| Course Information Experiments in Social Sciences (code: tbc)	
Faculty	**Faculty of Economics and Political Science**
Department	**Economics and Political Science**
Course Code	**tbc**
Course Title	**Experiments in Social Sciences**
Units of Credit	**3**
Pre-requisite	**Principles of Microeconomics (EE102)**
Semester of Offering	**Spring 2019/20**
Course Coordinators and instructors	**Prof. Mazen Hassan (m.hassan@feps.edu.eg)** **Dr Sarah A. Mansour (sarah.mansour@feps.edu.eg)**
Lecture Time	**Sunday and Tuesday: 10:30 – 11:50**
Room	**14**
Office Hours	**Sunday and Tuesday 08:00 -09:00 and 12:00 – 13:00, office #80**

I- Overview of the Field:

In the last decade, the field of behavioural and experimental economics has gained considerable ground worldwide (with more than two Nobel prizes in Behavioral and Experimental Economics, and an increased number of Behavioral Insights Units[1] established in many countries (see figure (1)). This field has made a real revolution in the way economists apply economic thinking and modeling. For the above mentioned reasons, both the Economics and Political Science departments have agreed to offer this course for the first time in an Egyptian university

Briefly defined, behavioural science is an interdisciplinary field between economics, political science and social psychology that seeks to help better explain individual decisions by anchoring them in psychological foundations.

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[1] These are institutions that apply the findings of Behavioral and Experimental Economics to areas of public policy with the aim of increasing their efficiency.

Figure (1): Behavioral Insights and Public Policy Units
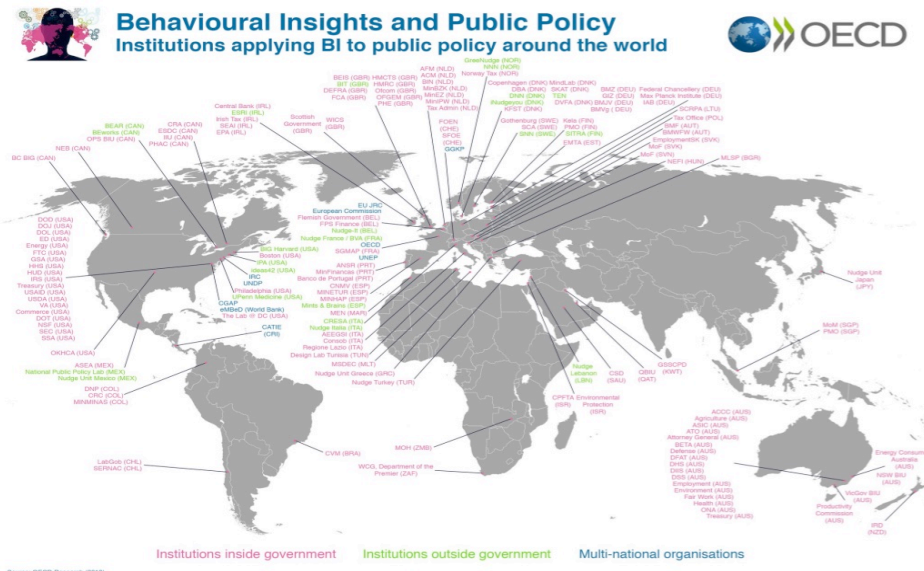
Source: OECD Research, 2018

II- COURSE DESCRIPTION and OBJECTIVES

The aim of this course is to give an introduction into the field of Experimentation in Social Sciences. A first step however would be to have a good understanding of the main building block of this relatively new field: Behavioural Economics, .

Behavioral Economics integrates several psychological insights into formal economic models. As such, it attempts to increase the explanatory power of economic models by incorporating a better basis of human behavior.

The traditional canonic model of economic behaviour had been based upon a rational economic agent who maximizes a narrowly defined self-interest utility function. In many situations, e.g. under uncertainty or in intertemporal contexts, this canonic model often generates predictions that are inconsistent with empirical evidence.

This course will present new models in different areas of Behavioural Economics, while discussing the experimental evidence that motivated the development of these models.

III-   Course Structure

The course is tentatively structured as follows[2]:

1. Introduction to Behavioral Economics.
   a. Endowment effect and loss aversion (Choice under risk and uncertainty, Prospect theory, Applications and empirical evidence)
   b. Social preferences and prosocial behavior (Ultimatum and dictator games, Inequality aversion, Fairness, Public goods and punishment, The perverse role of incentives – intrinsic and extrinsic motivation).
   c. Intertemporal decisions (Habit formation).
   d. Policy interventions, and libertarian paternalism
   e. Behavioral Public Choice (Why do people vote? Strategic voting?)
2. Experimental Methodology: Why Important?
   a. Types of Experiments
   b. What is an economic experiment?
   c. Ingredients of an economic experiment
   d. Famous games in Experimental Economics
   e. Timeline of an experiment
   f. Common mistakes in running an experiment.

3. Programming an experiment
   a. Z-tree
   b. Lime survey

IV-Course Material

The course material consists primarily of journal articles and class notes. It is also useful to read some chapters of the books mentioned below.

Textbooks (extensive list, not all will be discussed in detail):

- Corr, Philip and Anke Plagnol, 2019. *Behavioral Economics: the basics*, Routledge.
- Camerer, Colin, George Loewenstein, and Matthew Rabin (eds.), 2003. *Advances in Behavioral Economics, Princeton University Press*. (This book gives a selection of excellent and seminal papers in the field).
- Wilkinson, Nick,2008. *An introduction to Behavioral Economics*, Palgrave McMillan.
- Diamond, Peter and Hannu Vartiainen (ed.), 2007. *Behavioral Economics and its Applications*, Princeton University Press.

Journal articles will be assigned later during the term.

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[2] We are very optimistic about what we can teach in this course. However, if time did not allow us to cover all topics, references will be given to students interested to read those uncovered topics after the end of the course.

V- **Moodle Link:**

http://fepsmoodle.com/moodles/course/view.php?id=398

It is a learning management system designed to help instructors create online classroom setting with opportunities for rich interaction and collaboration.

VI- **ASSESSMENT:**

Assessments are aimed at examining students' grasp of the course material and ensure that they are familiarized with the theories and applications of theories.

In order to develop a thorough understanding of key economic aspects of Behavioral Economics and Experiments in Social Sciences, each student is expected to actively participate in the course. This involves reading (ahead) the provided material and journal articles, as well as actively participating in discussions. Some of the classes will involve students' discussions and presentations of group projects.

Course assessment will be determined by the following assessment items:

Assessment Item	Weighting
Quizzes	10%
Mid-term	20%
Group Project and Presentation	20%
Final Exam	50%

VII- **POLICIES**

Regular attendance of lectures and tutorials is EXPECTED. As per the rules of the credit hour system, students are required to attend at least 75% of lectures.

We look forward to an exciting and productive semester.

Best of Luck!

The Teaching Team.