

**Modulkatalog für den Spezialisierungsbereich
des Bachelorstudiengangs Volkswirtschaftslehre
Herbstsemester 2021**



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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: Prof. Michelle Sovinsky, Ph.D. / Kevin Remmy

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.

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

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

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

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: fall semester 2021

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%).

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

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

Grading: final written exam (120 minutes) + homework assignments to submit plus cooperative learning in tutorials during the semester. Achieving a minimum of points in the homework gradings is required for participating in the exam (please check the course guidelines for details). The final grade is based on points from the tutorials and points from the final written exam. At maximum, there are 100 points to earn, where 20 points are from the tutorials and 80 points from the written exam.

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 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

Einführung in die Bayessche Statistik

Art und Verwendbarkeit des Moduls: Wahlveranstaltung im Bachelorstudiengang VWL

Modulverantwortlicher: 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%)

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

Ziele und Inhalte des Moduls: Bayessche Modellansätze spielen in der Statistik eine große Rolle, da sie es erlauben, auch für komplexe statistische Modelle Lösungen anzubieten. Ausgehend von einem klassischen parametrischen Modell wird dabei der Parameter als Zufallsvariable aufgefasst, dem man eine a-priori-Verteilung zuweist. Über den Bayesschen Ansatz bekommt man dann eine a-posteriori-Verteilung des Parameters, auf deren Grundlage Schätzer berechnet oder Entscheidungen gefällt werden können. Im Zentrum der Vorlesung steht eine Einführung in die Konzepte der Bayesschen Statistik; dazu gehört auch ein Überblick über das Rechnen mit bedingten Verteilungen. Mit asymptotischen Aussagen wird belegt, warum Bayessche Methoden auch aus klassischer Sichtweise anwendbar sind. Eine Einführung in die rechen-technische Bestimmung der a-posteriori-Verteilung wird gegeben. Im Rahmen der Vorlesung und in der begleitenden Übung wird von der Programmiersprache R Gebrauch gemacht.

Erwartete Kompetenzen nach Abschluss des Moduls: Die Studierenden kennen die Grundkonzepte von subjektiver Wahrscheinlichkeit und Bayesscher Statistik. Sie können für Standardmodelle a-posteriori-Verteilungen bestimmen und herleiten. Im Rahmen der Bayesschen Statistik können die Studierenden Parameter schätzen, Kreditabilitätsintervalle bestimmen und Entscheidungen fällen. Sie beherrschen die Grundfunktionalität des Statistikprogramms R und können R benutzen, um die Bayessche Statistik anzuwenden und um mithilfe von Markov-Chain-Monte-Carlo-Methoden a-posteriori-Verteilungen zu bestimmen.

Energy, Environment and Development

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

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

Cycle of offer: irregular

Duration: 1 semester

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

Grading: written final exam, 90 minutes

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

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

Expected competences acquired after completion of the module: The first goal is to understand the nature of energy and environmental issues faced by developing countries, where these issues are different from those faced by developed countries. The second goal is to have an overview of the frontier economic research in energy and environmental economics applied to developing countries. By the end of this course, students are expected to understand and be able to explain the intuition behind the results of the covered papers.

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 term

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, 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.

Internationale Ökonomik

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

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

Further instructor(s): teaching assistants for exercise classes

Cycle of offer: each fall semester

Duration: 1 semester

ECTS credits: 6

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

Workload: time in class 42 hours, independent study time and preparation for the exam 126 hours.

Course language: English

Prerequisites: Microeconomics A, Macroeconomics A

Grading: written exam (90 minutes)

Expected number of students in class: lecture about 150 students; exercise class: about 35-40 students.

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.

Law and 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

Duration: 1 semester

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%).

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%)

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: 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 und Grundlagen der Ökonometrie

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

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; Panel data models; Causal inference; Binary choice models; Generalized method of moments; Nonparametric models and Penalized regression in the module.

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

Further information: References used for this course are

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

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.

Weitere Lehrende: Alexander Matusche (Übung)

Turnus des Angebots: unregelmäßig

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 teachers 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 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.

Public Choice Theory

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

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

Cycle of offer: each fall semester

Duration: 1 semester

ECTS credits: 6

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

Workload: 168 working hours, containing 31.5 hours class time and 136.5 hours independent study time

Course language: English

Prerequisites: basic knowledge in game theory, macroeconomics, and calculus. The course assumes knowledge of concepts that are covered in Microeconomics A, Macroeconomics A, and calculus. This is an advanced course intended for upper level economics undergraduates who enjoy learning about and analyzing economic models. Economic models of politics tend to be game theoretic, so familiarity with game theoretic reasoning is useful.

