

Description

Description

Literature

Examination

Schedule

Contacts

Participants

BE552 - Using Data to Solve Economic and Social Problems, Spring 2026

To complete the specialization, ensure you finalize both BE552 and BE554. Any completed course from a discontinued specialization will be counted as a course in addition to the degree and can never be counted as an elective course within the degree. This does not apply to exchange students.

For questions email: academic.advisor@hhs.se

Course Description

To tackle economic and social challenges, we need to understand how individuals and firms behave and how they respond to policy changes. Economic theory provide ways to think about how agents act. Data allow us to quantify these relationships and test competing hypotheses. This course teaches how data can be used to test the predictions derived from economic theory. The core part of the course covers the most common methods economists use in empirical research, with a particular focus on modern methods for causal inference. Seminars will focus on applying the econometric techniques using real data.

The empirical methods taught in this course are also widely applicable in other settings, essentially whenever we want to make causal inference from existing data, or when collecting own data (for example by conducting a survey or running an experiment), and is therefore a useful preparation for writing an empirical quantitative thesis. At a more general level, the course will deepen participants critical thinking about what data and analyses are required to establish an empirical fact.

Intended learning outcomes

At the end of the course, students should:

- Be able to perform and evaluate cross-sectional and panel data analysis.
- Be able to perform and evaluate methods for causal inference.
- Be able to evaluate the validity of empirical methods used in the social sciences.

Course structure

The course consists of approximately 18 lectures and 8 seminars. The aim of the lectures is to introduce selected economic and social problems and to teach the theoretical and econometric tools required to study these problems. The aim of the seminars is primarily to give students an opportunity to apply empirical methods to economic problems using Python. Some of the seminars will be devoted to discussing research papers in applied microeconomics in order to introduce students to empirical research in economics and develop their skills to critically evaluate empirical research. Neither lectures or seminars are mandatory, but discussion seminars will give course credits.

Prerequisites

Students enrolled 2020 or later need to have completed BE501 Economics I: Microeconomics, BE502 Economics II: Macroeconomics, BE601 Data Analytics I and BE602 Data Analytics II. Exchange students should have knowledge in microeconomics and statistics that corresponds to the content of these courses.

Course director

Östling, Robert

ECTS credits

7.50

Start semester

Spring 2026, first period

Information

Course within Specialization (BSc BE)

Department

Department of Economics

Additional Information

Contact sen@hhs.se if you have questions about being granted educational support or need a copy of your educational support certificate. Read more at [Specific Educational Needs](#).

Updated 2025-11-10

Updated 2025-11-19

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The course literature consists of lecture notes, an introductory textbook in econometrics and selected research articles.

The textbook that will be used is Stock & Watson, *Introduction to Econometrics*, 4th Edition, ISBN 9781292264455. The book is available at Akademibokhandeln City and can be ordered online from Bokus and Adlibris. Pearson offers 25% discount on digital material – use the discount code SASSEMEMBERDISCOUNT2025 at checkout at nordics.pearson.com.

Updated 2026-01-19

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The main part of the examination consists of a written exam that constitutes 80% of the grade. The remaining part of the grade will be based on graded home assignments, participation in discussion seminars and a mid-term exam. The grades will be based on the sum of the grades obtained from all parts of the course and the SSE's standard grading criteria will be applied to the course total.

Updated 2025-11-19

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BE552 - Using Data to Solve Economic and Social Problems, Spring 2026

Course Director

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Information on this page was retrieved from the booking system TimeEdit.

[Simulate schedule »](#)

January 19, 2026

10:15-12:00 | Room: A550

Lecture

January 20, 2026

13:15-15:00 | Room: A550

Lecture

January 23, 2026

08:15-10:00 | Room: A336

Sem 1

Seminar

10:15-12:00 | Room: A336

Sem 3

Seminar

13:15-15:00 | Room: A336

Sem 2

Seminar

January 26, 2026

08:15-10:00 | Room: A750

Lecture

January 27, 2026

13:15-15:00 | Room: A550

Lecture

January 28, 2026

10:15-12:00 | Room: R

Lecture

January 30, 2026

08:15-10:00 | Room: A336

Sem 2

Seminar

10:15-12:00 | Room: A336

Sem 3

Seminar

15:15-17:00 | Room: A336

Sem 1

Seminar

February 2, 2026

10:15-12:00 | Room: A550

Lecture

February 3, 2026

10:15-12:00 | Room: R

Lecture

February 4, 2026

10:15-12:00 | Room: A336

Sem 1

Seminar

13:15-15:00 | Room: A336

Sem 2

Seminar

15:15-17:00 | Room: A336

Sem 3

Seminar

February 10, 2026

08:15-12:00 | Room: A550

Lecture

February 11, 2026

10:15-12:00 | Room: R

Lecture

February 12, 2026

10:15-12:00 | Room: A750

Lecture

February 13, 2026

08:15-10:00 | Room: A336

Sem 3

Seminar

10:15-12:00 | Room: A336

Sem 1

Seminar

15:15-17:00 | Room: A336

Sem 2

Seminar

February 16, 2026

13:15-15:00 | Room: R

Lecture

February 18, 2026

10:15-12:00 | Room: A550

Lecture

February 19, 2026

13:15-15:00 | Room: A550

Lecture

February 20, 2026

08:15-10:00 | Room: A336

Sem 2

Seminar

10:15-12:00 | Room: A336

Sem 1

Seminar

13:15-15:00 | Room: A336

Sem 3

Seminar

February 27, 2026

08:15-10:00 | Room: A336

Sem 3

Seminar

10:15-12:00 | Room: A336

Sem 2

Seminar

13:15-15:00 | Room: A336

Sem 1

Seminar

March 2, 2026

10:15-12:00 | Room: A550

Lecture

March 3, 2026

15:15-17:00 | Room: A550

Lecture

March 4, 2026

10:15-12:00 | Room: A550

Lecture

March 6, 2026

10:15-12:00 | Room: A336

Sem 3

Seminar

13:15-15:00 | Room: A336

Sem 2

Seminar

15:15-17:00 | Room: A336

Sem 1

Seminar

March 9, 2026

10:15-12:00 | Room: A550

Lecture

March 11, 2026

08:15-10:00 | Room: A750

Lecture

March 13, 2026

08:15-10:00 | Room: A336

Sem 1

Seminar

10:15-12:00 | Room: A336

Sem 3

Seminar

13:15-15:00 | Room: A336

Sem 2

Seminar

March 23, 2026

14:00-18:00

Examination

Using Data to Solve Economic and
Social Problems
