Faculty Economics and Business
Amsterdam School of Economics

Empirical Project

[2018-2019, Block 6, second semester, third period]

Course Code: 6012B0333Y
Points: 6 ects (= 168 hours)
Coordinator: Dr Andrei Sirchenko (room E6.30, e-mail: a.sirchenko@uva.nl)
Lecturers

- Dr Andrei Sirchenko (weeks 1 - 3) (room E6.30, e-mail: a.sirchenko@uva.nl)
- Mr Joost Bos (weeks 1 - 3) (e-mail: joost.bos@student.uva.nl)
- Dr Lu Yang (week 4) (room E4.22, e-mail: l.yang@uva.nl)

Objectives
Enable students to critically and indepently:

1. understand and assess applied research
2. replicate empirical results from the literature
3. write a report and present results orally

Content

Empirical research, quantitative techniques and theory are intertwined. Empirical applications drive and motivate the development of techniques appropriate for the available data. Also the other way round, availability of advanced techniques enables easy and/or correct analysis of economic and financial data.

During this course applications in economics and actuarial science will be used to show how the knowledge acquired during the first two bachelor years can be applied in practice. A number of scientific articles will be discussed and the underlying theory, assumptions and techniques critically evaluated.

Students will be required to collect their own data sets and analyse them with appropriate techniques.

Assumed knowledge
Econometrics 1 and Life Insurance Mathematics.

Organisation

There are four hours of lectures, four hours of computer lab sessions, and two hours of tutorials where questions can be asked per week:

Week	*Form*	*Hours*
$1-3$	*Lectures*	4
$1-4$	*Tutorials*	2
$1-4$	*PC − labs*	4
4	*Lecture*	2

Textbook
Heij, C., Boer, P. de, Franses, P.H., Kloek, T. and Dijk, H.K. van (2004), *Econometric Methods with Applications in Business and Economics*, Oxford University Press provides basic background material.

Scientific articles that students have to download themselves via the electronic library. A list of articles used will be made available through Blackboard.

Assessment
The final mark is a weighted average composed of:

1. Two Assignments (2x20=40%) in Weeks 1-2 & 4 (in groups of 4 people)
2. Econometric report (50%) in Weeks 2-3 (individually)
3. Video presentation (10%) in Week 3 (individually)

There is no separate exam
Each part should be at least 4.5 (out of 10). Each part below this threshold requires a resit of that part based on an alternative assignment.
A resit for the course as a whole (when all parts are at least 4.5, but the average is below 5.5) consists of an extensive report on an empirical topic not yet investigated during the course.

See UvA Timetable and the UvA Economics and Business academic calendar

Notes
This course builds on the BSc courses Econometrics 1 and Life Insurance Mathematics. A working knowledge of these two courses will be assumed throughout the Empirical Project. Students who have not followed these two courses will be put together in groups.