Contemporary Issues in Behavioural Economics (Master)

The seminar "Contemporary Issues in Behavioural Economics" introduces students to the scientific literature in selected fields of Behavioural Economics. We will read some of the key contributions to these fields. These include experimental studies, theoretical contributions and empirical studies based on survey data touching on issues with particular relevance to public economics (e.g. fairness, income distribution, voting, taxation). You are expected to work through these contributions (the main readings) and – whenever necessary – consult background literature. The course will be reading-intensive! Written assignments are kept to a minimum to keep the workload manageable.

Rules of the seminar:

1) Participation is mandatory in all sessions.

2) You are expected to prepare for the sessions by working through the mandatory readings (see main readings below).

3) To receive 6 ECTS, you need to
   a. give two presentations on two different topics from the list of topics named below (Part II). One presentation will be on a main reading, another one on an additional reading on another topic.
   b. write a short term paper (5-6 pages in English) on a topic related to the main reading presented.
   c. make significant contributions to the discussions throughout the course.

   Non-presenters are expected to participate actively in the discussion, comment on the presentation and discuss the content of the main readings in class.

4) The grade depends on the quality of the term paper and the presentations only. The term paper accounts for 50 % of the final grade. Term paper and both presentations have to graded at least 4.0 (passed).

5) The presentation of the main reading should be 25 minutes long. The presenters are expected to present the technical aspects of the paper in depth. Formal models as well as regression methods and outputs should be presented. Given the time restrictions, it may be advisable to present one main empirical or theoretical contribution in detail and keep the discussion of the other contributions and possible extensions to a minimum.
6) The presentation of the additional reading should be 10 minutes long. The presenters should focus on presenting the main idea in non-technical terms.

7) The term paper should present the essential features of the main reading presented. In addition, you are expected to select two scientific papers related to the topic of your main reading, outline their main features and relate these to the main reading. If necessary, please consult and quote additional literature.

8) In most cases, readings will be assigned to more than one students. In this case, students are expected to do the presentations together. The term papers have to be written separately.

9) The topics are listed in Part II of the course outline below.

10) A guideline on how to write a term paper is available on moodle.

11) Term papers are due March 15, 2015.

Signing up for the seminar:

1) Please come to our office (room 3210 and 3209B, Wiso A) to sign up for the seminar. *(Signing up for the course via Moodle or HIS is not sufficient!)*

2) When signing, you can choose the topics of your main reading. This topic is assigned on the basis “first come first serve”. The topic for the second presentation (additional reading) is assigned by us.

3) Organizational details are discussed in the first session. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

4) The number of participants is limited to 24.
Part I: Basic concepts – a review

A. Behavioral Economics – a brief introduction

Part II: Seminar Topics

B. Solidarity Game

C. Reciprocity

D. Procedural fairness

E. Fairness and the impartial spectator

F. Preference for redistribution and the role of beliefs

G. Expressive voting
H. Bandwagon Behavior in Voting

I. Emotions in the dictator game

J. Experimental evidence on the motives of giving

K. Punishment in Public good games

L. The Trust Game

M. Trust game and Personality

N. Determinants of trust
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>43</td>
<td>20.10.2014</td>
<td>Getting started</td>
<td>4 - 6 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>44</td>
<td>27.10.2014</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>4 - 6 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45</td>
<td>03.11.2014</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>4 - 6 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46</td>
<td>10.11.2014</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>4 - 6 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>47</td>
<td>17.11.2014</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>4 - 6 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>48</td>
<td>24.11.2014</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>4 - 6 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>49</td>
<td>01.12.2014</td>
<td>G</td>
<td>4 - 6 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50</td>
<td>08.12.2014</td>
<td>H</td>
<td>4 - 6 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>51</td>
<td>15.12.2014</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>4 - 6 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>52</td>
<td>22.12.2014</td>
<td>Christmas break</td>
<td>4 - 6 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>53</td>
<td>29.12.2014</td>
<td>Christmas break</td>
<td>4 - 6 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>54</td>
<td>05.01.2015</td>
<td>Christmas break</td>
<td>4 - 6 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55</td>
<td>12.01.2015</td>
<td>J</td>
<td>4 - 6 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>56</td>
<td>19.01.2015</td>
<td>K</td>
<td>4 - 6 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>26.01.2015</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>4 - 6 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>02.02.2015</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>4 - 6 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>09.02.2015</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>4 - 6 p.m.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>