

COURSE SYLLABUS

Course title: **Experimental Economics**
ECTS credits: 6
Course period: Masters's Degree (Finance and Taxes), Year 1
Term: fall

Lectures & Seminars: Matej Lorko, matej.lorko@euba.sk
Materials: www.lorko.sk/lectures

Course Description

The course examines how economic phenomena can be studied using experimental methods. It covers the process of developing research questions, formulating hypotheses, crafting experimental designs, fine-tuning and conducting laboratory and field experiments, analyzing the experimental data, inferring causal explanations and interpreting the results. The course also discusses how experimental methods can be used as an effective tool for well-informed public policies as well as managerial decisions.

Learning Objectives

1. Understand the importance and the methodology of experimental research in economics.
2. Learn how to design and conduct laboratory and field experiments.
3. Learn how to analyze the experimental data and draw causal interpretations.
4. Understand how experiments can benefit public policies and managerial decisions.

Prerequisites

- Microeconomics
- Behavioral economics

Lectures

Lecture 1: Economics as an experimental science
Lecture 2: Introduction to economic experiments
Lecture 3: Research question and hypotheses
Lecture 4: Designing an experiment
Lecture 5: Conducting an experiment
Lecture 6: Experiment from a statistical perspective
Lecture 7: Statistic inference
Lecture 8: Statistical methods and tests
Lecture 9: Writing an experimental paper
Lecture 10: Tax compliance experiments I
Lecture 11: Tax compliance experiments II / Guest lecture

Seminars

Seminar 1: Introduction, research question

Seminar 2: Student presentations – selected experimental studies

Seminar 3: Student presentations – selected experimental studies

Seminar 4: Developing own experimental design

Seminar 5: Student presentations – experimental design

Seminar 6: Student presentations – experimental design

Seminar 7: Stylized laboratory experiments

Seminar 8: Stylized laboratory experiments

Seminar 9: Stylized laboratory experiments

Seminar 10: Student presentations – term paper

Seminar 11: Student presentations – term paper

Grading

The final grade will take into account:

- Presentation of experimental studies (seminar 2 and 3) – max. 10 points
- Presentation of experimental design (seminar 5 and 6) – max. 20 points
- Presentation of term paper (seminar 10 and 11) – max. 20 points
- Term paper – max. 50 points
- Seminars 7, 8 and 9 will include a couple of stylized experiments, for which students can earn extra points (on average 5 points per student).

A: 90 points and above

B: 80-89 points

C: 70-79 points

D: 60-69 points

E: 50-59 points

F: less than 50 points

Suggested reading

- Jacquemet, N., & l'Haridon, O. (2018). *Experimental economics*. Cambridge University Press.
- Weimann, J., & Brosig-Koch, J. (2019). *Methods in experimental economics*. Springer International Publishing. Chicago
- Johnson, J. B., Reynolds, H. T., & Mycoff, J. D. (2015). *Political science research methods*. Cq Press.
- Bekkers, R. (2022, May 28). *Better Academic Research Writing: A Practical Guide*. <https://doi.org/10.31219/osf.io/4ume>
- Friedman, D., & Sunder, S. (1994). *Experimental methods: A primer for economists*. Cambridge university press.