

Course Descriptions None 2026-2027

Course Title Society Through the Lens of Economists
 Course Code EBC2194
 ECTS Credits 6,5
 Assessment Whole/Half Grades

Period	Start	End	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
2	26-10-2026	11-12-2026		X		X	

Level Intermediate
 Coordinator Steffen Kuenn For more information:s.kuenn@maastrichtuniversity.nl
 Language of instruction English

Goals
 1. Being able to analyse a wide range of social phenomena from an economic point of view.
 2. Understand how economic theory explains individuals' behaviour, institutions, and society in general.
 3. Being able to read and critically evaluate empirical research analysing these issues.
 4. Understand the problem of endogeneity in empirical research and recognize its implications for establishing causal relationships between variables.
 5. Understand basic econometric tools with which empirical claims about causality can be established.

Description
 This course provides an introduction to the economic analysis of social phenomena, with an emphasis on both theoretical foundations and modern empirical approaches to identify causal relationships in economic research. Students will learn how economic theory explains individual behaviour, institutions, and societal outcomes, and how these explanations can be tested using data. Central to the course is the empirical revolution in economics, which has shifted the discipline toward causal identification and positioned economists at the forefront of providing causal evidence on a wide range of social and policy-relevant issues.

Students will be trained to read and critically evaluate empirical research, understand identification strategies, and apply basic econometric tools to interpret causal claims. By engaging directly with influential empirical papers in economics (addressing different challenges in society), students will develop the ability to assess the validity and credibility of empirical studies themselves. The course thus aims to foster a lasting change in perspective: from this point onward, students will approach empirical work in economics with a more rigorous, critical, and fundamentally different understanding than before.

Literature A selection of academic articles.

Prerequisites
 * Basic understanding of economic theory and quantitative methods.
 * An advanced level of English.

Keywords

Transitional Regulations
 <div class="trreg"><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;"><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></td></tr></tbody></table> See the Bachelor EER 2025-2026 Appendix I Article 16 for more information</td></tr></tbody></table></div>

Teaching methods PBL / Presentation / Lecture / Assignment

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 3 Economics Electives
	Bachelor Economics and Business Economics - Emerging Markets	Year 3 Elective Courses
	Bachelor Economics and Business Economics - Economics and Management of Information	Year 3 Economics Elective
	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 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	Annex 1 Electives
	SBE Exchange Bachelor	Bachelor Exchange Courses
	SBE Exchange Master	Bachelor Exchange Courses
	SBE Non Degree Courses	Bachelor Courses