
Responsible teacher of the module: Prof. Dr. Harald Fadinger / Dr. Jan Schymik
Cycle of offer: irregular
Duration: 1 semester
ECTS credits: 6
Teaching method (hours per week): block seminar (2)
Workload: 168 working hours for organizational meeting, block seminar, and preparation of the seminar paper and presentation.
Course language: English
Prerequisites: Macroeconomics A
Grading: 10-14 pages term paper (50%) + 30-40 min presentation (40%) + 10 min 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.

Labor Market Policies
Form and usability of the module: elective course for B.Sc. Economics Responsible teacher of the module: Prof. Philipp Ager, Ph.D. / Dr. Effrosyni Adamopoulou Cycle of offer: irregular Duration: 1 semester ECTS credits: 6 Teaching method (hours per week): block seminar (2) Workload: 21 hours in class and 147 working hours for preparation of the seminar paper and presentation. Course language: English Prerequisites: Microeconomics A + B, Macroeconomics A + B, Statistik I + II, Grundlagen der Ökonometrie. Grading: 10 pages term paper (40%) + 40 min presentation (40%) + 20 min 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.

Makroökonomische Analyse der Hartz-Reformen
Art und Verwendbarkeit des Moduls: Wahlveranstaltung im Bachelor-Studiengang Volkswirtschaftslehre Modulverantwortliche/r: Prof. Tom Krebs, Ph.D. Turnus des Angebots: jedes Semester Dauer: 1 Semester ECTS-Punkte: 6 Lehrmethode (Umfang): Blockseminar (2 SWS) Arbeitsaufwand: Präsenzzeit Seminar 21 Stunden; Zeit für die Anfertigung der Seminararbeit, für die Vorbereitung der Referate sowie für das Selbststudium 147 Stunden Unterrichtssprache: Deutsch Teilnahmevoraussetzungen: Makroökonomik A und B, Mikroökonomik A und B Benotung: ca. 45 Minuten Vortrag (einfach gewichtet) und 12-15 Seiten schriftliche Seminararbeit (doppelt gewichtet). Erwartete Zahl der Teilnehmer/innen: max. 16 Ziele und Inhalte des Moduls: Das Seminar beschäftigt sich mit den gesamtwirtschaftlichen Auswirkungen der Hartz-Reformen. Das Ziel der Veranstaltung besteht in der Diskussion der theoretischen Erklärungsansätze für die einzelnen Reformen wie auch in der empirischen Überprüfung des Reformerfolgs. Jede der vier Hartz-Reformen I-IV wird hierbei als Thema an mehrere Studierende vergeben. Das jeweilige Thema wird als Gruppe vorgetragen, die Seminararbeiten jedoch individuell verfasst. Erwartete Kompetenzen nach Abschluss des Moduls: Die Studierenden lernen, selbstständig wirtschaftswissenschaftliche Fragestellungen durch Literaturrecherche und eigenständige Bewertung der Quellen zu beantworten. Dabei wenden die Studierenden die in den Vorlesungen Makroökonomik A und B sowie Mikroökonomik A und B erworbenen Kompetenzen in konkreten Beispielen an. Für die Präsentation der Ergebnisse im Rahmen des Blockseminars entscheiden die Studierenden selbst kooperativ über die Verteilung der einzelnen Präsentationsschwerpunkte untereinander.

Topics in Economics of Education
Form and usability of the module: elective course for B.Sc. Economics Responsible teacher of the module: Prof. Michelle Sovinsky, Ph.D. / Cristina Bellés-Obrero, Ph.D. Cycle of offer: irregular Duration: 1 semester ECTS credits: 6 Teaching method (hours per week): block seminar (2) Workload: 21 working hours for organizational meeting and block seminar; 147 working hours for preparation of the seminar paper and presentation. Course language: English Prerequisites: Microeconomics A, Statistik and Grundlagen der Ökonometrie Grading: 5-10 pages seminar paper/research review (60%), presentation (35%), classroom discussion (5%) You will need to prepare a presentation of 45 min, and we will dedicate 10-15 min to discussion of the paper. Expected number of students in class: max. 13 Goals and contents of the module: This course is intended to provide an overview of the main research questions, theoretical frameworks, sources of identification, and applied econometric methods used in Economics of Education. The specific topics to be covered include, among others, the impact of class-size, educational tracking, economic incentives in the educational system, teachers' quality, and the socioeconomic returns to education. Expected competences acquired after completion of the module: After the seminar, students will acquire a critical understanding of the most recent literature on the economics of education. The students are able synthesize the main findings, analyze the quality of existing papers, and provide some policy implications. Students will also improve their communication skills with a presentation of their research review or seminar paper in from their classmates. This presentation will be followed by a class discussion on the strengths and weaknesses of the student's work, which will allow student to defend their position during a group discussion.

Topics in Game Theory
Form and usability of the module: elective course for B.Sc. Economics Responsible teacher of the module: Prof. Dr. Thomas Tröger Cycle of offer: once a year Duration: 1 semester ECTS credits: 6 Teaching method (hours per week): seminar (2) Workload: 21 hours in class and 147 working hours for preparation of the seminar paper and presentation. Course language: English Prerequisites: lecture Game Theory Grading: 45-90 min seminar presentation (2/3), 8-12 pages 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.

