Course and Examination Fact Sheet: Spring Semester 2018

10,421: Workshop and Lecture Series in Experimental Research

ECTS credits: 4

Overview examination/s
(binding regulations see below)
Decentral - Written examination (80%)
Decentral - Active participation (20%)

Attached courses
Timetable -- Language -- Lecturer
10,421.1.00 Workshop and Lecture Series in Experimental Research -- Englisch -- de Bellis Emanuel

Course information

Course prerequisites

Doctoral students who plan to take this course as an optional course and without an examination should not register via the bidding system. They should register directly with the lecturer.

Doctoral students who plan to take this course as a regular course or as an optional course with an examination should register via the bidding system. Enrolment in a course is binding: students have to attend the course and take the exam. The grade will be shown on the scorecard.

Course content

The aim of the doctoral program “Methods in Experimental Research” (MER) is to build up and further develop the increasingly important methodological competence of doctoral students regarding the organization, implementation, and analysis of experiments on human behavior. MER is aimed at doctoral students who wish to establish causality in their research and for which a pure correlational analysis is not sufficient. The experimental method represents an advanced approach to scientific work. MER therefore requires that doctoral students have a basic understanding of the scientific method. Nevertheless, MER is a program that supports interested doctoral students of all disciplines in mastering the introduction into the experimental method of behavioral research and to further develop this methodological competence.

MER consists of two successive courses/modules taking place in the fall and spring semester, respectively. Module 2, “Workshop and Lecture Series in Experimental Research,” provides doctoral students with the opportunity to extend their knowledge about behavioral/experimental research. The focus is on building doctoral students’ competencies to critically evaluate an experimental design in their field of research, on learning about experimental conventions and practices in other fields of research, and on getting an introduction to coding behavioral experiments with oTree, an open-source platform for behavioral research (www.otree.org).

Through a combination of lecture series and a one-week coding workshop doctoral students are introduced to behavioral/experimental research in five different fields of research, provided with the basics for coding oTree experiments, and given the opportunity to program their own experiment in oTree.
After completing Module 2 doctoral students can further improve their training in experimental research methods by:

- signing up for Prof. Gerald Häubl’s course “Experimental Design for Behavioral Science” through the regular HSG enrolment process or at the upcoming GSERM (www.gserm.ch)
- visiting Module 1 of the MER in the fall semester (“Basics in Experimental Research”)

Meeting 1: Behavioral/Experimental Research in Economics
Prof. Dr. Urs Fischbacher, Chair of Applied Research in Economics, University of Konstanz
https://www.wiwi.uni-konstanz.de/fischbacher/members/urs-fischbacher/

Meeting 2: Behavioral/Experimental Research in Political Science/International Relations
Prof. Rose McDermott, Ph.D., David and Marianna University Professor of International Relations, Brown University
http://watson.brown.edu/people/faculty/mcdermott
Prof. James Davis, Ph.D., Director of the Institute for Political Science at the University of St. Gallen and Professor for Political Science with special focus on international politics, University of St.Gallen
https://ipw.unisg.ch/de/personenverzeichnis/0fe8ba8a-889a-4bc6-80a1-de98b94a1f07

Meeting 3: Behavioral/Experimental Research in Banking and Finance
Prof. Dr. Martin Brown, Full Professor of Banking, University of St.Gallen
https://sbf.unisg.ch/en/lehrstuehle/lehrstuhl_brown/homepage_brow

Meeting 4: Behavioral/Experimental Research in Law and Economics
Prof. Dr. Christoph Engel, Chair for Experimental Law and Economics, Erasmus University Law School, and Executive Director Max Planck Institute for Research on Collective Goods
http://www.coll.mpg.de/engel.html

Meeting 5: Behavioral/Experimental Research in Marketing
Prof. Dr. Emanuel de Bellis, Assistant Professor at Institute for Customer Insight, University of St.Gallen
https://www.alexandria.unisg.ch/persons/4948

Workshop: Introduction to Programming Behavioral Experiments with oTree
Dr. Philipp Chapkovski, Postdoctoral Researcher, Institute of Sociology, University of Zurich
Course structure
lecture series and a one-week coding workshop

Course literature
It is recommended that participants are familiar with:


Participants do not need to be familiar with programming languages or coding in general to successfully master the one-week coding workshop for oTree.


Additional material may be provided by the individual lecturers.

Additional course information
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Examination information

Examination sub part/s

1. Examination sub part (1/2)

Examination time and form
Decentral - Written examination (80%)

Remark
oTree Project/Experiment

Examination-aid rule
Open Book

Students are free to choose aids but will have to comply with the following restrictions:

- At such examinations, all the pocket calculators of the Texas Instruments **TI-30 series** are admissible. Any other pocket calculator models are inadmissible.
- In addition, any type of communication, as well as any electronic devices that can be programmed and are capable of communication such as electronic dictionaries, notebooks, tablets, PDAs, mobile telephones and others, are inadmissible.
- Students are themselves responsible for the procurement of examination aids.

Supplementary aids
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Examination languages
Question language: English
Answer language: English

2. Examination sub part (2/2)

Examination time and form
Decentral - Active participation (20%)

Remark
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Examination-aid rule
Practical examination
No examination-aid rule is necessary for such examination types. The rules and regulations of the University of St. Gallen apply in a subsidiary fashion.

Supplementary aids
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Examination languages
Question language: English
Answer language: English

Examination content

Doctoral students are expected to actively participate in all lectures and in the one-week workshop, and to be prepared accordingly. In addition to the active participation, doctoral students are required to work on and to develop an oTree project/experiment (individually or in groups) during the one-week workshop.

Examination relevant literature

NA
Please note
We would like to point out to you that this fact sheet has absolute priority over other information such as StudyNet, faculty members' personal databases, information provided in lectures, etc.

When will the fact sheets become binding?

- Information about courses and examination time (central/decentral and grading form): from the start of the bidding process on 25 January 2018
- Information about decentral examinations (examination-aid rule, examination content, examination relevant literature): after the 4th semester week on 19 March 2018
- Information about central examinations (examination-aid rule, examination content, examination relevant literature): from the start of the enrolment period for the examinations on 09 April 2018

Please look at the fact sheet once more after these deadlines have expired.