

Seminar Public Finance (MW 23.4): Population and Family Economics

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1. Schedule
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Schedule

Fri, 13 Jul 2018	Kickoff meeting
Fri, 20 Jul 2018	Deadline: topic and writing period*

Tue, 07 Aug 2018	Writing period: earliest beginning
Tue, 11 Sept 2018	Writing period: latest beginning
Mon, 01 Oct 2018	Writing period: earliest hand-in
Mon, 06 Nov 2018	Writing period: latest hand-in

Soon after	Publication of presentation schedule
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TBD, End of Nov/ beg. of Dec 2018	Seminar session 1
TBD, End of Nov/ beg. of Dec 2018	Seminar session 2

*We will send you an Excel file to ask you about your preferences regarding your topic and writing period. Please check your email account for instructions.

Components* and Grading of the Seminar

Written Components

- ▶ 40% Seminar paper
- ▶ 10% Formalities test
- ▶ 10% Referee report

Oral Components

- ▶ 20% Presentation
- ▶ 10% Individual discussion
- ▶ 10% General discussion

* You must pass all components to pass this course.

1. Seminar Paper

Week	Task
1–5	Write 1 st draft (≥ 8 pages, including the introduction)
6	Other student writes referee report
7–8	Revise 1 st draft on basis of referee report

- ▶ The paper should not be longer than 10 pages (incl. all tables and figures).
- ▶ An appendix is only permitted in exceptional cases (talk to your supervisor!).
- ▶ The paper has to be in English.

Follow the [Guidelines for Seminar Papers \(Website\)](#)!

- ▶ You will receive some [literature](#) to start with at the beginning of your writing period, but further literature research is necessary!
- ▶ You should see your [supervisor](#) at least once, about 1 or 2 weeks after the beginning of your writing period.
- ▶ Please free enough time for writing your paper!

2. Formalities Test

(to be submitted at the end of first week of your writing period)

- ▶ Skills related to literature search
- ▶ Application of citation rules
- ▶ Application of layout rules
- ▶ ...

3. Referee Report for Another Paper (to be submitted within one week)

- ▶ Research Question
 - ▶ What is the research question (RQ) of the paper?
 - ▶ Is the RQ clear? If not, how could it be improved?
- ▶ Structure
 - ▶ Briefly summarize each section and its connection to the RQ
 - ▶ Where did you get lost while reading the paper?
- ▶ Language
 - ▶ How would you grade the level of English and why?
- ▶ Citations and Reference List
 - ▶ Are all statements supported by arguments or by references?
 - ▶ Check 1:1 match btw. in-text references and the reference list
 - ▶ Reference list formatted according to guidelines?
- ▶ Improvements
 - ▶ Provide 2-3 suggestions as to how to improve the paper.

4. Presentation

- ▶ You present your paper to the other participants.
- ▶ Presentation takes about 20 minutes.
- ▶ A laptop and a projector will be available.

5. Discussion

- ▶ The discussant should very briefly summarize the seminar paper.
- ▶ The main task of the discussant is to extend the paper by ...
 - ▶ adding theoretical arguments or empirical evidence that are not at all or less extensively discussed in the paper.
 - ▶ An extension can be from a source that was not used in the seminar paper.
- ▶ At the end of the discussion, the discussant should offer three questions that can serve as starting points for the general discussion.

6. General discussion:

- ▶ The purpose of the general discussion is to ask clarifying questions, discuss the arguments put forward in the presentation, . . .
- ▶ Participants should [read all seminar papers](#) before the respective seminar sessions and familiarize themselves with all topics.

Topics: Part I: Population Economics

- PG World population growth (Theoretical and empirical)
 - PG1 The demographic transition
 - PG2 Demographic transition and economic growth
- PA Population ageing (Mostly empirical)
 - PA1 Population ageing and economic development
 - PA2 Population ageing and social security
 - PA3 Mortality and economic growth
- HC Changes in the population's human capital (Mostly empirical)
 - HC1 Human capital and economic development
 - HC2 Population control policies and human capital

Topics: Part II: Family Economics

SR Sex ratios (Mostly empirical)

SR1 Sex ratios and fertility

SR2 Sex ratios and crime

SR3 Children's gender and parent's political attitudes

MA Marriage and assortative mating (Theoretical and empirical)

MA1 Becker's model 'A theory of marriage'

MA2 Microeconomic determinants of assortative mating

MA3 Macroeconomic implications of assortative mating

MA4 Marriage markets in developing countries

PI Divorce (Theoretical and empirical)

PI1 Economically modelling divorce

PI2 Divorce and its effects on children

PI3 Divorce and its effects on parents

IT Intergenerational transfers and transmissions (Empirical)

IT1 Bequest and intergenerational transfers

IT2 Intergenerational transmission of preferences

How To Do Well in the Seminar

Most importantly: It is always better to be “deep” than “broad”!!!

- ▶ Only write about what you have **fully understood**.
- ▶ Use your **own words** to describe what other authors have written. Do not copy and paste other authors' texts.
- ▶ Citations are there to illustrate arguments, but not to substitute own explanations.
- ▶ If you **plagiarise** you will fail the class (“5.0”).
- ▶ Make sure to eliminate **grammatical mistakes** before handing in.

- ▶ Use your paper to demonstrate that you are familiar with the **methods** used in economics.
- ▶ Work out the **intuition** of models and empirical results.
- ▶ If you use formal models, make sure that mathematical material is not there for its own sake but to present economic arguments.
- ▶ Consider using **graphs** to clarify your arguments.
- ▶ Consider using **examples** to clarify your arguments.
- ▶ If possible, complement your formal arguments with **empirical statements**.
- ▶ Do not forget to mention the **policy implications** of your work.

For further information go to the chair's homepage:

www.fiwi.uni-jena.de

→ Teaching → MA Seminar Winter 2018/2019