Teil C: Praktikum

Praktikum
Art und Verwendbarkeit des Moduls: Wahlpflichtmodul im Bachelorstudiengang Volkswirtschaftslehre   Modulverantwortliche/r: Prüfungsausschuss für den Bachelorstudiengang Volkswirtschaftslehre sowie die Praktikumsstelle   Dauer: 1 Semester   ECTS-Punkte: 6   Lehrmethode: Praktikum   Arbeitsaufwand: 163 nachgewiesene Zeitstunden im Praktikum; 5 Stunden für die Anfertigung des Praktikumsberichts gemäß Vorlage   Unterrichtssprache: Sprache im Praktikum: beliebig; Sprache der Nachweise: Deutsch oder Englisch   Teilnahmevoraussetzungen: mindestens ein Semester Studium der Volkswirtschaftslehre   Benotung: mindestens 163 im Praktikum nachgewiesene Zeitstunden, die üblicherweise innerhalb eines Zeitraums von 8 bis 12 Wochen zu erbringen sind; Praktikumsbericht und Bestätigungen gemäß Vorlage; das Praktikum wird nicht benotet   Ziele und Inhalte des Moduls: Anwendung wirtschaftswissenschaftlichen Fachwissens und wirtschaftswissenschaftlicher Methoden auf praxisrelevante Fragestellungen; Erlernen praktischer berufsfeldbezogener Methoden und Schlüsselkompetenzen   Erwartete Kompetenzen nach Abschluss des Moduls: Die Studierenden sind in der Lage, ihr im Studium erworbenes Wissen und Verständnis im beruflichen Kontext anzuwenden. Sie haben in ihrem Tätigkeitsfeld Argumente und Problemlösungen erarbeitet und weiterentwickelt sowie berufsbezogenes Fachwissen erworben. Sie haben Arbeitsprozesse reflektiert, bewertet und ggf. selbstständig gestaltet. Sie haben gegenüber Mitarbeitenden Positionen und Problemlösungen formuliert und argumentativ verteidigt und sich mit diesen über Informationen, Ideen, Probleme und Lösungen ausgetauscht. Im Rahmen eines Auslandspraktikums haben sie ggf. ihre berufsbezogenen Fremdsprachenkenntnisse erweitert.   Weitere Informationen: Das Praktikum erfüllt die in der Richtlinie des Bundes zur Beschäftigung von Praktikantinnen und Praktikanten (Praktikantenrichtlinie Bund), gültig seit 1.1.2015, genannten Bedingungen eines Pflichtpraktikums (Durch-führungsrundschreiben D5-31005/1#11 vom 4. Mai 2020, Seite 4: „Sehen Studiengänge ein Praktikum als Wahlpflichtmodul (Wahl zwischen einem Praktikum oder Seminar, Hausarbeit, Forschungsaufenthalt etc.) vor und entscheidet sich eine Studentin oder ein Student für ein Praktikum, gilt dieses als Pflichtpraktikum nach dieser Richtlinie.")

Teil D: Bachelorarbeit

Bachelorarbeit
Art und Verwendbarkeit des Moduls: Pflichtmodul im Bachelorstudiengang Volkswirtschaftslehre
Modulverantwortliche/r: Prüfungsausschuss für den Bachelorstudiengang Volkswirtschaftslehre sowie der/die Betreuer/in der Bachelorarbeit
Dauer: 1 Semester
ECTS-Punkte: 12
Lehrmethode: schriftliche Abschlussarbeit, Umfang in Absprache mit dem/der Betreuer/in, üblicherweise 20 bis 35 Seiten
Arbeitsaufwand: 336 Stunden
Sprache: Deutsch oder Englisch nach Vereinbarung
Teilnahmevoraussetzungen: mindestens ein bestandenes volkswirtschaftliches Seminar; bei Bachelorarbeiten in den Fächern Mathematik, Philosophie und Wirtschaftsinformatik gelten zusätzliche Voraussetzungen gemäß der Spezifischen Anlage 2
Benotung: Die Bachelorarbeit ist bestanden, wenn sie mindestens mit der Note „ausreichend" (4,0) bewertet wurde.
Ziele und Inhalte des Moduls: Die Studierenden bearbeiten selbstständig ein Thema aus den Bereichen Volkswirtschaftslehre, Statistik, Ökonometrie und/oder Wirtschaftsgeschichte. Studierende, die die Bachelorarbeit in den Fächern Mathematik, Philosophie oder Wirtschaftsinformatik schreiben, bearbeiten selbstständig ein Thema aus dem jeweiligen Bereich. Die Bachelorarbeit soll zeigen, dass der/die Studierende in der Lage ist, auf der Basis seiner/ihrer grundlegenden und vertiefenden Ausbildung eine vorgegebene Problemstellung innerhalb einer begrenzten Zeit unter Kenntnis bzw. Verwendung der relevanten Theorien und Methoden selbstständig wissenschaftlich zu bearbeiten und die Ergebnisse sprachlich und formal angemessen darzustellen.
Erwartete Kompetenzen nach Abschluss des Moduls: Die Studierenden können
• für die Lösung der jeweiligen Problemstellung geeignete wissenschaftliche Literatur selbstständig identifizieren und auswerten,
• wissenschaftliche Konzepte und Methoden selbstständig auf die jeweilige Fragestellung anwenden,
• dabei evtl. Wissenslücken selbstständig im Rahmen ihrer Vorkenntnisse schließen,
• die erarbeiteten Resultate wissenschaftlich, gesellschaftlich und ggf. auch ethisch reflektieren,
• ihre Ergebnisse präzise und konsistent sowie entsprechend den formalen Vorgaben einer wissenschaftlichen Arbeit darstellen und
• ihren wissenschaftlichen Arbeitsprozess selbstständig organisieren.