

Field Experiments in Behavioral and Experimental Economics

Instructor: Theodor Kouro, PhD.

Course Description:

This course explores key topics in development economics through the lens of rigorous empirical research, and with a particular focus on field experiments. We will examine issues such as education, health, gender, prosocial behavior, and discrimination. The course is discussion-based, centered around academic papers, and aims to expose students to the research frontier in applied microeconomic development.

Course Prerequisites:

Introductory Economics

Course Objectives

By the end of the course, students will be equipped to identify meaningful research questions and understand methodological challenges and best practices in empirical and policy-oriented development research.

Course Requirements:

- The students are expected to bring to each class two typed and printed questions or comments on the required readings for the respective class. These assignments should begin with the student's own name, and be followed by the reference for the first paper being discussed and a question or comment on that reading (word limit: 100 words); likewise for the second reading. **This would constitute 15% of the grade.**

- Students will produce 2 summaries of selected papers (up to 1 page), and each will earn them at max **10% of the grade (20% in total)**
- Present a paper from the readings group (about a 30-minute presentation) **worth 15% of the grade.**
- Students will try to find a solution to a development problem using field experimentation. They will present their proposals at the end of the course – **this will constitute 50% of the grade.**

Mandatory Completion Policy

Note that all mandatory assignments and exams must be completed to the best of your ability in order for your final grade to be issued. Failure to complete a mandatory assignment or exam may result in a failing grade.

Letter Grade	Percentage	Description
A+	97-100	Excellent Work
A	93-97	Outstanding Work
A-	90-92	
B+	87-89	Good work
B	83-86	
B-	80-82	
C+	77-79	Acceptable Work
C	73-76	
C-	70-72	
D+	67-69	Work that is significantly below average
D	63-66	
D-	60-62	
F	0-59	Work that does not meet the minimum standards for passing the course

AEP Academic Integrity Policy

Plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty are not tolerated. The use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) for the development of knowledge and learning is encouraged at many stages of the learning process. While we value technology for educational purposes, we also value originality and the retainment of knowledge, and thus using AI for assignments and examinations, even if rephrased, is strictly prohibited and considered an academic integrity violation, unless the instructor explicitly allows for it in the context of evaluated work

AEP Non-Discrimination/Harassment Policy

The AEP program in Prague promotes a diverse learning environment where the dignity, worth, and differences of each individual are valued and respected. Discrimination and harassment, whether based on a person's race, gender, sexual orientation, color, religion, national origin, age, disability, or other legally protected characteristics, are repugnant and completely inconsistent with our objectives. Retaliation against individuals for raising good faith claims of harassment and/or discrimination is prohibited.

AEP Diversity Policy

AEP is committed to fostering an inclusive and welcoming community that values diversity in all its forms. We believe that one of the most meaningful lessons of studying abroad is learning to navigate and appreciate differences with curiosity and an open mind. While engaging across differences can sometimes be challenging or uncomfortable, these moments are essential for growth and learning. We recognize that every member of our community, even with the best intentions, may occasionally make missteps. Our commitment is to provide a supportive environment where respectful and honest dialogue helps us learn from these experiences, ensuring that every student has the opportunity to thrive and broaden their perspective.

Weekly Schedule

Week 1

CEE Introductory Lecture Series

AEP Introductory Lecture Series

Week 2

Introduction to Experiments

Course introduction and methodology: Why are field experiments powerful?

Week 3

Poverty traps

Week 4

Education

Week 5

Aspirations

Week 6

Health

Week 7

Labor market

Week 8

Prosocial Behavior

Week 9

Gender

Week 10

Discrimination

Week 11

Psychology of poverty

Week 12

Student Presentations

Week 13

Student Presentations