Grading: final exam (90 min, 100%)

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

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

Expected competences acquired after completion of the module: The students are able to describe core concepts widely used in political economy and formal political science theory. The students can explain the economic incentives and strategic actions of agents in the political arena, such as voters, candidates, legislators, political parties, interest groups, and citizen's initiatives. The topics require an advanced level of analyzing skills. The students are able to apply game-theoretic models to various political issues.

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 (30%)

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 countries as well. In the meantime, we also review empirical evidence on economic inequality and study how it is related to public policy. Another important content of this lecture is to apply economic theories to understand the effects of public policy on the macroeconomy while taking into account people's optimal responses to such a policy. We will review the basic theoretical framework and consider more advanced theoretical frameworks relevant for macroeconomic analysis.

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

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

Resource Economics: Energy and Water

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

Instructors: Dr. Robert Germeshausen / Kinga Tchorzewska, Ph.D.

Cycle of offer: irregular

Duration: 1 semester

ECTS credits: 8

Teaching method (hours per two weeks): lecture (3) + exercise (1)

Workload: time in class (lecture and exercise): 42 hours; independent study time and preparation for the exam: 182 hours.

Course language: English

Prerequisites: Microeconomics A + B

Grading: final exam (50%) + two problem sets (40%) + classroom discussion/presentation (10%)

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

Goals and contents of the module: The class provides an introduction to resource economics with a focus on energy and water. Part one introduces the fundamental technical and economic characteristics underlying the supply and demand of energy. Particular attention will be given to electricity markets where direct and external costs of electricity generation as well as the above mentioned characteristics have important implications for prices and regulation. In addition, selected economic aspects of the ongoing transition of the energy system will be discussed. Part two covers the economics of water resources by applying microeconomic analysis to topics in water resource policy and management. In particular, students will learn about water rights, agricultural water use, groundwater management, urban water use, and water markets.

Expected competences acquired after completion of the module: In each of the above subject areas, students will be familiarized with the canonical economic concepts and models. Furthermore, students will apply these insights to discuss recent research papers and applications in energy and water economics.

Topics in Empirical Political Economy

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

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%)

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.

Unemployment and Wages in Europe

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

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

Cycle of offer: irregular

Duration: 1 semester

ECTS credits: 5

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

Workload: time in class (lecture) 21 hours; independent study time and preparation for the exam: 119 hours.

Course language: English

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

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

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

Goals and contents of the module: This course will study topics in labor markets and macroeconomics including human capital formation, skill differentials, unemployment, job search and job creation, wage differentials and hours worked. The course aims at raising the interest on commonly discussed labor market issues among students and also providing tools and view on how to think about them. The main objective of the course is to provide a comprehensive view on labor markets to understand the major issues on unemployment and wages. The course will be a mixture of theory and empirical analysis. Some basic knowledge of software (Stata) is required but the tools on how to use data will be introduced along with the course. Students will be familiar with public macro and micro data sources and will learn how to construct aggregate measures such as youth unemployment rate, college wage premium by using micro data.

Some questions that will be discussed during the course are:

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

"Why do some countries suffer from youth unemployment?"

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

"Why do some people work more than others?"

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

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 (2010): Wirtschaftsgeschichte der Weimarer Republik. Eine Einführung in Ökonomie und Gesellschaft der ersten Deutschen Republik, Göttingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht.

Teil B: Seminare des Spezialisierungsbereichs

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): blockseminar (2)

Workload: 168 working hours for organizational meeting, block seminar, and preparation of the seminar paper and presentation.

Course language: English

Prerequisites: Microeconomics A + B.

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

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

Maximum number of students in class: 13

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

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

Controversial Topics in Economics

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

Responsible teacher of the module: Dr. Peter Dürsch

Cycle of offer: irregular

Duration: 1 semester

ECTS credits: 6

Teaching method (hours per week): blockseminar (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: classroom discussion 50% & 5 pages paper 50%

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

Goals and contents of the module: Students will pick a controversial economic topic to discuss together with another student. Within each pair of students, one person will argue the pro position and one person will argue the contra position. Each student will give a short presentation of their side, followed by a discussion of the topic by both sides of the topic. Each student will hand in a 5 pages long paper putting forward their position.

Potential topics could include, but are not limited to:

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

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

Cultural Economics

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

Responsible teacher of the module: Dr. Andrej Svorenčik

Cycle of offer: once

Duration: 1 semester

ECTS-Credits: 6

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

Workload: 168 hours consisting of class time, independent study and writing of the final paper.

