



EVROPSKÁ UNIE
Evropské strukturální a investiční fondy
Operační program Výzkum, vývoj a vzdělávání



MINISTERSTVO ŠKOLSTVÍ,
MLÁDEŽE A TĚLOVÝCHOVY

Pop-economics

Aim of the course:

The main aim of this course is to explain economic theory on real-world events and everyday life situations. The course will demonstrate various economic principles and schools of economic thought on financial and economic crisis from 2007 to 2009, European debt crisis from 2009 to 2012, but also on working papers of prominent economists or Nobel Prize laureates who combine economic analysis with other sciences and disciplines, such as sociology, psychology, law, biology or history.

Learning outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Comprehend basic economic principles
- Demonstrate/use/apply economic theory on real-world events (for instance write a economic comment on current economic situation)
- Illustrate perspectives of different schools of economic thought and contrast their approaches to solutions of economic challenges
- Identify interdisciplinary overlapping of economics and its interconnections with psychology, history, biology, medicine, law, or sociology
- Interpret and critically judge economic news and articles
- Apply the economic principles in own research
- List pop-economics information sources and “pop-economics” literature

Course contents:

1. Introduction:
 - a) Aims of the course, contents
 - b) Learning outcomes and competencies
 - c) Evaluation of the course, course outcomes
 - d) Literature
 - e) Structure of the course
 - f) Definition of pop-economics
2. Financial and economic crisis 2007-2009 I.: How we got into the mess. Is it a failure of market, or governments? Beginning of financial crisis.
3. Financial and economic crisis 2007-2009 II.: How governments have been dealing with it. Role of central bank.
4. Financial and economic crisis 2007-2009 III.: Lessons (that should be) taken from it. FED interventions.
5. European Debt Crisis 2009-2012 I.: How we got into the mess. Is it a failure of market, or governments? From financial crisis to debt crisis.



EVROPSKÁ UNIE
Evropské strukturální a investiční fondy
Operační program Výzkum, vývoj a vzdělávání



MINISTERSTVO ŠKOLSTVÍ,
MLÁDEŽE A TĚLOVÝCHOVY

6. European Debt Crisis 2009-2012 Í.: How governments have been dealing with it. Typology of crises and case study of the Czech Republic.
7. Legacy of financial crisis and economics as a science
8. Dan Hamermesh, economics and beauty: Why do beautiful people have higher pay rates
9. Bruno Frey, economics and happiness: Should economists measure happiness?
10. Snob effect in economics
11. Gary Becker, economics and drugs: Legalize, or not legalize?
12. A bonus lecture: Current economic news and debate

Total workload: 3 credits

- Participation in lectures: 1 credit (26 hours)
- Preparation for lectures: 0,5 credit (13 hours)
- Preparation of a project/paper/case study: 0,5 credit (13 hours)
- Preparation for final test: 1 credit (26 hours)

Assessment methods:

- Seminar participation/activity: 30 %
- Team Project/Team Paper/ Case Study: 20 %
- Final test: 50 %

Final test term: *TBC*

Case Study: See the instructions in the Homework Paper.



EVROPSKÁ UNIE
Evropské strukturální a investiční fondy
Operační program Výzkum, vývoj a vzdělávání



