Leading House PH.D. Course  
Personality, Economic Preferences, Skills and Education  
- Syllabus -

Lecturer: Prof. Dr. Thomas Dohmen; University of Bonn  
Workshop dates: October 15-19, 2018  
Location: University of Zurich, Room tba  
Preliminary Schedule: The lectures take place in the form of an intensive 5-day course.  
Monday, Oct 15: 13:30-17:00  
Tuesday, Oct 16: 08:30-17:00  
Wednesday, Oct 17: 08:30-17:00  
Thursday, Oct 18: 08:30-17:00  
Friday, Oct 19: 08:30-12:00  
Module Number; ECTS: tba; 3 ECTS  
Course webpage: tba

Course overview  
Individuals differ in many ways. They have different capabilities, skills, resources, and tastes. These sources of heterogeneity lead to vastly different behavior in all domains of life. Preferences (such as risk and time preferences), personality traits (e.g., conscientiousness), motivation, and beliefs (e.g. locus of control) can be viewed as facets of human capital. All of these facets have been shown to be associated with life outcomes. These preferences, skills, traits and beliefs interact and affect investment in schooling and education. While traditional...
models of skill formation have emphasized the role of cognitive skills – often measured by IQ scores – for investment in human capital, a more nuanced view has emerged during the past decade that stresses the role of preferences and personality. This course analyzes the complex relationships between cognitive skills, preferences and personality. It discusses their origin and development over the life course and their role in shaping education outcomes. Students will acquire the tools that enable them to conduct their own research on the impact of character traits, preferences and other facets of personality on education outcomes.

Key literature

Further Reading


Further reading will be announced in due course.

**Target audience and preconditions for participation**

The course is particularly designed for doctoral students in economics of education. Doctoral students in economics or business economics with a strong interest in personality traits, non-cognitive skills and education are welcome as well. The seminar will take place en bloc in order to enable external Ph.D. students to attend.

**Credit requirements and grading**

1. Full course attendance. Students are expected to come prepared to class. It will facilitate discussion and improve overall learning.
2. Presentation in class.
3. Individual take-home exam.

**Application**

The number of participants is limited. Please send your application including a short CV to Fabienne Kiener (fabienne.kiener@business.uzh.ch) at the latest by July 30, 2018. As there are some spots left, we extended the registration deadline until September 12, 2018. For further details and questions please contact Fabienne Kiener.

**WWF Statutory Course Policies**

According to WWF study regulations, all exam dates are final as published in the VVZ and syllabus. This means that the final exam date is not negotiable. It will not be possible to take any exams on different dates.

Academic dishonesty in any form will not be tolerated. Anyone caught cheating or engaging in unethical behavior will be reported to the Dean’s office according to the guidelines on academic dishonesty set forth by the University of Zurich.

The information in this syllabus supports the official information in the electronic university registration tool (VVZ – Vorlesungsverzeichnis). In cases of doubt, the official information at the VVZ is decisive.

For UZH students: Don’t forget to officially register using the registration tool of the University of Zurich.