Course language: English

Prerequisites: Microeconomics A and Macroeconomics A

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

Expected number of students in class: 13 students maximum

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

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

Further information: registration week 7-13 June 2021

- Towse, Ruth. 2010. A Textbook of Cultural Economics. Cambridge, UK; New York: Cambridge University Press.
- Ginsburgh, Victor A. and Throsby, David (Eds.) 2006 & 2014. Handbook of the Economics of Art and Culture. 2 volumes. Available online through the university library
- <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/handbooks/15740676/1>
- <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/handbooks/15740676>

Demographie und Sozialstaat – Historische Perspektiven

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

Modulverantwortliche/r: PD Dr. Tobias A. Jopp

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

Dauer des Moduls: 1 Semester

ECTS-Punkte: 6

Lehrmethode: 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

Benotung: Seminararbeit (70%), Präsentation und Diskussionsbeteiligung (20%) und Koreferat (10%)

Unterrichtssprache: Deutsch

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

Zahl der Teilnehmer/innen: max. 15

Ziele und Inhalte des Moduls: Moderne Industriegesellschaften zeichnen sich u.a. durch den Wohlfahrts- bzw. Sozialstaat als zentrales Element aus. Das Herzstück des modernen deutschen Wohlfahrtsstaates bspw. bildet die universale Sozialversicherung, ruhend auf den fünf Säulen der Sozialen Sicherung, nämlich der Gesetzlichen Kranken-, Unfall-, Renten-, Arbeitslosen- und Pflegeversicherung. Gemeinhin wird der historische Ursprung der Sozialversicherung in der Bismarckschen Sozialgesetzgebung gesehen, welche das Einkommensrisiko auf Grund von Krankheit (1883), auf Grund von Unfällen im Rahmen der Berufstätigkeit (1884) sowie auf Grund von (altersbedingter) dauerhafter Erwerbsunfähigkeit (1889) adressierte. Der gebotene Zwangsversicherungsschutz beschränkte sich zunächst auf Teile der abhängig beschäftigten Arbeiter. Allerdings wurde der Kreis der Anspruchsberechtigten bzw. der Beitragenden schrittweise erhöht. Die soziale Absicherung des Hinterbliebenenrisikos (1911) sowie des Risikos, arbeitslos zu werden (1927), wurden mit einiger zeitlicher Verzögerung eingeführt, die Pflegeversicherung gar erst 1995. So viele Vorteile bzw. Annehmlichkeiten der deutsche Wohlfahrtsstaat zu jeder Zeit geboten haben mag, so vielen Problemen bzw. Herausforderungen sah er sich stets gegenüber. Ziel dieses Seminars ist es, die Entwicklung des deutschen Wohlfahrtsstaates, dessen Kern die Sozialversicherung bildet, von seinen Ursprüngen in der ersten Hälfte des 19. Jahrhunderts bis in die Gegenwart hinein und international vergleichend zu ergründen. Einerseits sollen die historischen, sozialen und wirtschaftlichen Grundlagen zum Verständnis der Bismarckschen Sozialgesetzgebung und des politischen Diskurses darum diskutiert werden. Andererseits soll die Anpassung der Gestaltungsprinzipien in einem reifenden, wirtschaftlichen wie politischen Krisen ausgesetzten Sozialsystems herausgearbeitet werden.

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.

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: schriftliche Seminararbeit (50%), Vortrag (25%), 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 mikroökonomischen 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 ökonomische 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 ökonomische 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-ökonomischer 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.

Family Policies - An Economic Perspective

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

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

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

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

Grading: term paper (50%) + presentation (50%)

Expected number of students in class: depends on student's choice (max. 13).

Goals and contents of the module: This is a seminar for Bachelor students interested in family economics, and more specifically family policies. It will analyze policies all over the world affecting various aspects of family life such as subsidized day-care, tax breaks for children, parental leave policies and divorce law. The goal is to study both from a positive and a normative perspective (i.e., what is optimal) how these policies affect fertility and labor force participation. This is a seminar. Therefore, each student will be assigned a topic to study in depth and then explain in class.

Expected competences acquired after completion of the module: Students will acquire knowledge about the effects of a large set of different family policies and will be able to assess them both from a positive and a normative perspective. They will learn to work independently, synthesize the literature, and formulate the most important arguments regarding a topic. Throughout the seminar, students will develop communication, presentation and writing skills in English.

Firm Dynamics and Economic Growth

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

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

Cycle of offer: irregular

Duration: 1 semester

ECTS credits: 6

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

Workload: 168 hours consisting of class time, independent study and writing of the final paper.

Course language: English

Prerequisites: Microeconomics A + B, Macroeconomics A, Introduction to Econometrics (recommended for empirical papers)

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

Expected number of students in class: max. 13

Goals and contents of the module: This block seminar will focus on the theory and empirics of modern economic growth. We will follow a micro-to-macro approach, that is, we will study microfoundations for aggregate trends in total factor productivity. Special emphasis will be given to firms and inventors to uncover forces that shape total factor productivity.

