



PhD Course

Behavioral & Experimental Economics

(The course takes place on four Fridays. Sessions are scheduled in both the winter term and the summer term, such that participants have sufficient time to develop and run their experiments)

14th December 2018, 18th January 2019, 22nd February, 7th June

10:00 - 16:00 h

Universität Hamburg (more details follow)

Course Instructor: Prof. Dr. Markus Nöth and Prof. Dr. Guido Voigt (both UHH)

Course Value: 2 SWS or 5 LP

Teaching language: English

Registration: guido.voigt@uni-hamburg.de, (First come, first-served)

Objectives:

The main goal of this course is to introduce the design and implementation of both laboratory and field experiments in various fields of Economics and Business Administration. PhD students who have some experience with or who consider to set up an experiment are welcome to participate in this course.

First, we will identify different research questions for a laboratory or a field experiment. We start with discussing critical theory assumptions. We then show how research hypotheses can be inferred from behavioral models and how these hypotheses may be tested in lab or field studies.

Second, participants will critically discuss an experimental paper (either provided by us or self-selected) that is instructive for their own research field.

Third, participants will develop an experimental design and conduct a pilot experiment that is run in class. We introduce basic statistics along with a discussion how they relate to the experimental design.

Participants have the option to take a research ethics training (<https://about.citiprogram.org/en/homepage/>) that becomes increasingly important to conduct research projects with colleagues from the United States. All students will learn the basic requirements of a human subjects committee.

Some topics:

- Identify a suitable research question for an experiment
- Ethical and scientific standards: historical and scientific reasons, consent requirements, human subjects committee, special requirements (children, elderly people, inmates, ...), data collection and evaluation
- Individual and group experiments in the laboratory
- Surveys and internet experiments
- Field experiments in cooperation with a company

Schedule (tentative)

Day	Topics	Suggested Readings
1 st Session	<p>Introduction to the field</p> <p>Game theoretic models, critical assumptions, Behavioral Models and Research Hypothesis</p> <p>Laboratory Experiments</p>	Katok 2012
2 nd Session	<p>Presentation and discussion of assigned papers.</p> <p>Statistics & Design Choices</p> <p>IRB, Field-Experiments</p>	Baum 2006, Sheskin 2011
3 rd Session	<p>Presentation of research (Problem Description, Research Hypothesis, Experimental design)</p> <p>Visit of Experimentallabor (z-Tree, Eye-Tracking, etc.)</p>	
4 th Session	<p>Presentation of pilot studies (Note: Pilot studies need to be scheduled independently by participants)</p>	

Prerequisites:

Basic background in microeconomics, game theory and statistics.

Student evaluation:

- Critical discussion of an experimental paper, experiment design presentation (extended summary on economic question, relevant literature, hypotheses, design: presentation with max. 10 slides or max. five pages extended abstract)
- running a pilot experiment is optional, but encouraged.

Recommended Texts:**Statistical analysis**

Baum, C. F. 2006. An introduction to modern econometrics using Stata. Stata press

Camerer, C, 2003, Behavioral Game Theory, Princeton University Press.

Kagel, J. and A. Roth, 1995, Handbook of Experimental Economics, Princeton University Press.

Sheskin, D. J. 2011. Handbook of parametric and nonparametric statistical procedures. 5. ed. CRC Press.

How to design laboratory experiments

Katok, E. 2012. Using laboratory experiments to build better operations management models. Foundations and trends in technology, information and operations management 5(1) 1–88

Other material (e.g., papers to be presented etc.) will be distributed once we know who participates.