

Applied Economics

Viadrina (IBA) • Winter 2010, first block

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The official description of the course can be found at <http://www.wiwi.euv-frankfurt-o.de/de/studium/studienangebot/bsc-iba/13/index.html>. A key sentence is. '[...] The course deals with the practical relevance of theories studied beforehand.'

We will discuss various topics in micro- and macroeconomics and learn how to use the tools and language of economics when applied to 'real problems' of corporations, public policymakers and individuals.

Useful information

Moodle We are going to use 'Moodle' for distributing files, sending announcements etc. The address is <http://moodle.europa-uni.de/> for moodle in general and <http://moodle01.euv-frankfurt-o.de/course/view.php?id=145> for this course specifically.

Please make sure that you are 'enrolled' in Applied Economics in moodle. In principle, visit the website mentioned above, give your Viadrina username and password and you are done.

no private email addresses, please Please note this rule by the Faculty of Business Administration and Economics:

As of now communication by email between the faculty and the students of the European University Viadrina is effected solely through the official email account which had been set up upon enrollment and can be accessed [...] [at <https://owa.euv-frankfurt-o.de/>]. (Hint: Username and password correspond to the login of the Hisportal.) (<http://www.wiwi.euv-frankfurt-o.de/en/studium/index.html>)

Schedule Lectures take place every Monday and Tuesday at 9.15 in the morning to 12.45 before lunch. The first lecture is scheduled for the October 11, the last for November 23. The examination is planned for December 2.

office hours After and before the lectures, by appointment and every Tuesday 1.30 - 3.30 pm.

exams It is possible to earn a course requirement, provided that you successfully complete the final examination. There will be an written exam in the week 29 Nov - 04 Dec 2010. See also below the possibility to give a presentation or write an essay.

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presentations There will be the possibility to give short presentations in the classroom. Those that have given a presentation will be allowed to write an substantially easier final exam. Details will be announced in the first lecture.

prerequisites I assume that you have been introduced to basic principles of micro- and macroeconomics.

Topics

This is the unordered list of topics I intend to discuss in class. We might not discuss all of them, so this list is illustrative.

If you have a topic you are especially interested in, or a paper that is of particular interest, please let me know. I will try to cover issues raised by students.

1. How economists think
2. A few basic principles in Micro-Economics
3. Capital Mobility and Tax Competition
4. Should child labour be banned?
5. Are minimum wages fair?
6. Introduction to the neoclassical theory of growth
7. World Income Inequality
8. ... more if time permits

In addition, we will talk about *useful techniques for students and researchers*: How to find interesting papers, how to keep track of them, how to cite and avoid plagiarism, how to find and work with data,...

Student presentations / essays

Each student is invited to give either a short (not more than 10 minutes) presentation in the classroom. If time does not permit a presentation, you can also write a short essay (not more than 1 000 words) that is distributed to your fellow students. These presentations or essays will not be graded. Successful presenters and essay-writers will be rewarded by a fixed amount of credits added to those earned in the written exam.

The topics of the presentations are restricted to applied economics, broadly defined. Topics could include

- a summary of last week's events in economic policy
- a short briefing or a policy proposal on a current issue in economic policy of your choice
- A presentation of data you find interesting (why?)
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We will coordinate topics and a schedule for student presentations in the first week of the course.

In general, you are encouraged (and expected) to follow the news. Decent newspapers and magazines that write about economic policy (International Financial Times, The Economist, ...) are available at your library and in the WWW.