

Course Descriptions Master 2013-2014

Course Title Economic Analysis of Social Behaviour

Course Code EBC4022

ECTS Credits 6,5

Assessment None

Period	Period	Start	End	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
2	28-10-2013	20-12-2013	X				X	

Level Advanced

Coordinator Lex Borghans For more information:lex.borghans@maastrichtuniversity.nl

Language of instruction English

Goals Understand how social problems can be analysed from an economic perspective. Being able to describe social behavior in terms of choices people make (tradeoffs) and market interactions that exist. Being able to apply this knowledge to various cases.

Description The main aim of this course is to understand complex social problems and to formulate them as an economic model. Economics comprises a powerful and flexible set of tools that can be applied to analyse the consequences of social forces and market behaviour to get to grips with such problems. Understanding how people get what they want or need in a social context where other people want or need the same is a cornerstone of modern life and the key to solving many complex problems, from violent crime to technology adoption by firms, and from cheating in sports to poor education of particular demographic groups.

Literature Steven D. Levitt and Stephen J. Dubner (2005), Freakonomics, A Rouge Economist Explores the Hidden Side of Everything. Willism Morrow, New York.
Gary S. Becker and Kevin M. Murphy (2000), Social Economics; Market Behavior in a Social Environment. The Belknap Press, Cambridge (MA).
And several articles.

Prerequisites Required knowledge for this course is a basic understanding of economic models and elementary knowledge of mathematics. Students must be able to derive the maximum of a function. A bachelor degree in economics or a related field would be a perfect start for this course.
an advanced level of English

Teaching methods PBL / Presentation / Assignment

Assessment methods Final Paper / Participation / Written Exam

Evaluation in previous academic year For the complete evaluation of this course please click <http://iwio-sbe.maastrichtuniversity.nl/rapporten.asp?referrer=codeUM>

This course belongs to the following programme / specialisation

Master Economic Studies	Electives
Master Economic Studies	Social Economics
Master Fiscale Economie	Economics Electives
Master Human Decision Science	Electives
SBE Exchange Master	Master Courses
SBE Non Degree Courses	Master Courses