

## Course Descriptions None 2017-2018

Course Title Behavioural Economics (EFR)  
 Course Code EBC4200  
 ECTS Credits 6,5  
 Assessment Whole/Half Grades

| Period | Start    | End        | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri |
|--------|----------|------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 1      | 4-9-2017 | 27-10-2017 | X   |     |     | X   |     |

Level Advanced  
 Coordinator Jona Linde For more information: [j.linde@maastrichtuniversity.nl](mailto:j.linde@maastrichtuniversity.nl)

Language of instruction English

- Goals:
- Form an opinion on the why and how of modelling human behaviour, in particular as it deviates from the rational and selfish homo economics.
  - Become acquainted with some of the most important behavioural economics models on a variety of topics.
  - Understand, build and expand models of human behaviour.
  - Understand the interplay between theory and data, including the ability to build a theory based on observed behavioural regularities, assess a theory based on observed behaviour, and conceive of possible empirical tests of a theory.
  - Acquire intimate knowledge of the theoretical and empirical literature related to the chosen research topic.
  - Design a research project related to behavioural economics.

Description: Starting from the observation that human behaviour often deviates from traditional homo economicus models, behavioural economists try to model how people actually behave. In this course we will discuss why they do that, how they do that and what the results of their efforts are. We start by discussing the reasons to build models of human behaviour and the challenges faced when trying to do so. Next we will critically examine different general approaches to this endeavour. Having set the stage we will study behavioural economics models of choice, belief updating, decision making under risk, intertemporal choice, strategic decision making, and social preferences. Finally we explore the implications of behavioural economics for policy making and macro-economic modelling. Although we discuss the interplay between theory and empirics we will focus on theories, rather than empirical observations, of human behaviour.

Literature There is no one textbook that will cover the course. The literature will consist of a wide variety of readings including chapters from textbooks aimed at advanced graduates and contemporary research articles.

Prerequisites Research masters students only: Microeconomics at a research Master's level (e.g.: EBC4061 Microeconomics I and EBC4204 Microeconomics 2); exposure to experimental economics methodology (e.g. EBS4026 Experimental Economics Methods) is an advantage but not a formal requirement.

Teaching methods PBL / Lecture

Assessment methods Final Paper / Participation

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

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| This course belongs to the following programme / specialisation | Master Business Research                                  | Free Electives                         |
|   | Master Business Research Track OR                         | Free Electives                         |
|   | Master Economic and Financial Research Track Econometrics | Economic Theory, Behaviour & Computing |
|   | Master Economic and Financial Research                    | Economic Theory, Behaviour & Computing |