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| Georg-August-Universität Göttingen Module M.WIWI-VWL.0192: Economics, Politics and African Societies | 6 C 2 WLH |
| Learning outcome, core skills: The goal of this course is to provide students with a comprehensive understanding of the lenses through which economics and political science have tried to explain “African development”. It will try to undo some of the learnings weaved through that lenses and identify ground for fertile new research ideas. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students learn about the most recent empirical literature from economic and political science on developments in Africa, • students are encouraged to critically assess existing research and develop new ideas, • students get exposed to the econometric toolkit used to run simple regression analyses, • students will learn how to present quantitative results and how to relate them to the most recent literature by writing a seminar paper on their own findings, • students practice to present and discuss research in front of an academic audience. | Workload: Attendance time: 28 h Self-study time: 152 h |
| Course: M.WIWI-VWL.0192.Sem Economics, Politics and African Societies (Seminar) <i>Contents:</i> The course provides and overview over the most recent literature on development in Sub-Saharan Africa. It contrasts the way economists study African societies to that of anthropologists, and offers a few self-reflections about the biases that researchers carry with themselves. Students are also introduced to state-of-the-art empirical methods used in this field. They will learn how to critically reflect on data and methods. Students will assess an identified relationship or new claim emerging from the recent literature and discussion. To test and explore new research ideas, students will be working with Stata and by running simple regression models. The results of their regression analyses will be used to confirm or falsify a pre-defined hypothesis. The term paper consists of presenting these findings and discussing them with respect to the recent literature. | 2 WLH |
| Examination: Term Paper (max. 15 pages) and presentation (approx. 20 minutes) M.WIWI-VWL.0192.Mp: Economics, Politics and African Societies Examination prerequisites: Regular attendance, written research proposal. | 6 C |
| Examination requirements: Students are expected to demonstrate an understanding of the main concepts presented during the course and be able to address questions both intuitively and analytically. | |

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By doing regression analyses of a pre-defined topic, students demonstrate their ability to apply econometric methods and to go beyond the results of previous research, which they critically reflect in a term paper, • by presenting the term paper, they show their ability to present complex empirical concepts, • during oral discussions, students demonstrate their ability to defend, but also to critically reflect upon, arguments from the literature. | |
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| Admission requirements: none | Recommended previous knowledge: M.WIWI-QMW.0004 Econometrics I, M.WIWI-VWL.0008 Development Economics I |
| Language: English | Person responsible for module: Prof. Renate Hartwig |
| Course frequency: irregular | Duration: 1 semester[s] |
| Number of repeat examinations permitted: twice | Recommended semester: 2 - 4 |
| Maximum number of students: 10 | |