Course Descriptions None 2025-2026

Course Title	Network Economics
Course Code	EBC2109
ECTS Credits	6,5
Assessment	Whole/Half Grades

Period

Period	Start	End	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
5	13-4-2026	5-6-2026	X			X	

Level	Advanced
Coordinator	Robin Cowan For more information:r.cowan@maastrichtuniversity.nl
Language of instruction	English
Goals	Learn and understand the basic economics of network technologies Understand formation and ecolution of networks Learn difference between different network structures Learn about pricing and economics of network goods Understand issues relating network technologies and business strategies Understand effects of network technologies on competition and competition policy
Description	The new economy is driven by dramatic changes in information and communication technologies — the computer, telecommunication technologies, the internet. These technologies, which are being integrated into every facet of the economy and society, are inherently network technologies. This course studies the micro-economics of networks, and the effects on the economy of the widespread diffusion of network technologies. Specific topics include the nature and scope of network externalities; the need for standards (both technical and cultural) and the nature of the standardisation process; path dependence; technological lock-in and escaping from lock-in; potential regret; issues in pricing the use of network technologies; the effects of different network architectures such as small worlds on economic performance. Various policy issues will also be addressed. The new information technologies have made it possible for agents in the economy to have different types of interactions with each other. For example, businesses can buy and sell using electronic trading technologies at the extreme, or simply using the internet to extend their reach to customers in ways that were previously impossible. All of this activity, though, draws on networks. There is the obvious one, namely that the internet (and the Web) is itself a network: the internet a physical network, the Web a network of linked information. Additionally, though, because of changes in the way information flows today, we have to think of agents more generally interacting over a more abstract kind of network of connections of various different kinds, as they operate in the economy. Virtual networks, or social networks form a more important aspect of economic life: firms have networks of suppliers with which they have long-lasting non-market relationships. Firms also have networks of other (non-supplier) firms for the same of gathering or creating information or knowledge about future technologies. The new economy depends on networks in many different ways, and this course aims to understand both networks per se, and networks as supporting different types of economic activity.
Literature	No pre-assigned literature. We make use of recent journal articles.
Prerequisites	- An intermediate level of economics is recommended. - Exchange students should have a basic knowledge of microeconomics. - An advanced level of English.
Transitional Regulations	TRANSITIONAL REGULATIONS <ul class="trcohorts"> - Bachelor Economics and Business Economics - Economics and Management of Information [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>
Teaching methods	PBL / Lecture / Assignment / Groupwork
Assessment methods	Final Paper / Attendance / 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 - Economics and Management of Information	In transition - Year 2 Compulsory Courses
Bachelor Economics and Business Economics - Economics and Management of Information	Year 2 Elective Courses
SBE Exchange Bachelor	Bachelor Exchange Courses
SBE Exchange Master	Bachelor Exchange Courses
SBE Non Degree Courses	Bachelor Courses