

ECONOMIC RESEARCH: REGIONS & INDUSTRIES

IE University

Professor: **GERMAN RIOS MENDEZ**

E-mail: grios@faculty.ie.edu

Academic year: 23-24

Degree course: FOURTH

Semester: 2^o

Category: COMPULSORY

Number of credits: 6.0

Language: English

PREREQUISITES

Basic knowledge of microeconomics and macroeconomics

SUBJECT DESCRIPTION

Economic behaviours and processes often vary across economic sectors, where sectors refer to large fields of activity such as energy, finance and education, or even more broadly to services, agriculture and industry. Economic behaviours and processes can also be influenced by different cultural and political institutions in different regions of the world. This course will teach students how to perform economic analysis of world countries or regions and specific economic sectors, for example:

- the preparation of macroeconomic reports and forecasts,
- the preparation of country and regional risk analyses,
- studies on economic change in specific sectors,
- investment and production reports at the sector level
- national and sectoral regulatory studies.

By doing so, students will be able to synthesize the major fields of knowledge and apply the skills acquired in other subjects (writing, research methods, macroeconomics, microeconomics, etc.). This course will prepare students for the generation of content both in their thesis and in their professional career.

OBJECTIVES AND SKILLS

- Apply research methods in the design of economic reports of regions and sectors.
- Apply argumentative techniques to persuade readers of their conclusions about specific sectors or regions.
- Synthesize large fields of research or knowledge in a succinct, effective, and transparent manner.
- Apply an effective methodology to structure economic reports.
- Write clearly and succinctly the questions, methodologies and key results of an economic report.

METHODOLOGY

The course does not have a textbook. Students must read before class reports, research papers or book chapters assigned each week

Basic economic and finance concepts, and theoretical tools applied to sectors, regions and countries will be taught in lectures. Students will develop skills and apply them to in practical activities covering sectors, countries and regions. Participation in class, discussions, exercises and group work will strengthen the learning process. Group work will be key to succeed in the course.

Teaching methodology	Weighting	Estimated time a student should dedicate to prepare for and participate in
Lectures	33.33 %	50 hours
Discussions	16.67 %	25 hours
Exercises	16.67 %	25 hours
Group work	16.67 %	25 hours
Other individual studying	16.67 %	25 hours
TOTAL	100.0 %	150 hours

PROGRAM

SESSION 1 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

Introduction to economic research: regions and industries

Article: The Young Economist's Short Guide to Writing Economic Research (Pomona College)

SESSIONS 2 - 3 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

Latin America

Working Paper: Economic Survey of Latin America and the Caribbean (UN)

SESSIONS 4 - 5 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

China

Working Paper: People's Republic of China: 2021 Article IV Consultation (IMF)

SESSIONS 6 - 7 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

Education

Working Paper: Two Years After, Saving a Generation (The World Bank)

SESSIONS 8 - 9 (ASYNCHRONOUS)

Economic Research in Practice: Preparing a regional report

SESSIONS 10 - 11 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

Asia

Working Paper: Asian Development Outlook 2022 (ADB)

SESSIONS 12 - 13 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

Tourism

Working Paper: G20 Bali Guidelines for Strengthening Communities and MSME as Tourism Transformation Agents: A People-centred Recovery (World Tourism Organization)

SESSIONS 14 - 15 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

Presentations of individual economic research reports

SESSIONS 16 - 17 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

The United States of America

Article: U.S. Economy at a Glance (Bureau of Economic Analysis)

SESSIONS 18 - 19 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

Africa

Working Paper: African Economic Outlook 2022 (Africa Development Bank)

SESSIONS 20 - 21 (ASYNCHRONOUS)

Economic Research in Practice: Preparing a country report

SESSIONS 22 - 23 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

Financial Sector

Working Paper: The Future of Capital Markets 2022 (OMFIF)

SESSIONS 24 - 25 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

SPAIN

Working Paper: España Puede (Government of Spain)

SESSIONS 26 - 27 (ASYNCHRONOUS)

Economic Research in Practice: Preparing a sector report

SESSION 28 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

Economic Complexity Analysis

Article: Economic complexity theory and applications (Nature Reviews | Physics) (CED)

