

## Information on the Master Seminar 2024

### *Nudging and social policy*

#### **Content:**

The seminar provides you with an introduction into the field of nudging. Nudges are often categorized into educative nudges like warnings, reminders or disclosure of information and architectural nudges like automatic enrollment, mandatory choice, or prompted choice. They all have in common that they can significantly affect outcomes. The seminar covers theoretical and empirical work on nudging, discusses ethical considerations, and helps to understand current and likely future developments in this field.

The seminar consists of two parts.

#### **Part 1**

In part 1, chapters from the book by Richard H. Thaler and Cass R. Sunstein "*Nudge: The Final Edition*", Penguin Publishing Group, 2021, will be presented by participants and critically discussed in class. That means, from the second (April 16) to the sixth seminar date (May 14) we will talk about one part of this book in the seminar: April 16 – part 1, April 23 – part 2, April 30 – part 3, May 7 – part 4, and May 14 – part 5. At the first seminar date on April 9 at 11:15 a.m. there will be a presentation of the organization of the seminar as well as the assignment of topics for the seminar papers in room G22A-218.

The participant who has to briefly present and discuss the respective part of the book will be randomly selected at the beginning of each seminar date. This means that all participants have to read the sections relevant to this seminar date before each date and prepare it in such a way that he or she is able to explain the content of the part assigned to him or her to the other participants. This particularly includes explaining whether and how the content of the presented chapter will be relevant for the participant's seminar paper.

## Part 2

In part 2, each participant will write a seminar paper (15 pages excluding cover sheet, references, and appendices) and give a scientific presentation (30 minutes) on the seminar topic assigned to him or her. Four example topics available for the seminar papers are listed below. The literature listed for each topic should serve as a starting point for each participant's own research of economic literature and its critical discussion.

1) Libertarian paternalism and nudges

Thaler, R. H., & Sunstein, C. R. (2003). Libertarian paternalism. *American Economic Review*, 93(2), 175-179.

2) Social norms and nudges

Bicchieri, C., & Dimant, E. (2022). Nudging with care: The risks and benefits of social information. *Public Choice*, 191(3-4), 443-464.

3) Financial incentives versus nudges

Viscusi, W. K. (2022). Efficiency criteria for nudges and norms. *Public Choice*, 191(3-4), 465-482.

4) COVID-19 and nudges

Dai, H., Saccardo, S., Han, M. A., Roh, L., Raja, N., Vangala, S., ... & Croymans, D. M. (2021). Behavioural nudges increase COVID-19 vaccinations. *Nature*, 597(7876), 404-409.

Each participant must submit a .pdf file with an **outline for his or her paper, including the literature sources** used for the paper by email (jeannette.brosigkoch@ovgu.de) by Friday, **May 17, at 9.00 a.m.** at the latest. You will receive feedback on this outline at a consultation appointment to be arranged individually.

The .pdf file of the **seminar paper** must then be submitted as a .pdf file by email (see above) by Tuesday, **June 4, at 9:00 a.m.** at the latest. A general guideline for writing a seminar paper can be found here: [https://bsp.ovgu.de/bsp\\_media/PDFS/Leitfaden+Abschlussarbeiten\\_english.pdf](https://bsp.ovgu.de/bsp_media/PDFS/Leitfaden+Abschlussarbeiten_english.pdf) .

The .pdf file of the **scientific presentation** must be submitted by Monday, **June 10, at 9.00 a.m.** at the latest by email (see above).

The **scientific presentations** for the seminar papers will take place on the following seminar dates starting on June 11 in room G22A-218.

### Assessment:

For the module there is a module-related examination which covers the following forms of examination: writing (70%), presenting (20%), participating in discussions (10%).