



Göttingen, 3. Februar 2022

Master-Seminar (Spring 2022)

## Recent Topics in Macroeconomics: Unified Growth Theory

If you need further information regarding the seminar please contact Dr. Katharina Werner (kwerner@uni-goettingen.de).

### Dates

- 20.04.22, 9:00-10:00, introductory meeting (Big Blue Button via StudIP)
- 27.04.2022: submission of the application form by email (kwerner@uni-goettingen.de)
- 28.04.2022–15.05.2022: binding registration or cancellation by FlexNow  
**Attention: In case that there are more potential participants than available places we will distribute the places according to the study regulation of 22.11.2019, §12**
- starting from 28.04.2022: publication of the list of participants and the list of topics
- 1.06.2022: submission of seminar papers. A PDF version is to be sent to Katharina Werner (kwerner@uni-goettingen.de)
- 8.06.2022, 9.00-10.00, final meeting concerning the seminar (Big Blue Button via StudIP)
- 17.06. & 18.06.2022: blocked seminar (rooms tba)

**Attendance is compulsory at all these dates.**

### Grading

Grading will be based upon the following:

- 1) Seminar paper (15 pages, in English or German)
- 2) Presentation (30 minutes, English)
- 3) Discussion of another topic (5 minutes, English)

The seminar paper accounts for 50% of the final grade. Presentation and discussion accounts for the other 50% of the final grade. Students need to pass both of these requirements in order to pass the seminar.

**Please notice that due to organizational constraints, the submission deadline of the seminar paper cannot be extended by any circumstance (e.g. illness).**

### Required background knowledge

Necessary: BA-courses in Econometrics, Mathematics, Macro- and Microeconomics; Economic Growth course is recommended.

Recommended: B.A.-courses in Economic Growth, Mathematics

# Topics

## **1. From Malthusian stagnation to the demographic transition and beyond**

Galor, O. and Weil, D.N., 2010, Population, technology, and growth: From Malthusian stagnation to the demographic transition and beyond. *American Economic Review*, 90(4), 806–828.

## **2. Natural selection and the origin of economic growth**

Galor, O., and Moav, O., 2002, Natural selection and the origin of economic growth. *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 117(4), 1133–1191.

## **3. Inequality and growth: why differential fertility matters**

De La Croix, D. and Doepke, M., 2003, Inequality and growth: why differential fertility matters. *American Economic Review*, 93(4), 1091–1113.

## **4. Gender equality and long-run growth**

Lagerlöf, N.P., 2003, Gender equality and long-run growth. *Journal of Economic Growth*, 8(4), 403–426.

## **5. From Malthus to modern growth: can epidemics explain the three regimes?**

Lagerlöf, N.P., 2003, From Malthus to modern growth: can epidemics explain the three regimes?. *International Economic Review*, 44(2), 755–777.

## **6. Escaping Malthus: Economic growth and fertility change in the developing world**

Chatterjee, S. and Vogl, T., 2018, Escaping Malthus: Economic growth and fertility change in the developing world. *American Economic Review*, 108(6), 1440–67.

## **7. Climate and the emergence of global income differences**

Andersen, T. B., Dalgaard, C. J. and Selaya, P., 2016, Climate and the emergence of global income differences. *Review of Economic Studies*, 83(4), 1334–1363.

## **8. The trade-off between fertility and education: evidence from before the demographic transition**

Becker, S.O., Cinnirella, F. and Woessmann, L., 2010, The trade-off between fertility and education: evidence from before the demographic transition. *Journal of Economic Growth*, 15(3), 177–204.

## **9. Chronic disease burden and the interaction of education, fertility, and growth**

Bleakley, H., and Lange, F., 2009, Chronic disease burden and the interaction of education, fertility, and growth. *The Review of Economics and Statistics*, 91(1), 52–65.

## **10. How the West “Invented” fertility restriction**

Voigtländer, N. and Voth, H.J., 2013, How the West “Invented” fertility restriction. *American Economic Review*, 103(6), 2227–64.

