

ECON4310/6310

Advanced Experimental and Behavioural Economics

Course Outline

Semester 2, 2013

Part A: Course-Specific Information

Students are also expected to have read and be familiar with **Part B Supplement to All Course Outlines**. This contains Policies on Student Responsibilities and Support, Including Special Consideration, Plagiarism and Key Dates. It also contains the ASB PROGRAM LEARNING GOALS.

Table of Contents

<u>1</u>	<u>STAFF CONTACT DETAILS</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>2</u>	<u>COURSE DETAILS</u>	<u>1</u>
2.1	Teaching Times and Locations	1
2.2	Units of Credit	1
2.3	Summary of Course	1
2.4	Aims and Relationship to Other Courses	1
2.5	Student Learning Outcomes	1
<u>3</u>	<u>LEARNING AND TEACHING ACTIVITIES</u>	<u>2</u>
3.1	Approach to Learning and Teaching in the Course	2
3.2	Learning Activities and Teaching Strategies	2
<u>4</u>	<u>ASSESSMENT</u>	<u>3</u>
4.1	Formal Requirements	3
4.2	Assessment Details	3
4.3	Presentations	3
4.4	Term paper	3
4.5	Quality Assurance	3
<u>5</u>	<u>COURSE EVALUATION AND DEVELOPMENT</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>6</u>	<u>COURSE RESOURCES</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>7</u>	<u>COURSE SCHEDULE</u>	<u>4</u>

1 STAFF CONTACT DETAILS

Lecturer-in-charge: Dr Ben Greiner

Room: Quad 3123

Email: bgreiner AT unsw.edu.au

Consultation times: Mondays 10am-1pm (or by appointment)

2 COURSE DETAILS

2.1 Teaching Times and Locations

The combined lecture/tutorial meets on Mondays 10am-1pm in the ASB Building, Room 105. Some lectures might take place in the ASB Experimental Research Laboratory, in Quadrangle Building, Room 1041.

2.2 Units of Credit

The course is worth 6 units of credit.

2.3 Summary of Course

This course is meant to deepen students' understanding of the experimental method of investigation in economics and business research. It is being offered at the Honours/PhD level. In the course we will review questions of experimental design and implementation such as appropriate procedures of subject recruitment, programming tools, statistical and econometric analysis of experimental data, and other methodological issues in experimental economics. Importantly, students will develop their own experimental pilot project, from design over programming and the actual implementation to the analysis and write-up of a research paper. Grading will rely on two class presentations (design presentation 10% and results presentation 20%) and a research paper (70%).

2.4 Aims and Relationship to Other Courses

The course aims to endow students with the necessary skills, techniques and methods such that they will be able to conduct their own experimental research project, either independently or as part of their Honours or PhD thesis.

2.5 Student Learning Outcomes

The Course Learning Outcomes are what you should be able to DO by the end of this course if you participate fully in learning activities and successfully complete the assessment items.

The Learning Outcomes in this course also help you to achieve some of the overall Program Learning Goals and Outcomes for all coursework students in the ASB. Program Learning Goals are what we want you to BE or HAVE by the time you successfully complete your degree. You demonstrate this by achieving specific Program Learning Outcomes - what you are able to DO by the end of your degree. For more information on the Program Learning Goals and Outcomes, see Part B of the course outline.

The following table shows how your Course Learning Outcomes relate to the overall Program Learning Goals and Outcomes, and indicates where these are assessed:

Program Learning Goals and Outcomes		Course Learning Outcomes	Course Assessment Item
<i>This course helps you to achieve the following learning goals</i>		<i>On successful completion of the course, you should be able to:</i>	<i>This learning outcome will be assessed in the following items:</i>
1	Knowledge	Demonstrate an understanding of the experimental method. Be familiar with all aspects of design and implementation of experiments, such as recruiting, ethics, programming, and the conduct of experimental sessions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of experimental design • Presentation of experimental results • Term paper
2	Critical thinking and problem solving	Evaluate the appropriateness of this method to study certain research questions. Understand the advantages and disadvantages of the method.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of experimental design • Presentation of experimental results • Term paper
3a	Written communication	Write an academic paper on an experimental research project and its outcomes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Term paper
3b	Oral communication	Be able to present an experimental design, its implementation, and experimental results to a professional audience.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of experimental design • Presentation of experimental results
4	Teamwork	Work in groups on term project.	Not specifically assessed.
5a.	Ethical, environmental and sustainability responsibility	Not specifically addressed in this course.	
5b.	Social and cultural awareness	Not specifically addressed in this course.	

