



## **Master seminar in Economic History: "Integration, Human Capital and Growth in World Economic History" (in English)**

**Summer Semester (9 ECTS)**

**Literature:** Your own research, please perform a keyword search with EconLit (see below). Please look also on our internet pages for related studies.

### **Meetings:**

- **Introductory meeting:** see Alma and our homepage
- **Compact seminar:** in June, see Alma and our homepage, plus additional days if required.
- Additional part: practical analysis (will be announced)
- Office hours Thursdays, 16:15 (please send email the day before)

Interest in applied statistical analysis techniques and the willingness to deal (either on your own or with our help) with **advanced methods (SPSS and Stata)** are essential for successful participation. In doing so, you will acquire **important skills** that can be very useful in your **future career, be in the university, international organization, or private firms.**

**Credit Points:** 9 ECTS

### **Requirements:**

- Term paper (12-15 pages text, plus figures and tables)
- Term paper presentation (20 minutes)
- Questions to each other presentations (please write down during the presentation, not thereafter)
- Second term paper (4 pages), freely chosen among the other topics (or a sub-topic of those topics)

The **second term paper** is an additional paper on one of the topics of the Master seminar (the topic should not be closely related to the topic of the first term paper). The aim of this second paper is that you develop a broader knowledge of the seminar topic. The second paper will be turned in with the main paper and there will be no presentation of this short paper). It is an independent short essay based on at least one scholarly research paper. There are no additional rules for this second paper.

### **Technicalities:**

We are currently mainly using PowerPoint 2016 and Stata.

## Registration and Distribution of the Topics:

- We would ask you to send us your first, second and third preferences for the topics that were announced below. Please send an email to [wisoge@uni-tuebingen.de](mailto:wisoge@uni-tuebingen.de) with the subject line: "E560 topics"
- The topics will be assigned in chronological order, according to the incoming registrations.
- Each topic can be assigned three times maximum.

The schedule of presentation during the two days of the compact seminar is **following the order of the topics** in the list below.

Before registration: Please consider if you really want to attend this seminar, **have enough time** and if you are able to **perform own regressions**. De-registration causes unnecessary transactions costs and we prefer to invest our time in very good teaching than to waste it with such issues! Thank you.

So far, we have been able to avoid a selection procedure, so that each student who is interested and eligible can participate; the Credit-Point-summary is meant for our information about your previous knowledge.

The research for the term paper should be completed before the compact seminar. The work itself can be improved afterwards up until **September 1 of the current year, the latest date to send in the two term papers via email attachment (PDF-format)**. The text of the paper should not be longer than 15 pages or shorter than 12 pages (normal layout), **graphs, tables and others count extra** (hence the total can be longer, but the text is shorter than 16 pages). Please, integrate the most important graphs and tables in the text and do not place them in the appendix. The 15 pages is a value for your calculation.

Not later than **three days before the compact seminar**, every student is required to present his/her main results in a 5-minute PowerPoint presentation to the supervisor (especially the most important tables and graphs. Please also bring the underlying data in Stata format on a stick or drive). By then, you should be familiar with the relevant literature; data should be organized and entered, and in your analysis you should have established the core results. Therefore, your research activities are to be accomplished by then.

The presentation of the term paper during the compact seminar lasts 20 minutes.

### Hints to improve your results:

Please, make use of the EconLit-search engine (access via UB-homepage) in search for literature and read studies in important journals already prior to the first meeting. Important: Of course, we support all those activities. But be aware of the fact, that it is not enough, if your term paper is based on only 2 or 3 research papers.

The presentations as well as the term paper should structured by an interesting economic question.

Usually, empirical/statistical analyses (i.e. regression analyses) are expected. In exceptional cases, students can be excused from this if they are not familiar with those methods at all. If any problems occur, you can receive support during our office hours (please send an email the day before. Bring your data files! Either in Stata, or in Excel with the variable names in the first row, without missing values, and save your data definitions in separate Word files!).

You will see that the best way to learn the methods of regression analysis is by trying out yourself. You find information about these methods and the application of the software STATA on our homepage. In addition, a

lecture can be seen via [www.timms.uni-tuebingen.de](http://www.timms.uni-tuebingen.de); the first three movies address basic regression analysis techniques (search timms Joerg Baten, this is in German).

All in all, the suggestions for the Master seminar are the same as for Master theses (of course, on a slightly lower level), so please also look at the information about diploma theses on our homepage!

**Topics:**

1. Inequality and Human Capital Formation in Latin America (requires Spanish language skills)
2. Migrant Selectivity and Growth Effects in Latin America (requires Spanish language skills)
3. Early Italian Human Capital Formation: what the Inquisition Files Tell Us (requires Italian language skills).
4. Human Capital of Criminals in 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> C England: the Old Bailey Files
5. Numeracy estimates of the elderly worldwide: selectivities and biases? (Data mainly available)
6. Religion and Human Capital: the counter-reformation in the Czech Lands and Southeast Germany
7. Social Mobility in Portugal (idea: Portuguese inquisition files inform about parental occupation, own occupation and age heaping)
8. Human capital in Portugal during the early modern period (idea: Portuguese inquisition files)
9. Human capital and reformation: what witch process records can tell us?
10. Human capital formation in Albania and Southeastern Europe
11. Determinants of Human capital formation in Eastern Europe
12. Education and disease in Italy: could more educated groups avoid some diseases?
13. Globalization and the Biological Standard of Living
14. Did human capital play a role for military outcomes in the early modern period?
15. Inequality and human capital formation in Africa
16. Migrant selectivity of Chinese emigrants
17. Migrant selectivity of Eastern European emigrants