

Be ready for your bachelor thesis in empirical economics (E380D)

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Objectives:

This course is designed to support bachelor students in the process of writing a critical analysis of academic papers. Throughout the course, students will discuss selected papers and, in light of these readings, practice key skills related to reading, evaluating, and writing about academic research.

Prerequisites:

There are no formal prerequisites for this course. However, it is strongly advised that students have a basic understanding of econometrics and are able to read and interpret output tables and mathematical equations typically found in empirical economic research. The course will be taught in English.

Credits:

6 ECTS.

Method of Assessment:

Assessment for this course will be based on the submission of an individual essay (20%) and an individual presentation (80%). Students are expected to critically evaluate a selected academic paper, incorporating the analytical and presentation skills developed during the course. The essay should demonstrate a clear structure, sound reasoning, and appropriate use of academic references.

Content

The course will cover the following key components:

1. Understanding the Structure of an Academic Paper

- Title, abstract, and introduction: Identifying the research question.
- Literature review: Positioning within existing work.
- Methodology: Assessing rigor and suitability.
- Results and discussion: Evaluating empirical contributions.
- Conclusion and implications: Understanding broader impact.

2. Writing a Review of a Paper

- Identifying assumptions and biases.
- Evaluating data sources and methodologies.
- Assessing robustness and validity of conclusions.
- Recognizing limitations and areas for further research.

3. Mastering Presentation Techniques

- Structuring a presentation: Highlighting key aspects of the paper.
- Communicating critique effectively.
- Using visuals to support arguments.
- Engaging with audience questions.

4. Writing a Critical Essay

- Structuring an essay: Introduction, critique, synthesis, conclusion.
- Developing arguments based on evidence.
- Incorporating academic references effectively.
- Reviewing and editing for clarity and impact.

Registration

Please register in [ILIAS](#). You should be able to access it using the following password provided in class. If you do not succeed, please send me an email (camila.cisneros-acevedo@uni-tuebingen.de). All course material will be posted in the ILIAS page. Also, if there are any schedule changes, you will be informed via ILIAS.