

Master in Economics

4 Seminar of Economic Analysis SAE

LECON2476 : SAE I - Strategy & innovation (UCLouvain)

LECON2416 : SAE II – Firm-Level Analysis of Labour and Related Economics Issues (UCLouvain)

LECON2486 : SAE III – Applying Behavioral Insights in Practice - Nudges and RCTs (UCLouvain)

LECON2824 : SAE IV – Missing women: measuring women's over mortality (UNamur)

<https://uclouvain.be/prog-2020-econ2m-lecon207s>

LECON2476	SAE I – Strategy & innovation (UCLouvain)	Martin F.	2	Monday	08:30		
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Description:

The main topics covered during this seminar are (1) how to understand/translate the strategy of a company (2) how to take the helicopter view, bringing the industry into the picture (3) how to understand/analyze the changes in the market context that could drive innovations

The main two objectives of this seminar are: (1) to illustrate to students how the skills of an economist are used in a company in the fields of strategy and innovation (2) to push the students to understand what are the relevant economic indicators for specific industries.

The evaluation is based on the involvement in the intermediate and final work, on the quality of presentation (support and oral presentation), and on the discussion about the analysis and the findings with the professor and the audience (other students following this seminar).

Students work in small groups. They have two formal progress reviews with the professor (coaching/brainstorming sessions) and one informal one about the consistency and the format of the support of their presentation. Students present their findings orally and receive collective feedback about do's / don'ts in oral presentations.

During the first two courses, the professor explains the methodology, recaps the basics of strategy and innovation at a company level. He also describes the main frameworks to be used by the students to analyze a specific market.

Students learn the practical side of innovation as, through out-of-the box thinking, they need to identify different entry scenarios in a specific market, based on the nature of the leveraged innovations.

Language: English

LECON2416	SAE II – Firm-Level Analysis of Labour and Related Economics Issues (UCLouvain)	Vandenberghe V.	2	Monday	10:45	
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Description:

This seminar is aimed at students with an interest in **applied economic research and a taste for data analysis**. It aims at showing students how they can gain insight and understanding of many issues in labour economics and related fields, when analyzing them through the prism of firms’ decisions and functioning. It is also to show how these issues can relatively easily be evaluated empirically. To this aim, the course will equip students with the theoretical background as well as the econometric tools enabling them to carry out firm-level empirical research, exploiting the growing availability of firm-level longitudinal micro data, with detailed information about the labour force.

List of possible illustrative topics comprise: the barriers to employment faced by specific categories of workers, the impact of labour diversity on productivity, gender wage discrimination, the importance and consequences of fixed labour costs, the firm-level relationship between human capital, productivity and wages, the role of the distance-to-efficiency frontier in determining the productivity of educated workers, or the contribution of changing labour force characteristics to TFP growth.

Language: English

LECON2486	SAE III – Applying Behavioral Insights in Practice - Nudges and RCTs (UCLouvain)	Johnen J.	1	Monday	16:15	
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Description:

Since the publication of the book "Nudge" by Cass Sunstein and Richard Thaler, these nudges received a lot of attention from policy and decision makers. They are widely applied and make their way into the corporate culture in many countries. Nudges are attempts to influence decisions of individuals not by classic means such as money (e.g. subsidizes for retirement saving, taxes on unhealthy products such as alcohol and cigarettes, discounts to attract consumers) or bans. Instead, nudges try to push people in a direction without changing their choices. For example, reporting calories in a restaurant menu can induce people to eat less fat food, informing people that they use more electricity than their neighbors can reduce their energy consumption, changing default rules on retirement-savings decisions can induce people to save more, or reporting your exercising to friends can help people to do more sports.

This seminar introduces the behavioral-economic concepts behind nudges, and introduces a powerful empirical tool that becomes increasingly relevant for policy evaluation - randomized control trials. These RCTs are frequently used to evaluate policies in general, but nudges in particular.

Students will work in groups to discuss and evaluate actual nudges from a wide range of areas such as healthcare, regulated markets, consumer finance, tax compliance, fund raising or many more. Students will present nudge policies and their discussion in class. Finally, students will work in groups to develop a nudge on their own for a policy problem of their choice.

Language: English

LECON2824	SAE IV – Missing women: measuring women's over mortality	Cassan G.	2	Monday	09:30 to 12:30		UNamur (cfr.site)
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Description:

This seminar analyses the question of missing women. How to measure women's over mortality? How many women's deaths are taking place that could have been avoided? We will read and present the main articles on the topic, before using a database on Indian states to construct our own measure of missing women.

The seminar is organized as follows:

1. Presentation of the seminar
2. Presentation of research articles by students
3. Discussion about data issues encountered by students
4. Discussion about data issues encountered by students
5. Presentations of results by students

Depending on the number of participants, the presentations will be made alone or in group.

Language: English
