

Discipline: Empirical Banking

1. Language / Sprache

English

2. Title / Titel

Empirical Financial Intermediation

3. Lecturer / Referent

Oliver Rehbein

4. Date and Location / Zeitraum und Veranstaltungsort

30.08.2026-02.09.2026 WU Vienna

5. Course Description / Kursbeschreibung

5.1 Abstract and Learning Objectives / Zusammenfassung und Lernziele

- Students will learn about empirical methods in financial intermediation, centered around causal identification methods.
- Students will learn about state-of-the-art papers applying these methods in the area of financial intermediation, especially banking.
- Students will learn how to identify and tackle relevant research questions in the area of empirical financial intermediation.
- Students will learn how to use large language models in applied research.

5.2 Content / Kursinhalt

- Learn about empirical methods: OLS, IV, D-i-D, RDD
- Cover current papers about financial intermediation using these methods
- Write their own short research paper replicating an existing paper or analysing their own research question.
- Using LLMs in empirical banking research

5.3 Schedule (including start and end time / Zeitplan (inkl. Start- und Endzeit)

- Day 1 (Monday): Introduction, Empirical Projects, Ideal experiment & potential outcomes, OLS
- Day 2 (Tuesday): Regression Interpretation, Panel/FE, Causal Effects, IV
- Day 3 (Wednesday): D-i-D, RDD
- Day 4 (Thursday; half-day): LLMs as research assistants (replication example), LLMs as measurement tools,

5.4 Course format / Kursformat

Lecture, replication/ coding exercise, in-class presentations

6. Preparation and Literature / Vorbereitung und Literaturhinweise

6.1 Prerequisites / Voraussetzungen

Basic knowledge about statistical methods is helpful. Experience in reading scientific papers is helpful. Basic knowledge in stata, R, or Python.

6.2 Essential Reading Material / Pflichtlektüre

Causal Inference - The Mixtape by Scott Cunningham: <https://mixtape.scunning.com/>

Wooldridge (2008): Introductory Econometrics: A Modern Approach

One Financial Intermediation Paper per student to be presented from the following list:

- Bennedsen, Morten et al. (2007). "Inside the family firm: The role of families in succession decisions and performance". The Quarterly Journal of Economics 122.2, pp. 647–691.
- Berger, Allen N and Christa HS Bouwman (2013). "How does capital affect bank performance during financial crises?" Journal of Financial Economics 109.1, pp. 146–176.
- Fisman, Raymond, Daniel Paravisini, and Vikrant Vig (2017). "Cultural proximity and loan outcomes". American Economic Review 107.2, pp. 457–492.
- Giannetti, Mariassunta and Yishay Yafeh (2012). "Do cultural differences between contracting parties matter? Evidence from syndicated bank loans". Management Science 58.2, pp. 365–383.
- Kempf, Elisabeth et al. (2023). "Political ideology and international capital allocation". Journal of Financial Economics 148.2, pp. 150–173.
- Puri, Manju, Jörg Rocholl, and Sascha Steffen (2011). "Global retail lending in the aftermath of the US financial crisis: Distinguishing between supply and demand effects". Journal of Financial Economics 100.3, pp. 556–578.
- van Doornik, Bernardus, et al. (2025). "Housing and Fertility." Working Paper.

6.3 Additional Reading Material / zusätzliche Lektüre

Angrist, J. and J. Pischke (2008): "Mostly Harmless Econometrics: An Empiricist's Companion",
Princeton University Press

Oster, E. (2019). "Unobservable selection and coefficient stability: Theory and evidence". Journal of
Business & Economic Statistics 37(2), 187-204

6.4 To prepare / Vorarbeiten

See 6.2.

Students will be assigned papers for in-class presentations before the course

7. Administration

7.1 Max. number of participants / Maximale Teilnehmerzahl

20 participants / 20 Teilnehmer*innen

7.2 Assignments / Aufgaben

In-class presentations of one paper / method to be prepared before the course

7.3 Exam / Prüfungsleistung

Class participation (including short presentations, quizzes), replication paper

7.4 Credits / Punkte

Der Kurs entspricht einem Umfang von 6 LP/ECTS / The course corresponds to a scope of 6 LP/ECTS

8. Arbeitszeitaufwand / Working Hours

Aufteilung der Arbeitsstunden / Working Hours <i>(z. B. Vorarbeiten / preparations: 30 h, aktive Mitarbeit / active participation: 100 h, Prüfungsvorbereitung / preparation for exam: 30 h, Prüfung / exam: 20 h ...)</i>	Stunden
General Readings	30 h
Preparation of in-class presentations	30 h
In-class attendance and preparation for in-class attendance	30 h
Preparation of paper	90 h
SUMME	180 h