Recommended literature

0060731338, 9780060731335	Freakonomics: A Rogue Economist Explores the Hidden Side of Everything	Levitt, Steven D; Dubner, Stephen J	2005, 2006, 2009	New York, London	William Morrow, Penguin Books, Harper Perennial
978-1-58648-798-0	Poor Economics: A Radical Rethinking of the Way to Fight Global Poverty	Abhijit V. Banerjee	2011	New York	PublicAffairs
978-1-84739-525-2	Armchair Economist: Economics & Everyday Life	Steven E. Landsburg	2009	London	Pocket Books
978-0-465-00217-7	The Economic Naturalist: In Search of Explanations for Everyday Enigmas	Robert H. Frank	2007	New York	Basic Books
978-0-06-206337-3	SuperFreakonomics: Global Cooling, Patriotic Prostitutes And Why Suicide Bombers Should Buy Life Insurance	Levitt, Steven D	2011	New York	Harper
978-0-345-49401-6	The Undercover Economist	Tim Harford	2007	New York	Random House
978-1-84739-526-9	More Sex Is Safer Sex: The Unconventional Wisdom of Economics	Steven E. Landsburg	2009	London	Pocket Books
978-0-06-221833-9	Think Like a Freak	Steven D. Levitt	2014	New York	William Morrow
978-0-452-28963-5	Discover Your Inner Economist: Use Incentives to Fall in Love, Survive Your Next Meeting, and Motivate Your Dentist	Tyler Cowen	2008	New York	Plume
0-393-32486-9, 978-0-393-32486-0	Naked Economics: Undressing the Dismal Science	Charles Wheelan	2003	New York	W.W. Norton & Company
978-1-61039-311-9, 1-61039-311-2	The Why Axis: Hidden Motives and The Undiscovered Economics of Everyday Life	Uri Gneezy	2013	New York	Public Affairs
9780691153193, 9781400844982, 9780691156682	The Darwin Economy: Liberty, Competition, and the Common Good	Robert H. Frank	2011	Princeton	Princeton University Press
978-0-349-13893-0	The Undercover Economist Strikes Back: How to Run-or Ruin-an Economy	Tim Harford	2014	London	Abacus
978-0-691-14233-3	Animal Spirits: How Human Psychology Drives the Economy, and Why It Matters for Global Capitalism	George A. Akerlof	2009	Princeton	Princeton University Press



EVROPSKÁ UNIE
Evropské strukturální a investiční fondy
Operační program Výzkum, vývoj a vzdělávání



978-0-141-04001-1	Nudge: Improving Decisions About Health, Wealth, and Happiness	Thaler, Richard H.	2009	London	Penguin Books
978-1-59184-684-0	How Adam Smith Can Change Your Life: An Unexpected Guide to Human Nature and Happiness	Russ Roberts	<u>2014</u>	London	Penguin Books
978-0-393-07195-5	Naked Statistics: Stripping the Dread from the Data	Charles Wheelan	<u>2013</u>	New York	W.W. Norton & Company
97809922127602	Why We Bite the Invisible Hand: The Psychology of Anti-Capitalism	Peter Foster	2014	Kenilworth	Pleasance Press
978-0-00-725653-2	Predictably Irrational: The Hidden Forces That Shape Our Decisions	Dan Ariely	2009	London	HarperCollins
978-0061995033	The Upside of Irrationality: The Unexpected Benefits of Defying Logic at Work and at Home	Dan Ariely	2010	London	HarperCollins
978-0-691-15684-2, 978-0-691-16238-6	The bankers' new clothes : what's wrong with banking and what to do about it	Anat Admati and Martin Hellwig	2013	Princeton ; Oxford	Princeton University Press
978-0-8129-7521-5	Foiled by randomness : the hidden role of chance in life and in the markets	Nassim Nicholas Taleb	2005	New York	Random House Trade Paperbacks
978-0691135090	The Price of Everything: A Parable of Possibility and Prosperity	Russell Roberts	2008	Princeton	Princeton University Press
9780812977875	The logic of life : the rational economics of an irrational world	Tim Harford	2009	New York	Random House
9780007267125	The rational optimist : how prosperity evolves	Matt Ridley	2010	London	Fourth Estate
385503865	The wisdom of crowds : why the many are smarter than the few and how collective wisdom shapes business, economies, societies, and nations		2004	New York	Doubleday
0-316-31696-2	The tipping point : how little things can make a big difference	Malcolm Gladwell	2002	New York	Little, Brown
978-0-88730-885-7	Hidden order : the economics of everyday life	David Friedman	1997	New York	HarperBusiness



EVROPSKÁ UNIE
Evropské strukturální a investiční fondy
Operační program Výzkum, vývoj a vzdělávání



