

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Syllabus

Family economics and population processes . A - 53511

Last update 23-09-2024

HU Credits: 2

Degree/Cycle: 1st degree (Bachelor)

Responsible Department: Sociology & Anthropology

Academic year: 0

Semester: 1st Semester

Teaching Languages: Hebrew

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Dr. Liat Raz-Yurovich

Coordinator Email: liat.raz@mail.huji.ac.il

Coordinator Office Hours: Tuesday, 11:00-12:00, room 4524 in the Sociology Department. Only by scheduling an appointment in advance by email.

Teaching Staff:

Dr. Liat Raz

Course/Module description:

Households in developed countries operate as small firms, where economic decisions are made and operations of production and consumption are carried out. Households play a central role in the macroeconomic system - as those who provide labor to the labor market, consume the products produced in the private and public markets, and invest their money in the financial system and insurance companies. Demographic trends related to mortality, morbidity, births, family structure and internal and international migration are influenced by economic and other decisions of households and influence them in turn. Thus, decisions on establishing a relationship, living together, having children, breaking up the relationship, moving the family geographically, etc. - all of these are decisions that are made at the household level and drive population processes such as marriage/partnership, fertility and childbirth, divorce/separation, immigration, etc. This course will deal with the economic aspects of household decisions and how these aspects affect population trends and are themselves affected by them. Also, the course will discuss the consequences of these interactions on family policy, labor market policy, work and family integration policy, and more. As part of the course, the students will learn about key issues in the field of family economics in their demographic context and will make use of existing literature as well as current series of international macro data, from various databases, in order to answer relevant research questions.

Course/Module aims:

- 1) Learn about the economic aspects of household decisions based on theoretical and empirical literature.
- 2) Identify how trends in the population affect economic decisions of households and are themselves affected by them.
- 3) Discuss the implications of the interrelationships between economic and demographic aspects at the household level for policy.
- 4) Make use of quantitative macro data based on available international databases - present and analyze them.
- 5) Write a research seminar paper based on quantitative data (the writing of the seminar work and the grade for the seminar paper will be given separately from the grade for this course - as part of course 53512).

Learning outcomes - On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:

1. Get to know theories in the field of family economics.
2. Read academic articles and research reports critically and analyze them.

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3. Discuss research findings in the field.
 4. Collect and analyze macro indicators from international databases.
 5. Present a relevant research question and the answer given to it in the research literature.
 6. Write an empirical research seminar that makes use of quantitative research methods (as part of course 53512).

Attendance requirements(%):

100

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: In the first semester (as part of course 53511) there will be weekly class meetings accompanied by lectures. In the second semester (as part of course 53512) there will be personal guidance sessions with the supervisor for the purpose of guiding the writing of the seminar paper.

Course/Module Content:

Introduction - the role of households in population processes
Models of decision-making in households
Production and consumption in households
Gender inequality in households - in paid work, unpaid work and leisure
Economic activity and marriage
Economic activity and divorce/separation
Family economics and fertility
Intergenerational transfer of resources
Family economics and immigration
Economic aspects of domestic violence

Required Reading:

A detailed reading list will be provided at the beginning of the first semester.

Additional Reading Material:

N/A

Grading Scheme:

Essay / Project / Final Assignment / Home Exam / Referat 50 %
Submission assignments during the semester: Exercises / Essays / Audits / Reports / Forum / Simulation / others 40 %
Presentation / Poster Presentation / Lecture 10 %

Additional information: