Course Descriptions None 2013-2014

Course Title	Productivity
Course Code	EBC2013
ECTS Credits	6,5
Assessment	None

Period

Period	Start	End	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
4	3-2-2014	4-4-2014		X			X

Level	Intermediate
Coordinator	Christian Kerckhoffs For more information:c.kerckhoffs@maastrichtuniversity.nl
Language of instruction	English
Goals	Develop basic historical knowledge about the process of productivity growth since the Middle Ages. - Introduction to the standard neoclassical (Solow) growth model and some augmentations, and basic endogenous growth models. - Applying empirical techniques to analyse the process of productivity growth.
Description	While the business cycle is a short-run phenomenon, productivity growth is fundamentally a long-run phenomenon. Therefore, this course takes a long-run, comparative view on the relationship between economic growth, productivity and global economic leadership. In week 1, we have a closer look at the phenomenon 'productivity' and its measurement, and we briefly discuss the shifts in economic leadership during the past millennium. At this stage, our discussions are mostly verbal and empirical. In week 2, we switch gear to a more theoretical approach, starting with an extensive discussion of the neoclassical growth model or Solow model. Since this model fails to provide convincing answers to some important questions, we augment it in week 3: and in this context we also discuss the so called convergence debate, mainly an empirical issue. In week 4, we have a closer look at endogenous growth models. We continue this discussion in week 5, where we also address the growth issue at a deeper level of causality than normally expected in an economics course: this in fact brings us back to the historical analyses discussed in week 1. In weeks 6 and 7, after a brief discussion of some further endogenous growth models, we apply our tools to some hotly debated real-world issues: the 'sustainability' problem, the rapid growth in some East-Asian economies in the past few decades, and the sluggish growth in most of the euro area. While Jones constitutes the backbone of the course, we sometimes take time out to have a closer look at empirical studies by other authors, who invariably use either the Maddison dataset, or the Summers and Heston dataset. Additionally, we occasionally dig more deeply into specific theoretical models, and also address more verbal, historical analyses.
Literature	C.I. Jones D.Vollrath (2013), Introduction to economic growth, 3rd edition, W.W. Norton & Company Selected chapters from 5 additional books, and 5 original articles from scientific journals.
Prerequisites	- Knowledge and understanding of introductory microeconomics and macroeconomic (comparable to courses Microeconomics, code EBC1010/1011/1012, and Macroeconomics, code EBC1018/1019/1020). - Knowledge and understanding of mathematical and statistical techniques at an intermediate level, especially differential equations / dynamic systems and regression analysis (comparable to course Quantitative Methods III, code EBC2011). - Exchange students need to major in economics. An advanced level of English
Teaching methods	PBL / Presentation / Lecture / Assignment / 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

Bachelor Economics and Business Economics Specialisation Economics and Management of Information	Compulsory Courses
Bachelor Economics and Business Economics Specialisation International Business Economics	Economics Electives
Bachelor Economics and Business Economics Specialisation International Economic Studies	Compulsory Courses
Bachelor Econometrics and Operations Research	Business & Economics Electives
SBE Exchange Bachelor	Bachelor Courses
SBE Exchange Master	Bachelor Courses
SBE Non Degree Courses	Bachelor Courses