3 LEARNING AND TEACHING ACTIVITIES

3.1 Approach to Learning and Teaching in the Course

The teaching philosophy of this course is based on the “Guidelines on Learning that Inform Teaching at UNSW” (<http://www.guidelinesonlearning.unsw.edu.au>).

Specifically, the lectures, tutorials and assessment have been designed to actively engage students, and to create a climate of inquiry, dialogue, and creativity among students and between students and teacher. The lecturer aims to provide meaningful and timely feedback to students to improve learning outcome.

3.2 Learning Activities and Teaching Strategies

The lectures will cover important methodological and practical skills required to employ the experimental method to economic questions, such as experimental design, ethics, recruitment, programming, data analysis, and presentation and write-up of results. The lectures are paralleled by individual experimental pilot projects to be developed, conducted and analysed by students. Students can decide to base their project on one

of a number of existing research papers and test a variation of the original design, or to develop their own ideas.

4 ASSESSMENT

4.1 Formal Requirements

In order to pass this course, you must:

- achieve a composite mark of at least 50 out of 100; and
- make a satisfactory attempt at ALL assessment tasks (see below).

4.2 Assessment Details

	Assessment Task	Weighting	Length	Due date
1	Presentation of experimental design	10%	See 4.3 below	See 4.3 below
2	Presentation of experimental results	20%	See 4.3 below	See 4.3 below
3	Term paper	70%	See 4.4 below	23 / 11 / 2013

4.3 Presentations

On three occasions each student will be asked to present her/his experimental pilot project: In Week 5 the student presents the experimental idea, in Week 8 the student presents the final experimental design, and in Week 12/13 the student presents the results of the experiment. Only the second and third presentation will be marked, counting 10% and 20%, respectively, towards the final mark. Other students are expected to ask questions and contribute to the discussion of the presentations. In general, the presentations are to be concise and to last around 15-20 minutes plus discussion time. Students who do not present will be given a mark of zero for this component of the assessment. Marking is based on content and style of the presentation.

4.4 Term paper

In the term paper, which counts 70% towards the final mark, the student is expected to describe and analyse their experimental pilot project. The student will write a short critical review of the related literature, develop and justify an experimental design proposal, analyse the data from a pilot session on their project, and derive conclusions with respect to their research question. More details on the term paper will be provided in class. The deadline coincides with the last day of the examination period.

Marking will be based on proficiency in tools and methods, as well as creativity, innovation, logic and justification of arguments.

4.5 Quality Assurance

The ASB is actively monitoring student learning and quality of the student experience in all its programs. A random selection of completed assessment tasks may be used for quality assurance, such as to determine the extent to which program learning goals are being achieved. The information is required for accreditation purposes, and aggregated

findings will be used to inform changes aimed at improving the quality of ASB programs. All material used for such processes will be treated as confidential and will not be related to course grades.

5 COURSE EVALUATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Your suggestions, comments and observations with respect to content of the course, delivery of content, and assessment tasks are welcome, as they help to improve the course in the future. Feel free to communicate your views directly to the lecturer. We will seek your feedback also through UNSW's Course and Teaching Evaluation and Improvement (CATEI) Process.

6 COURSE RESOURCES

The website for this course is on UNSW Blackboard at:
<http://lms-blackboard.telt.unsw.edu.au/webapps/portal/frameset.jsp>

Resources available to students consist of:

- Academic articles and working papers posted on Blackboard
- Lecture slides – will be provided online after class\

7 COURSE SCHEDULE

Lectures start in Week 1 and finish in Week 13, due to a public holiday on 7 October. Schedule is subject to minor changes; reading and other assignments are posted on Blackboard.

LECTURE SCHEDULE	
Week	Topic
Week 1 29 July	Introduction, Methodology: Laboratory experiments
Week 2 5 August	Discussion of baseline papers
Week 3 12 August	Methodology: Field Experiments
Week 4 19 August	Statistics for Experiments / Ethics
Week 5 26 August	Presentation and discussion of experiment ideas (either based on baseline papers or own idea)
Week 6 2 September	Programming in zTree I
Week 7 9 September	Programming in zTree II, Recruiting
Week 8 16 September	Presentations and discussions of experimental designs
Week 9 23 September	Experiment preparations

Mid-semester break 30 Sept - 7 Oct	
Week 10 7 October	PUBLIC HOLIDAY: NO LECTURES
Week 11 14 October	Pilot experiments
Week 12 21 October	Presentation of results; discussion
Week 13 28 October	Presentation of results continued; discussion; course wrap-up