



Göttingen, 29. Juli 2024

## Bachelor-Seminar (Winter Term 24/25): Health and Development

If, after reading this info file, you have any questions left, write an email to [johannes.schuenemann@wiwi.uni-goettingen.de](mailto:johannes.schuenemann@wiwi.uni-goettingen.de)

### Structure of the seminar

- **24.10.2024, 16:15, room Oec. 1.165 : Intro meeting.**
- Until **31.10.2024**: After the intro meeting, you have one week to submit your application for the seminar, via email to [johannes.schuenemann@wiwi.uni-goettingen.de](mailto:johannes.schuenemann@wiwi.uni-goettingen.de). ***You can find the application form as a separate file in StudIP.*** You can name up to 4 topic preferences, with no guarantee given that you will receive one of your preferred topics as your seminar topic. In case that there are more applications than available places we will distribute the places according to the study regulation. Please choose your top priorities carefully to ensure that you are comfortable with your selected topic. **Also: if not done already, this is the time to register for the course in StudIP. All further announcements will be done through StudIP!**
- Starting from **31.10.2024**: **publication of the list of participants and the list of topics.** The list will be published as fast as possible, sometimes the process of allocation takes a few days. After publication, the official work-time for writing the seminar paper begins.
- **31.10.2024 – 16.01.2025**: Period for the binding registration or cancellation for the course via FlexNow.
- **06.11.2024, 16:00 - 17:00, room PH 20** : “How to write a seminar paper” meeting with Prof. Strulik. **Attendance is required!**
- **05.01.2025**: submission deadline of your seminar paper. A .pdf version is to be sent to Johannes Schünemann ([johannes.schuenemann@wiwi.uni-goettingen.de](mailto:johannes.schuenemann@wiwi.uni-goettingen.de)), a paper copy is not necessary. **Please notice that due to organizational constraints, the submission deadline of the seminar paper cannot be extended by any circumstances (e.g. illness).**
- Starting from **06.01.2025**: publication of the exact schedule for the block meeting and the matching between topics and discussants.
- Until **16.1.2025, 15:00**: submission of the slides of your seminar presentation and your discussion. A .pdf version is to be sent to Johannes Schünemann ([johannes.schuenemann@wiwi.uni-goettingen.de](mailto:johannes.schuenemann@wiwi.uni-goettingen.de)). This is to ensure that there is at least a working presentation available on the day of the seminar. You can improve your slides after sending them to me, and use the updated version on the seminar day.
- **17.1.2025, whole day, room Oec. 1.164** : block seminar.
- **18.1.2025, whole day, room Oec. 0.168** : block seminar.

**Attendance at the whole blocked seminar is compulsory.**

### Grading

Grading will be based upon the following:

- 1) Seminar paper (15 pages, in English)
- 2) Presentation (20 minutes, in English)
- 3) Discussion of another topic (5 minutes, in English)

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

## Topics

Please make sure to use the source provided here, and not an alternative working paper version.

### 1. Disease and development: The effect of life expectancy on economic growth

References: Acemoglu, D., & Johnson, S. (2007). Disease and development: the effect of life expectancy on economic growth. *Journal of Political Economy*, 115(6), 925-985.

Bloom, D. E., Canning, D., & Fink, G. (2014). Disease and development revisited. *Journal of Political Economy*, 122(6), 1355-1366.

### 2. Death and development

Reference: Lorentzen, P., McMillan, J., & Wacziarg, R. (2008). Death and development. *Journal of Economic Growth*, 13(2), 81-124.

### 3. Life expectancy and economic growth: the role of the demographic transition

Reference: Cervellati, M., & Sunde, U. (2011). Life expectancy and economic growth: the role of the demographic transition. *Journal of economic growth*, 16, 99-133.

### 4. Health and economic growth: reconciling the micro and macro evidence

Reference: Bloom, D. E., Canning, D., Kotschy, R., Prettnner, K., & Schünemann, J. (2024). Health and economic growth: Reconciling the micro and macro evidence. *World Development*, 178, 106575.

### 5. Health and economic development - Evidence from the introduction of public health care

References: Strittmatter, A., and Sunde, U. (2013). Health and economic development - evidence from the introduction of public health care. *Journal of Population Economics*, 26(4), 1549-1584.

### 6. Bismarck's health insurance and the mortality decline

Reference: Bauernschuster, S., Driva, A., & Hornung, E. (2020). Bismarck's health insurance and the mortality decline. *Journal of the European Economic Association*, 18(5), 2561-2607.

### 7. The changing female advantage in life expectancy

Reference: Goldin, C., & Lleras-Muney, A. (2019).  $XX > XY$ ?: The changing female advantage in life expectancy. *Journal of Health Economics*, 67, 102224.

### 8. Why is the developed world obese?

Reference: Bleich, S., Cutler, D. M., Murray, C. J., & Adams, A. (2007). Why is the Developed World Obese?. NBER Working Paper, (w12954).

### 9. The long-term effects of a sugar-rich early childhood

Reference: Gertler, P., & Gracner, T. (2022). The Sweet Life: The Long-Term Effects of a Sugar-Rich Early Childhood (No. w30799). National Bureau of Economic Research.

### 10. Education can reduce health differences related to genetic risk of obesity

Reference: Barcellos, S. H., Carvalho, L. S., & Turley, P. (2018). Education can reduce health differences related to genetic risk of obesity. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 115(42), E9765-E9772.

### 11. In utero exposure to the Great Depression and late-life health

Reference: Schmitz, L. L., & Duque, V. (2022). In utero exposure to the Great Depression is reflected in late-life epigenetic aging signatures. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 119(46), e2208530119.

### 12. The long-term effects of measles vaccination on earnings and employment

Reference: Atwood, A. (2022). The long-term effects of measles vaccination on earnings and employment. *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy*, 14(2), 34-60.

### 13. Infant health, cognitive performance, and earnings

Reference: Bhalotra, S., Karlsson, M., Nilsson, T., & Schwarz, N. (2022). Infant health, cognitive performance, and earnings: Evidence from inception of the welfare state in Sweden. *Review of Economics and Statistics*, 104(6), 1138-1156.

### 14. Mortality risk and human capital investment

Reference: Fortson, J. G. (2011). Mortality risk and human capital investment: the impact of HIV/AIDS in Sub-Saharan Africa. *The Review of Economics and Statistics*, 93(1), 1-15.

**15. The effect of the tsetse fly on African development**

Reference: Alsan, M. (2015). The effect of the tsetse fly on African development. *American Economic Review*, 105(1), 382-410.

**16. Accounting for the widening mortality gap between American adults with and without a BA**

Reference: Case, A., & Deaton, A. (2023). Accounting for the Widening Mortality Gap between American Adults with and without a BA. *Brookings Papers on Economic Activity*.

**Required background knowledge**

BA - courses in Mathematics, Econometrics, Macro- and Microeconomics

# Read this! ➤ Advice ← Read this!

## The seminar paper

### Content:

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 and chapter is thoroughly familiarized with the topic.**

### Formatting:

The seminar paper must not be **longer than 15 pages** (excluding appendices and the list of references). Tables and figures to which you refer to in the text should also be placed in the text, and can be agreed on to not count towards the 15 pages. Please use the following layout:

**type size 12, spacing 2.0, indentation 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. 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”). Note that also one-for-one translations from another language account as 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 technical equipment for the presentation (laptop, beamer, laser-pointer) will be provided by the institute. **The slides have to be sent to Johannes Schünemann (johannes.schuenemann@wiwi.uni-goettingen.de) as a .pdf file (no ppt files!) until the day before the seminar, 15:00 latest.**

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 30 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)