Course Descriptions None 2025-2026

Course Title	Economic Growth and Institutions
Course Code	EBC2013
ECTS Credits	6,5
Assessment	Whole/Half Grades

Period

Period	Start	End	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
4	2-2-2026	27-3-2026		X	L		X

Level	Intermediate
Coordinator	Mark Sanders For more information:m.sanders@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	Economic growth has been the focus of economists and economics from well before the discipline was founded. Adam Smith kicked off our discipline with an Inquiry into the Causes and Nature or Wealth of Nations. Jared Diamond's (1998) Guns, Germs and Steel starts with the question of Djali, a native of Papua New Guinea, who poses the question bluntly: Why is it that you white men have so much cargo (stuff) and we New Guineans so little? Indeed. Why are some nations rich and others poor? And how did we go from a world in which consecutive generations lived the same, modest hunter-gatherer life in small, nomadic tribes to a world where some nation states have the power to destroy the planet a hundred times over and we each consume energy and resources at levels that threaten to destroy our entire habitat. If you look around on planet earth today or look back in history only a mere 250 years, a blink of an eye in the history of our species, what is most striking is the incredible inequality and the speed at which this has developed. Not 200 years ago, most people in even the richest parts of the world would live close to subsistence on their family farms. Now we fly to Thailand for fun and obesity is about to kill more people than malnutrition. As some choke on cheap food, energy, and stuff, others still face dire poverty. And we take this all for granted. Historically and geographically, however, we live in an exceptional time and an exceptional place. Our level of material wealth is unprecedented and as we are about to learn, unsustainable. It is on us, economists, to make sense of this. What has caused this unprecedented episode of material growth? Can it be replicated in other parts of the world? Is it sustainable in those parts of the world that have enjoyed it in the past decades? And can it be redirected to respect the planetary and social boundaries that we seem to be approaching and/or have already passed? For all these questions, we need to understand the process of economic growth and the role of institutions therein. These are only the biggest questions that your generation faces today.
Literature	Jones, C.I., and D. Vollrath [2024], Introduction to economic growth, 4th ed., W.W. Norton & Company And selected materials that are publicly available or will be provided.
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.
Transitional Regulations	TRANSITIONAL REGULATIONS <ul class="trcohorts"> - Bachelor Economics and Business Economics - International Business Economics [2024-2025 or earlier] - From 2025-2026 onwards, education and exam/resit opportunities are offered. Alternative options may be available. See the Bachelor EER 2025-2026 Appendix I Article 16 for more information. <table><col style="width: 200px;"><col style="width: 120px;"><col style="width: 120px;"><col><thead><tr><th>Academic Year</th><th>Education</th><th>Exam/Resit</th><th>Replacement(s)</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>2025-2026 onwards</td><td>X</td><td>X</td><td>See the Bachelor EER 2025-2026 Appendix I Article 16 for more information</td></tr></tbody></table> TRANSITIONAL REGULATIONS <ul class="trcohorts"> - Bachelor Fiscal Economics - In 2024-2025, 2025-2026, and 2026-2027 education and exam/resit opportunities are offered. - In 2027-2028 exam/resit opportunities are offered. - From 2028-2029 onwards, the course is cancelled. <table><col style="width: 200px;"><col style="width: 120px;"><col style="width: 120px;"><col><thead><tr><th>Academic Year</th><th>Education</th><th>Exam/Resit</th><th>Replacement(s)</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>2024-2025 - 2026-2027</td><td>X</td><td>X</td><td> </td></tr><tr><td>2027-2028</td><td> </td><td>X</td><td> </td></tr><tr><td>2028-2029 onwards</td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr></tbody></table>
Teaching methods	PBL / Lecture / Assignment / Groupwork
Assessment methods	Attendance / Written Exam / Assignment
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 - Economics	Year 2 Compulsory Courses
Bachelor Economics and Business Economics - Emerging Markets	Year 2 Disciplinary Courses
Bachelor Economics and Business Economics - Emerging Markets	Year 3 Elective Courses
Bachelor Economics and Business Economics - Economics and Management of Information	Year 2 Compulsory Courses
Bachelor Economics and Business Economics - International Business Economics	In transition - Maj Accounting - Economics Elec
Bachelor Economics and Business Economics - International Business Economics	In transition - Maj Finance - Economics Elec
Bachelor Economics and Business Economics - International Business Economics	In transition - Maj Inf Mgmt - Economics Elec
Bachelor Economics and Business Economics - International Business Economics	In transition - Maj Macro - Core Courses
Bachelor Economics and Business Economics - International Business Economics	In transition - Maj Marketing - Economics Elec
Bachelor Economics and Business Economics - International Business Economics	In transition - Maj Org - Economics Elec
Bachelor Economics and Business Economics - International Business Economics	In transition - Maj SCM - Economics Elec
Bachelor Economics and Business Economics - International Business Economics	In transition - Maj Strategy - Economics Elec
Bachelor Economics and Business Economics - International Business Economics	Year 3 Economics Elective
Bachelor Econometrics and Operations Research	Year 3 Elective Courses
Bachelor Fiscal Economics	In transition - Year 3 Elective Courses
SBE Exchange Bachelor	Bachelor Exchange Courses
SBE Exchange Master	Bachelor Exchange Courses
SBE Non Degree Courses	Bachelor Courses