SESSIONS 29 - 30 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

Presentations of economic research reports by groups

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Recommended

- Carter Daniel. *Reader-Friendly Reports: A No-nonsense Guide to Effective*

EVALUATION CRITERIA

Criteria	Percentage	Comments
Individual Work	25 %	Report on assigned sector
Individual Work	25 %	Report on assigned country
Workgroups	25 %	Report on assigned region
Workgroups	25 %	Report on assigned sector

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS:

- Each student has four attempts over two consecutive academic years to pass this course.
- For every BIE Program mandatory class, students are required to obtain the minimum grade of 5 required to pass the course. Students whose grade in the Final Exam (or the largest assignment) is below 5 will fail the course. The rule applies to whichever assignment carries the greatest weight to the final grade. Dates and location of the final exam will be posted in advance and will not be changed.
- Students must attend at least 70% of the sessions. Students who do not comply with the 70% attendance rule will receive a 0.0 on their first and second attempts and go directly to the third one (they will need to enroll in this course again the following academic year).
- Students who are in the third or fourth attempt must contact the professor during the first two weeks of the course.

ATTENDANCE:

In-person attendance is mandatory at IE University, as it is an essential factor of IE's learning methodology. While we do closely monitor attendance in each course, we also consider our students responsible for their own agenda and commitments, as adult university students. With that in mind, each student may miss up to 30% of the sessions within a given course and still maintain the possibility of passing that given course. This 30% "buffer" is to be used for any absences, such as: illnesses, personal emergencies, commitments, official/governmental matters, business and/or medical appointments, family situations, etc. Students should manage their various needs, and situations that may arise, within that 30% buffer. If a student is absent to more than the allowed 30% of the sessions (regardless of the reason), s/he will obtain a 0.0 grade for that course in both the ordinary and extraordinary calls of the current academic year, and s/he will have to retake the course during the following academic year.

Please pay close attention to your attendance. The program strongly encourages attending 100% of the sessions as it will improve your learning outcomes, it will increase the class performance and it will benefit your participation grade. Noncompliance with deadlines for Non-Classroom Learning activities or assignments will result in an absence for the session.

Extreme cases involving emergencies such as; extended hospitalizations, accidents, serious illnesses and other cases of force majeure; are to be consulted with the Program Management (bir.biemadrid@ie.edu) for assessment of the situation and corresponding documentation, in order to support and guide each student optimally.

For more information about the university attendance policy, please check; <https://www.ie.edu/student-guide/bir/policies-and-guidelines/attendance/>

THIRD CALL RETAKE POLICY

Any student in their third call of a course, also known as a “Retaker”, is obliged to observe the following rules:

- Third call students must contact their professors before or during the first session to ask which work and or *sessions will be required to obtain a passing grade. The professor will determine which work will be required in their course.
 - *(e.g. when presenting group work, sitting for examinations or other work done in class)
- Retakers are exempt from failing the call due to absences; however, they are not exempt from work the professor designates as necessary to obtain a passing grade. This means some sessions may be mandatory to attend in order to complete the work within.
- Students in their third call are responsible for managing the conflicts in their schedule, should students need advice on how to manage their conflicts they should visit the program office.

EXTRAORDINARY EXAMINATION POLICY:

Any student whose weighted final grade is below 5 will be required to sit for the retake exam to pass the course (except those not complying with the attendance rules, whom are banned from this possibility).

Grading for retakes will be subject to the following rules:

- The retakes will consist of a comprehensive exam or equivalent assignment. The grade will depend only on the performance on this exam; continuous evaluation over the semester will not be taken into account.
- Dates and location of the retakes will be posted in advance and will not be changed.
- The exam/assignment will be designed bearing in mind that the passing grade is 5 and the maximum grade that can be attained is 8 out of 10.

PLAGIARISM / ACADEMIC HONESTY:

Plagiarism is the dishonest act of presenting another person’s ideas, texts or words as your own. This includes in order of seriousness of the offense:

- providing faulty sources;
- copy-pasting material from your own past assignments (self-plagiarism) without the instructor’s permission;
- copy-pasting material from external sources even while citing them;
- using verbatim translations from sources in other languages without citing them;
- copy-pasting material from external sources without citing them;
- and buying or commissioning essays from other parties.

