

Seminar (SS2021)

FG Makroökonomie, Prof. Dr. Frank Heinemann

Modules:

„Ausgewählte Fragen der Makroökonomik und Außenwirtschaft“ (B.Sc.)

„Ausgewählte Fragen zu Monetärer Makroökonomik, Finanzkrisen und Koordination“ (M.Sc.)

Covid and Macroeconomics

Seminar for Bachelor and Master students

This seminar aims at giving students an opportunity to study and discuss economic implications of the Covid-19 pandemic in a structured and scientific manner. Although the main focus will be macroeconomic consequences of the Covid-19 virus, students are encouraged and also allowed to consider all economics-related aspects of pandemics. Indeed, the pandemic has influenced our lives in all possible ways in unprecedented ways. It caused the death of almost three million humans across the globe, increased unemployment, disrupted supply chains, affected gender and income inequalities, and may have changed our views on politics and social interaction. Governments around the world took draconian measures to minimize the human cost of pandemic that included various degrees of lock-down policies. The discussion about trade-offs and complementarities between health and economic issues emphasizes the relevance and importance of economic theory to deal with the pandemic. In this seminar, we want to address questions as: What kind of an economic shock can Covid-19 be considered as? To what extent can economic theory contribute to the design of mitigation policies? How can insights and methods of epidemiology be integrated into economics? Are certain countries more resilient to this shock thanks to their economic institutions? The relation between Covid-19 and economic policy is bi-directional. Policy-makers as central banks and governments reacted to the pandemic with monetary and fiscal policy which in return brought its own debate. Will inflation return? Do asset prices reflect their fundamentals? Are we going to observe Schumpeterian creative destruction in act? Many other questions arise as well.

In the course of the seminar, students will present their analysis of these and other relevant questions based on mostly recent literature triggered by the pandemic. Students are expected to critically evaluate scientific articles. This is important as the urgency of Covid-19 led many economists to switch their attention to the topic. In consequence, thousands of working papers are produced that have not been peer-reviewed yet. Students will review a subset of this literature to answer their own selected research questions. To answer these research questions, students are requested to write a seminar paper and present it in front of supervisors and the others. In addition, participation in discussions will contribute to the overall grade.

Registration and Organization

Participants are required to register for the seminar by e-mail. Please, send the completed registration form by **15 April 2021** to Muhammed Bulutay at m.bulutay@tu-berlin.de. You can download the registration form on the [website](#) of the Chair of Macroeconomics.

https://www.macroeconomics.tu-berlin.de/menue/teaching_lehre/

There will be an information session on Friday, **16 April 2021** from 12:00 to 14:00. The zoom link will be shared with those who are registered by mail on 15 April. At this preparatory meeting, organizational issues will be discussed. Then, participants will be given a list of topics on which they can write their seminar papers. We will also provide a brief description of the topic and some initial literature. The literature provided is only meant to serve as a starting point. Students then have to list 5 topics by their order of preference and send it to m.bulutay@tu-berlin.de by **19 April 2021**. You can also propose your own topic in case you want to discuss

a topic that is not on the list provided. In this case, you need to write a few lines where you describe the topic and the research question and quote at least one relevant paper. The final allocation of students to topics will be determined by the chair in the same week. Each student will be assigned to a supervisor from the chair. All participants need to make at least one appointment with their supervisor to report on the progress of their work. The supervisor will be available for additional appointments, if necessary.

Seminar participants have until Friday, **30 April** to make a definite decision whether or not to participate in the seminar. This decision is binding and registration has to be made through QISPOS or with a “yellow form sheet” from the examination office.

Seminar Paper and Presentations

The **seminar paper** should have a length of 15 to 20 pages and should satisfy scientific criteria. An academic writing guideline is available on the course [website](#). Participants have to submit their seminar paper latest by **17 June**. The paper is to be submitted in electronic form (pdf). In addition, each participant will have to give a presentation as part of the seminar sessions. Presentations will start on **24 June**. The aim of the presentation is to introduce the subject, the research question, the methods used and the results of the seminar paper.

All participants have to read the other seminar papers prior to the corresponding presentation. The content will be discussed with all seminar participants following each presentation.

Attendance to the seminar sessions is mandatory. If you miss more than one session because of illness you have to hand in a sick note from a doctor. Unexcused absence from more than one seminar session will result in a grade 5. You are allowed to miss a maximum of two presentation sessions (with sicknote).

Grading

Grading of the seminar will be based on the written seminar paper (50%), the oral presentation (25%) and participation in discussions (25%).

Schedule:

Registration deadline:	Thursday, 15 April 2021
Information session:	Friday, 16 April 2021, 12:00-14:00
Submission of topic preferences:	Monday, 19 April 2021
Final decision to participate:	Friday, 30 April 2021
Submission deadline seminar paper:	17 June 2021
Presentation sessions (depending on number of participants):	
	Thursday, 24 June 2021, (from 12:00)
	Friday, 25 June 2021, (from 12:00)
	Thursday, 1 July 2021, (from 12:00)
	Friday, 2 July 2021, (from 12:00)
	Thursday, 8 July 2021, (from 12:00)
	Friday, 9 July 2021, (from 12:00)
Additional presentation day (if needed):	<i>TBA</i>