

Course Descriptions Master 2013-2014

Course Title Economic Analysis of Social Behaviour
 Course Code EBC4022
 ECTS Credits 6,5
 Assessment None

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