Economics and Quantitative Methods

|  |
| --- |
| **Credit level:**4 |
| **Length:** semester 1 |
| **ECTS credit value:** 8 |
| **College and School:** Lazarski University in Warsaw, Faculty of Economics and Management  |
| **Module Leader:** Dr Tomasz M. Napiórkowski |
| **Host Course:** BA International Relations |
| **Pre-requisites:**N/A |
| **Co-requisites:**N/A |
| **Special features:**N/A |
| **Access restrictions:**N/A |
| **Summary of module content:** The module aims to introduce students to the fundamentals of both micro- and macroeconomics, enabling them to analyse concepts in international relations through an economic perspective. Students will gain an understanding of how decisions made by consumers, businesses, and governments shape today's interconnected global landscape. Additionally, the module will provide students with introductory-level statistics knowledge, empowering them to conduct quantitative analyses in the field of international relations. The statistics component of the module will encompass various aspects, including data gathering (utilizing databases and data cleaning techniques), descriptive statistics (such as distribution analysis), and relationship analysis (exploring differences, correlations, etc.). This section of the class will heavily involve a hands-on approach using software like MS Excel. The third segment of the module will focus on demographics, where students will explore its relationship with international relations, including aspects like migration, which is currently a prominent topic in areas like the EU. |

**Assessment Methods**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Rank | Assessment type | Assessment name | Weighting | Qualifying set (where the minimum mark required applies across multiple assessments) |
| 1 | In-Class Test |  In-class test | 50% |  |
| 2 | Closed Book Exam | Final exam | 50% |

**Study Abroad or Equivalent Assessment Methods**

Please contact the module leader for assessment details for study abroad students.

**Synoptic assessment**

N/A

**Learning outcomes**

By the end of the module the successful student will be able to:

* Understand the role of economics in shaping global relationships, with an emphasis on key theories and political concepts that influence international relations and sustainable development. (related to SDG8: decent work and economic growth; SDG10: reduced inequalities)
* Explain how and why consumers, firms and governments make their decisions, considering the broader impact on sustainability, responsible production, and environmental well-being, which informs the study of international relations (related to SDG1: no poverty; SDG8: decent work and economic growth; SDG12: responsible consumption and production)
* Use various data types and statistical measures essential for conducting statistical and demographic analyses relevant to international relations economic contexts.
* Compute numerical characteristics and proficiently present data through graphical representations using Microsoft Office tools, developing essential skills for data analysis and academic presentation at the university level.
* Use obtained research skills to navigate online and traditional libraries and data sources for project-relevant information, enhancing information literacy and supporting effective academic research.

**Course outcomes the module contributes to:**

* L4.1 An ability to identify the primary characteristics of International Relations as a scholarly discipline, informed by key theories and political concepts, in the context of cognate disciplines.
* L4.6 Awareness of the importance of information literacy and library skills for studying and researching at university.
* L4.8 A successful transition to the demands and expectations of university-level study.

**Indicative syllabus content**

* Elasticity and consumer choice theory.
* Firms, production, and costs of production with a focus on economic efficiency and environmental responsibility
* Consumer and firm behaviour in different market structures, sustainable business strategies
* GDP, the goods, labour, and the money markets.
* Stabilisation (fiscal and monetary) polices in the context of global stability
* The IS-LM and AD-SRAS-LRAS models and policy mix.
* Introduction to Data Types and Sources used in political science
* Statistical Measures: Descriptive and Inferential Statistics in Politics and International Relations
* Techniques for Statistical and Demographic Analysis
* Practical Application using Microsoft Office Tools (Excel, PowerPoint)

**Teaching and learning methods**

This module will be taught by means of lectures, seminars, workshops, and self-directed study. Furthermore, students will receive guidance as to which supplementary publications they should be reading to further connect theory with practice using real-world examples.

Lectures will focus on the economic aspects of the module, while seminars will explore the statistical components in greater depth. Workshops, held in the IT lab, will provide hands-on experience with the technological tools relevant to the module. This structured approach ensures a well-rounded learning experience, integrating theoretical knowledge with practical application.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Activity type | Category | Student learning and teaching hours\* |
| Lecture | Scheduled | 45 |
| Seminar | Scheduled | 15 |
| Tutorial | Scheduled |  |
| Project supervisor | Scheduled |  |
| Demonstration | Scheduled |  |
| Practical classes and workshops | Scheduled | 30 |
| Supervised time in studio/workshop | Scheduled |  |
| Fieldwork | Scheduled |  |
| External visits | Scheduled |  |
| Work based learning | Scheduled |  |
| Scheduled online learning | Scheduled |  |
| Other learning | Scheduled |  |
| Total scheduled |  | 90 |
| Placement | Placement |  |
| Independent study | Independent | 110 |
| Total student learning and teaching hours |  | 200 |

\*hours per activity type are indicative and subject to change.

**Assessment rationale: why has this assessment been used for this module?**

The in-class test and final exam will assess students' understanding of key concepts, critical thinking skills, and ability to apply theoretical frameworks. The assessment structure, consisting of an in-class test and a final, ensures continuous engagement. The in-class test will take place in the second half of the semester, whereas a "mock" test will occur in the first half. This additional non-graded test helps students prepare for the graded in-class test, receive feedback, and identify areas for improvement. Regular exams also facilitate progress tracking, reinforce learning, and distribute the assessment load more evenly throughout the semester. As this is an introductory module during the first semester of their first year, the above-mentioned type of assessment is less demanding than a project involving statistical and economic analysis. Moreover, tests and exams help first-year students become more familiar with the exam process, making their transition to university life smoother. **The 90-min in-class test** specifically assesses students' understanding of the economic aspects of the module, covering LOs 1 and 2. **The 90-min final exam**, divided into two sections, evaluates the Statistics and IT components, addressing LOs 3-5.

This assessment approach not only reinforces academic learning but also helps students develop key skills that are highly relevant in the workplace. These include problem-solving, data analysis, and the ability to apply statistical methods and IT tools. These competencies will improve students' employability, preparing them for roles that require both theoretical knowledge and practical skills in economic analysis, statistical interpretation, and technology use.

**Assessment criteria: what criteria will be used to assess my work on this module?**

The assessment(s) will examine to what extent the student has demonstrated ability to:

* Identify and discuss the role of economic relationships between buyers and sellers in shaping of global relationships between countries.
* Evaluate the determinants behind how and why consumers, firms and governments make their decisions.
* Employ data types and statistical measures essential for conducting statistical and demographic analyses relevant to international relations economic contexts.
* Compute numerical characteristics and proficiently present data through graphical representations using Microsoft Office tools.

**Sources**

**Essential Reading**

Hubbard, G.P., O’Brien, A.P., 2010. Economics, 3rd ed. or newer. Pearson.

Mankiw, N., 2017. Principles of Economics, 8th ed. CENGAGE.

McClave, J.T., Sincich, T., 2018. Statistics, 13th ed. Harlow: Pearson.

**Recommended Reading**

Students are recommended to read periodicals that focus on economic topics as current events will serve as the backstory to topics covered in class.