## **11. Unified growth theory and the French fertility transition**

Murphy, T. E. , 2015, Old habits die hard (sometimes). *Journal of Economic Growth*, 20(2), 177–222.

## **12. Fertility and modernity**

Spolaore, E. and Wacziarg, R., 2019, Fertility and modernity. NBER Working Paper No. w25957. National Bureau of Economic Research.

## **13. The fall in global fertility: a quantitative model**

De Silva, T. and Tenreyro, S., 2020, The fall in global fertility: a quantitative model. *American Economic Journal: Macroeconomics*, 12(3), 77–109.

## **14. Disease and demographic development: the legacy of the plague**

Siuda, F. and Sunde, U., 2021, Disease and demographic development: the legacy of the plague. *Journal of Economic Growth*, 26(1), 1–30.

## **15. Fertility, human capital, and income: the effects of China’s one-child policy**

Gu, J., 2021, Fertility, human capital, and income: the effects of China’s one-child policy. *Macroeconomic Dynamics*, 1–42.

## **16. Fecundity, fertility and the formation of human capital**

Klemp, M. and Weisdorf, J., 2019, Fecundity, fertility and the formation of human capital. *The Economic Journal*, 129(618), 925–960.

## The seminar paper

In your seminar paper you should present the idea and the central mechanisms of the underlying journal article in your own words. The objective of the seminar paper is that a reader unfamiliar with the original journal article is thoroughly familiarized with the topic. The seminar paper must not be longer than **15 pages** (excluding appendices and the list of references). Please use the following layout:

**type size 12, spacing 2.0, indention 2.5 cm**

The seminar paper and the presentation are an optimal opportunity to familiarize yourselves with the open-source typesetting software Latex that is used nowadays in science. If you choose to prepare the paper in Word please use the typeface “Times New Roman”.

Advices for preparing a seminar paper:

- use as few footnotes as possible.
- attach a bibliography to your paper.
- do not include lists of figures, tables or abbreviations. They are not necessary in such a short seminar paper.
- properly cite all sources that you refer to.
- for references in the text follow the practice of international journals. Example: If you want to refer to an article written by Hazan in 2009 cite it in the text as [...] (Hazan, 2009). Please do not use footnotes for citation.

**Students who copy-paste from any source will automatically be expelled from the course. They are graded with 5.0 and are furthermore reported to the registrar’s office (“Prüfungsamt”). Notice that also one-for-one translations from another language account as plagiarism. Be aware: We are extremely ambitious to uncover any attempt of fraud and also use specialized software to detect plagiarism.**

## The presentation

Every participant of the seminar acts as a presenter of his **own topic (20 minutes)** as well as a **“first participant in discussion” (around 5 minutes)** of another topic of the seminar. **The slides have to be sent to Katharina Werner (kwerner@uni-goettingen.de) as a PDF file (no ppt files!) until the day before the seminar.**

If you are uncertain about the composition of your presentation the following advices might be helpful.

- The first 3 minutes of a presentation are crucial because you have the full attention of the audience. Use them to deliver the main point/the takeaway of your talk
- The available speaking time of 20 minutes is not sufficient to say everything that could be said about the topic.
- Practice the presentation several times beforehand to get a feeling for the time constraints etc.

You should pay attention to the following advices when preparing your slides:

- No more than 1 slide per minute
- Every slide should be equipped with a title
- The title should be self-explanatory
- No footnotes, detailed bibliographic information, long formulas, big tables or long sentences
- A slide with too little text is preferable to a slide with too much text, optimal are 20 - 40 words per slide
- A figure or a formula is worth a 1000 words
- Do not use fancy layouts (or other fancy Powerpoint options)

## Plagiarism Statement

- Name
- Enrollment Number

The seminar paper on the topic for the Seminar “Recent Topics in Macroeconomics: Unified Growth Theory” in Spring 2022 was written by me and in my own words, except for quotations from published and unpublished sources which are clearly indicated and acknowledged as such. I am conscious that the incorporation of material from other works or a paraphrase of such material without acknowledgement will be treated as plagiarism, according to the regulations of the University of Goettingen.

I also agree that my seminar paper will be checked with a specialized software.

(Date and Signature)