

# Course Descriptions Master 2017-2018

Course Title Psychology and Economics  
 Course Code EBC4021  
 ECTS Credits 6,5  
 Assessment None

Period	Period	Start	End	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
4		5-2-2018	6-4-2018	X			X	

Level Advanced  
 Coordinator Thomas Meissner For more information: [t.meissner@maastrichtuniversity.nl](mailto:t.meissner@maastrichtuniversity.nl)  
 Language of instruction English

Goals Acquiring a structured insight into the important roles of psychological factors and processes in the judgments, decision-making and well-being of economic agents  
 Learning about the difference in approach between psychology and economics  
 Learning about the relations between psychology and economics

Description Increasingly, economists are discovering psychology as a means to enrich their models of economic behaviour and well-being and to give them a better foundation. The importance of this is illustrated by the fact that Nobel prize winner in economics in 2002 was the distinguished psychologist Daniel Kahneman. He characterizes his research as a quest for the 'logic of the irrational'. Adam Smith already recognized that economic, just like other, behaviour is motivated by an intriguing blend of 'rational' considerations and 'irrational' sentiments. The great challenge is to investigate the implications of the latter motives for economics.  
 This course aims to give an intensive introduction into this field. In the first part of the course, the psychology and behavioural economics of judgment and decision-making are dealt with. Basic principles of rationality are compared with actual behaviour in making decisions. Also, a link is made to the emerging field of neuroeconomics. Next, in the second part of the course, students are introduced into the psychological and economic research on subjective well-being (happiness) and its psychological, demographic and socio-economic determinants (especially income). The importance of this research for economics and its policy implications will be highlighted. Differences and similarities in the approaches of psychology and economics will be clarified.

Literature Hastie, Reid, and Robyn M. Dawes. Rational choice in an uncertain world: The psychology of judgment and decision making. Sage, 2010.  
 Articles and chapters from books.

Prerequisites Good understanding of microeconomics, probability theory and mathematics (level comparable to QM2) and basic understanding of macroeconomics.  
 An advanced level of English

Teaching methods Presentation / Lecture / Groupwork

Assessment methods 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 Fiscale Economie	Economics Electives
Master Human Decision Science	Electives
Master International Business Specialisation Accountancy	Electives
Master International Business Specialisation Controlling	Electives
Master International Business Specialisation Entrepreneurship and SME Management	Electives
Master International Business Specialisation Organisation: Management, Change and Consultancy	Electives
Master International Business Specialisation Strategic Corporate Finance	Electives
Master International Business Specialisation Strategy and Innovation	Electives
Master International Business Specialisation Sustainable Finance	Electives
Master Information and Network Economics	Economics Electives
SBE Exchange Master	Master Exchange Courses
SBE Non Degree Courses	Master Courses