IEU students must contact the professor if they don’t know whether the use of a document constitutes plagiarism. For help with your academic writing, contact the Writing Center (writingcenter@faculty.ie.edu). The professor will also advise the student on how to present said material. All written assignments must be submitted through Turn-it-in, which produces a similarity report and detects cases of plagiarism. Professors are required to check each student's academic work in order to guarantee its originality. If the originality of the academic work is not clear, the professor will contact the student in order to clarify any doubts. Students using external tutorial support should report it to the professor and the BIR Program from the moment they began receiving this support. In the event that the meeting with the student fails to clarify the originality of the academic work, the professor will inform the Director of the Bachelor Program about the case, who will then decide whether to bring the case forward to the BIR Academic Review Panel. Very high similarity scores will be automatically flagged and forwarded to the Academic Review Panel. Plagiarism constitutes a very serious offense and may carry penalties ranging from getting a zero for the assignment to expulsion from the university depending on the severity of the case and the number of times the student has committed plagiarism in the past.

PROFESSOR BIO

Professor: **GERMAN RIOS MENDEZ**

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Germán Ríos Méndez received a Bachelor of Arts in Economics from Universidad Central de Venezuela, a Master of Arts in Economics from Johns Hopkins University, a Master of Business Administration from the Instituto de Estudios Superiores de Administración (IESA), and a Master of Philosophy in Economics from George Washington University. He has taught macroeconomics, fiscal policy, cost-benefit analysis, economic development, Latin America economics and microeconomics in several universities in Venezuela, the United Kingdom, Spain and the United States. During the academic year 2010-2011 he was the Andres Bello Fellow at the Latin American Centre of the University of Oxford. Professor Ríos was part of the Venezuelan research team in the project "Understanding Reforms" sponsored by the Global Development Network, published by Palgrave, and is co-author of the textbooks "Macroeconomics and Oil", published by Pearson/Prentice Hall and "Macroeconomics and Natural Resources" published by Kendall Hunt. Germán Ríos is Senior Partner at Atrivia and Senior Analyst at OHM Research Independent Insight. Previously he was Corporate Director of Strategic Affairs at CAF, development bank of Latin America. He served as Director of Public Investment at the Ministry of Planning of Venezuela, and as a Country Analyst for Brazil, Chile, Uruguay and Paraguay at the World Bank. Mr. Ríos has worked as a consultant for the Inter-American Development Bank and the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLAC).

OTHER INFORMATION

Office hours available by appointment. Please send me an email: grios@faculty.ie.edu

CODE OF CONDUCT IN CLASS

1. Be on time. Students arriving more than 5 minutes late will be marked as "Absent". Only students that notify in advance in writing that they will be late for a specific session may be granted an exception (at the discretion of the professor). Students attending online must always have their cameras on during the session or risk being marked absent.
2. If applicable, bring your name card and strictly follow the seating chart. It helps faculty members and fellow students learn your names.
3. Do not leave the room during the lecture: Students are not allowed to leave the room during lectures. If a student leaves the room during lectures, he/she will not be allowed to re-enter and, therefore, will be marked as "Absent". Only students that notify that they have a special reason to leave the session early will be granted an exception (at the discretion of the professor).
4. Do not engage in side conversation. As a sign of respect toward the person presenting the lecture (the teacher as well as fellow students), side conversations are not allowed. If you have a question, raise your hand and ask it. If you do not want to ask it during the lecture, feel free to approach your teacher after class. If a student is disrupting the flow of the lecture, he/she will be asked to leave the classroom and, consequently, will be marked as "Absent".
5. Use your laptop for course-related purposes only. The use of laptops during lectures must be authorized by the professor. The use of Social Media or accessing any type of content not

related to the lecture is penalized. The student will be asked to leave the room and, consequently, will be marked as "Absent".

6. No cellular phones: IE University implements a "Phone-free Classroom" policy and, therefore, the use of phones, tablets, etc. is forbidden inside the classroom. Failing to abide by this rule entails expulsion from the room and will be counted as one absence.
7. Escalation policy: 1/3/5. Items 4, 5, and 6 above entail expulsion from the classroom and the consequent marking of the student as "Absent." IE University implements an "escalation policy": The first time a student is asked to leave the room for disciplinary reasons (as per items 4, 5, and 6 above), the student will incur one absence, the second time it will count as three absences, and from the third time onward, any expulsion from the classroom due to disciplinary issues will entail 5 absences.