9780062385321	When to Rob a Bank	Levitt, Steven D; Dubner, Stephen J	2015	New York	William Morrow
978-0-393-08094-0	Misbehaving : the making of behavioral economics	Richard H. Thaler	2015	New York	W.W. Norton & Company
978-0-393-24466-3	Flash boys : a Wall Street revolt	Michael Lewis	2014	New York	W.W. Norton & Company
	Liar`s poker : rising, through the wreckage on Wall Street	Michael Lewis	1990	Harmondsworth	Penguin
9780141043531	The big short : inside the doomsday machine	Lewis, Michael	2011	London	Penguin Books
9781621573371	Popular Economics: What the Rolling Stones, Downton Abbey, and LeBron James Can Teach You about Economics	John Tamny	2015	Washington, D.C.	Regnery Publishing
9780812973815	The Black Swan: the impact of the highly improbable	Taleb, Nassim	2010	New York	Random House Trade Paperbacks
9780141038223	Antifragile : things that gain from disorder	Taleb, Nassim	2013	London	Penguin Books
978-0-8129-7521-5	Foiled by randomness : the hidden role of chance in life and in the markets	Taleb, Nassim	2005	New York	Random House Trade Paperbacks

Recommended Articles

Beauty and the Labor Market, Daniel S. Hamermesh and Jeff E. Biddle, The American Economic Review, Vol. 84, No. 5 (Dec., 1994), pp. 1174-1194, American Economic Association

Habits, Addictions, and Traditions, Gary S. Becker, KYKLOS, Vol 45-1992 -Fase 3, p. 327-346

What Can Economists Learn from Happiness Research? Bruno S. Frey, Alois Sturzer, Journal of Economic Literature, Vol. XL (June 2002), pp. 402-435

Economic Conditions, Illicit Drug Use, and Substance Use Disorders in the United States, Christopher S. Carpenter, Chandler B. McClellan, and Daniel I. Rees, NBER Working Paper No. 22051, February 2016

Final Report of the National Commission on the Causes of the Financial and Economic Crisis in the United States, , Financial Crisis Inquiry Commission, 2011

The Economic Theory of Illegal Goods: the Case of Drugs Gary S. Becker, Kevin M. Murphy, and Michael Grossman NBER Working Paper No. 10976, December 2004

Financial Crises: Explanations, Types, and Implications, Stijn Claessens and M. Ayhan Kose, International Monetary Fund, January 2013



EVROPSKÁ UNIE
Evropské strukturální a investiční fondy
Operační program Výzkum, vývoj a vzdělávání



MINISTERSTVO ŠKOLSTVÍ,
MLÁDEŽE A TĚLOVÝCHOVY

Currency Unions and Trade: A Post-EMU, Mea Culpa, Reuven Glick and Andrew K. Rose
NBER Working Paper No. 21535, September 2015

Pirational Choice: The Economics of Infamous Pirate Practices, Peter T. Leeson, 2008

Do You Enjoy Having More Than Others? Survey Evidence of Positional Goods, Fredrik Carlsson, Olof Johansson-Stenman, Peter Martinsson, Working Papers in Economics no 100, May 2003

Balance Sheet Crises: Causes, Consequences and Responses Steven Gjerstad, Vernon L. Smith, Cato Journal, Vol. 33, No. 3 (Fall 2013).

The Financial Crisis and the Policy Responses: An Empirical Analysis of What Went Wrong, John B. Taylor, November 2008

The Coase Theorem is widely cited in economics. Ronald Coase hated it., Timothy B. Lee, Washington Post, September 4, 2013

Can Extreme Poverty Be Eliminated? Sachs, Jeffrey, 2005

The Financial Crisis and the Policy Responses, Taylor, John, 2008

Národohospodářská fakulta VŠE v Praze



This work is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 4.0 International License. To view a copy of this license, visit <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/> or send a letter to Creative Commons, PO Box 1866, Mountain View, CA 94042, USA.