

Microeconomic Tools for Labor Market Research and Policy Evaluation

Prof. Dr. Steffen Müller

General Structure

The seminar will consist of weekly sessions, starting October 16th, 2019. In the first session, each student will be randomly assigned to one of the topics and is expected to write a short seminar paper (10-12 pages) to be submitted by February 15th, 2020. We will typically spend two lectures on each topic: the first lecture briefly introduces the theoretical background and explains one econometric technique; the second lecture gives room for students to discuss relevant scientific articles. Students actively discuss all articles and prepare a presentation for their assigned topic. The final grade will comprise three separately graded parts: the presentation (25%), contributions to the general discussion during lectures and presentations (25%), and the written seminar paper (50%). Note that you only pass the seminar if each part is passed separately (e.g., in case that you do not hand in your presentations in time and, hence, this part is graded with 5.0, you cannot pass the seminar anymore).

Details on presentation and seminar paper

The presentation starts with an in-depth motivation of the topic (why do we care?) and a general overview over the main hypothesis and the broad discussion in the respective literature (5min). This is followed by a careful discussion of the assigned paper focusing on its contribution to the literature and its limitations. A particular focus should be laid on the empirical methodology. The overall presentation lasts no more than 25min (binding constraint!) and is followed by a discussion of all seminar participants (15-20min). This means that **all students should read and discuss all papers**. If you need a projector for your presentation please notify this in advance and send the slides to steffen.mueller@iwh-halle.de by 9.30 am the day of your presentation.

The presentation will be graded but is also a valuable source of feedback that should be used for writing the seminar paper. The seminar paper consists of 10-12 pages (times new roman, 12ppt, 1.5 line spacing, 2cm margins), is written in full sentences (i.e. not bullet points), and is generally structured in the same way as the presentation, i.e. motivation, theoretical background, in-depth discussion of one important study, its contributions and limitations with special emphasis on empirical methods. About one half to two thirds of the seminar paper should be devoted to the discussion of the assigned study. To properly discuss your assigned study it is generally necessary to also read and refer to papers building the starting point for your study or criticizing it.

Good writing is necessary for good grades! Write in a stringent and logically consistent way. Express your thoughts as concise as possible and be unambiguous. Structure your

writings! E.g., one paragraph is one thought, should consist of at least three sentences and cover at most two thirds of a page. If you feel unsure, read e.g., "The Elements of Style" by William Strunk. The final seminar paper has to be submitted in pdf format via E-Mail to verena.pluempfe@iwh-halle.de by February 15th, 2020.