The main focus of the seminar will be on recent ideas in economic growth theory, including but not limited to:

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

Expected competences acquired after completion of the module: At the end of the course, students are able to compare and contrast various theories that link firm decisions to aggregate trends in productivity.

Students learn to analyze, summarize, and critically evaluate original articles at the frontier of economic growth theory. The seminar also serves as a bridge towards the Bachelor Thesis. Students learn to develop new and exciting research ideas based on their critical evaluation of the material presented in this seminar. All of these skills are essential for the successful completion of the thesis.

Industrielle Revolutionen im Vergleich

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: unregelmäßig

Dauer: 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: keine

Benotung: Seminararbeit (70%), Präsentation (20%), Diskussionsbeteiligung (10%)

Erwartete Zahl der Teilnehmer/innen: maximal 14 Teilnehmer

Ziele und Inhalte des Moduls: In diesem Seminar untersuchen wir die Ursachen und Ausprägungen „industrieller Revolutionen“. Schwerpunktmäßig betrachten wir vergleichend die Industrialisierungsprozesse in Großbritannien und in den Staaten Kontinentaleuropas sowie ergänzend Fälle nachholender industrieller Entwicklung (z.B. Japan oder Südkorea). Hierbei diskutieren wir unter anderem die folgenden Fragen: Warum setzte die Industrialisierung zuerst in England ein, während andere Länder sich erst später industrialisierten? Welche Rolle spielte der Staat, der die institutionellen Rahmenbedingungen setzte? Inwieweit war der Zugang zu natürlichen Rohstoffvorkommen wie Steinkohle von Bedeutung? Welche Rolle spielten Humankapital und technische Innovationen?

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.

Weitere Informationen: Themenliste und Literaturangaben finden Sie auf meiner Homepage (<http://donges.vwl.uni-mannheim.de/>).

Introduction to Statistical Learning

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

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

Cycle of offer: irregular

Duration: 1 semester

ECTS credits: 6

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

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 (50%), and presentation (50%)

Expected number of students in class: maximal 13

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

The seminar will be based on the book: Hastie, Trevor, Robert Tibshirani, and Jerome Friedman. The elements of statistical learning: data mining, inference, and prediction. Springer Science & Business Media, 2009.

Expected competences acquired after completion of the module: Upon successfully completing the seminar, students will have gained an overview of important methods in statistical learning. They will have learned to independently familiarize themselves with the theory and they will be able to summarize and explain their acquired knowledge. They will have trained their presentation and communication skills in written and oral form. Students will have gained experience in discussing advances concerning the theory in current research literature and critically examining developments and application examples.

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: Vortrag (einfach gewichtet) und 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 Reformersfolgs. 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 Digital Markets

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

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

Cycle of offer: once a year

Duration: 1 semester

ECTS credits: 6

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

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

Course language: English

Prerequisites: Microeconomics A + B (prerequisite), Introduction to Econometrics (recommended for empirical papers)

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

Expected number of students in class: max. 15

Goals and contents of the module: Students are required to pick a paper in selected topics relating to Digital Markets and give a presentation to discuss the paper's strengths and weaknesses. Based on their work, and the comments that they receive in the presentation, students are required to write a report summarizing and critically discussing the paper and synthesizing the findings in related papers presented by other students. Topics can include platforms, network goods, reputation systems, online auctions, big data techniques, machine learning and other topics relevant for digital markets. A detailed list of topics and associated papers will be circulated once the seminar spots have been allocated.

Expected competences acquired after completion of the module: Students learn to analyze, summarize, and critically discuss original articles at the frontier of current research in digital markets. They improve the skills to communicate complex topics both orally and in writing, and further their presentation skills. The seminar also serves as a bridge towards the Bachelor Thesis. Students learn to engage with current research papers, to critically assess those, and to develop their own ideas based on their findings - all skills which are essential for the successful completion of the thesis.

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

Expected number of students in class: max. 13

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

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

Topics of Empirical Industrial Organization and Competition Policy

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

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

Cycle of offer: each fall semester

Duration: 1 semester

ECTS credits: 6

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

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

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.

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: 175 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 175 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 ab 1.1.2015, sowie die in den ergänzenden Durchführungshinweisen genannten Bedingungen eines Pflichtpraktikums (schriftlich bestätigt durch Referat D5 des Bundesministerium des Innern am 27. Juli 2017).

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

Arbeitsaufwand: 336 Stunden

Sprache: Deutsch oder Englisch nach Vereinbarung

Teilnahmevoraussetzungen: mindestens ein bestandenenes 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.