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

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	<ul class="trcohorts"> - Bachelor Economics and Business Economics - International Business Economics - Major Accounting[2024-2025 or earlier] - Bachelor Economics and Business Economics - International Business Economics - Major Finance[2024-2025 or earlier] - Bachelor Economics and Business Economics - International Business Economics - Major Information Management[2024-2025 or earlier] - Bachelor Economics and Business Economics - International Business Economics - Major Marketing[2024-2025 or earlier] - Bachelor Economics and Business Economics - International Business Economics - Major Organisation[2024-2025 or earlier] - Bachelor Economics and Business Economics - International Business Economics - Major Strategy[2024-2025 or earlier] - Bachelor Economics and Business Economics - International Business Economics - Major Supply Chain Management[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 / 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