Foundations of Experimental Economics (Winter Term 2025/26)

General Information

Course Title: Foundations of Experimental Economics
Lecture Room: Diagonale 3 – Lecture Hall 2 (Room 0509)
Lecture Time: Fridays, 10:15 AM – 1:45 PM (including 30-minute break)
First Lecture: Friday, October 24

Instructors: Marcel Lumkowsky & Kumai Kokash
E-Mail: marcel.lumkowsky@uni-kassel.de; kumai.kokash@uni-kassel.de
Office Hours: Upon request

Course Description

This course provides an introduction to experimental economics, equipping students with the skills to critically read and assess experimental economics papers, as well as to design, conduct, and analyze their own experiments. The lecture is divided into three main parts: The first part focuses on the design and implementation of various types of experiments, addressing key methodological issues. The second part is dedicated to analyzing experimental data, introducing students to statistical and econometric methods relevant to experimental research. The third part of the course emphasizes the effective communication of research findings, guiding students on how to write up their results in a clear and structured manner.

Prerequisites

To succeed in this course, students are expected to have a solid foundation in the following areas:

- **Basic Economics:** A general understanding of microeconomics is required, especially concepts such as supply and demand, market equilibrium, game theory, and behavioral economics. Students should be familiar with how economic agents (such as consumers and firms) make decisions.
- **Statistics and Econometrics:** A basic knowledge of statistics and probabilities is essential for understanding experimental design and data analysis. Key topics include statistical inference, hypothesis testing, and regression analysis. Students should be comfortable working with data and basic statistical tools.
- **Reading and Writing:** Students must be able to read academic papers in English. In addition, students are expected to communicate effectively in writing for the exam.

Textbooks and Readings

This course does not rely on a single textbook. Instead, relevant literature is drawn from various textbooks and journal articles. The specific readings for each lecture will be listed on the lecture slides. We will distinguish between recommended and required readings.

- **Recommended readings:** These readings are suggested for students who are particularly interested in exploring a specific topic in greater depth. Knowledge of these readings is not required for the exam. However, they provide additional background and can help enrich understanding of the course material.

- **Required readings:** These readings are essential, and all students are expected to read them. A general understanding of the required readings will be important for the exam.

As general introductions into experimental economics and analysis of experimental data, we recommend:

- Kagel, J. H., & Roth, A. E. (1995). *The handbook of experimental economics*. Princeton University Press. https://doi.org/10.2307/j.ctvzsmff5
- Weimann, J., & Brosig-Koch, J. (2019). *Methods in experimental economics: An introduction*. Springer Cham. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-93363-4
- Moffatt, P. (2015). Experimetrics: *Econometrics for experimental economics*. Red Globe Press. https://www.bloomsbury.com/uk/experimetrics-9780230250239/

Lecture Schedule

This schedule is subject to change with prior notice via announcements on moodle.

Date	Part	**Lecture**	**Topic**	**Lecturer**
24 October	1	1	Introduction and Basic Concepts	Lumkowsky
31 October	1	2	Experimental Design I	Lumkowsky
7 November	1	3	Experimental Design II	Lumkowsky
14 November	1	4	Laboratory Experiments	Lumkowsky
21 November	1	5	Field Experiments	Lumkowsky
28 November	1	6	Other Types and Current Topics (e.g., Environment, AI, etc.)	Lumkowsky
5 December	2	7	Statistical Tests	Kokash
12 December	2	8	Regression Analysis I	Kokash
19 December	-	-	-	-
16 January	2	9	Regression Analysis II	Kokash
23 January	2	10	Discrete Choice Experiments	Kokash
30 January	3	11	Paper Writing	Lumkowsky
6 February	-	12	Exam Prep and Questions	Lumkowsky/Kokash
13 February	-	-	-	-

Tutorial Schedule

The tutorials are designed to provide practice for the exam. Exercises and solutions will be uploaded online, so attending the tutorial solely to receive solutions is not necessary. When attending a tutorial, students are expected to actively work on the exercises and engage with the material.

Tutorial Room: Nora-Platiel 5 - Room 0109/0110
Tutorial Time: Thursdays, 16:15 PM – 17:45 PM (not every week, see below!)

Date	**Tutorial**
November 13	Tutorial 1
November 27	Tutorial 2
December 11	Tutorial 3
January 15	Tutorial 4
January 29	Tutorial 5
February 5	Tutorial 6

Exam

There will be two exam dates:

- First Exam: February 20, 2026
- Second Exam: April 17, 2026

Both exams will take place during the lecture hours (10.15 AM – 11.45 AM) and will have a duration of 90 minutes. Students are free to choose on which exam date they want to take the exam. More information regarding exam registration will be communicated at a later point.

Communication

Announcements: Important course updates, announcements, and information will be shared through the announcements function on moodle. It is essential that you ensure you are receiving automatic notifications via email or regularly check moodle for any updates. This will be the primary channel for course-related information.

Contacting Instructors:

- For **content-related questions** (e.g., questions regarding something that came up in a lecture), please contact the specific lecturer responsible for that topic.

- For **general organizational questions** (e.g., questions about course structure, deadlines, or logistics), please contact both instructors via email. This ensures that both of us are aware of the inquiry and can assist you accordingly.