

Co-operation and Co-operative Organizations Syllabus

Summer semester 2023



1 CONTACT INFORMATION

Lecturer

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Email

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Office hours

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2 GENERAL INFORMATION

The course “Co-operation and Co-operative Organizations” has been offered since 2007. It is directed to students of the master programs Agricultural Economics, Rural Development and Integrated Natural Resource Management. However, interested students from other master programs are also welcome to participate. In the last years, the lecture was offered in an online format due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Since the last summer semester, the course is offered in presence again.

This course is designed to introduce students to the cooperative business model and to encourage them to think critically about why cooperative organizations, farmers associations, input supplies, marketing, service or consumer cooperatives and other forms of democratically managed and collectively owned organizations emerge, the ways in which they differ from other forms of enterprises, and the potential of cooperative model to address some of the most pressing social, economic or environmental issues.

The course uses different theoretical strands such as collective action, behavioural economics, industrial organisation, rural innovation and development economics, using examples to illustrate concepts and ideas. It also analyses the role of cooperatives in rural development and for poverty alleviation.

2.1 COURSE GOAL

Upon completion of the course, the students will have the analytical skills to analyse typical problems of human cooperation and of co-operative organizations.

2.2 INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon completion of the course, the students are expected to:

L01: be able to apply different theoretical strands: collective action, behavioural economics, industrial organization, rural innovation and development economics to analyse cooperative organizations

L02: distinguish cooperatives from other organizations and analyse them from an economic, organizational and social perspective

L03: understand the experience with cooperatives in developing contexts

L04: professionally reproduce and combine arguments and insights from the cooperative studies literature and apply good scientific practices in order to write an own seminal paper

3 ORGANIZATION

Classes will be on Thursdays from 08.15 hs to 12hs (CEST=UTC+2) in lecture hall two at Invalidenstraße 42. Please come a few minutes early so that you get into the learning environment and we can start on time.

We will use Moodle as learning platform and for communication. Please activate notifications on Moodle to receive any updates via email messages that are posted in the Moodle forum.

If necessary, we will use your HU email address to reach you individually and ask you to contact us using your HU account. We will do our best to answer you within 72 hours.

The classes will combine inputs from different lecturers with participatory activities among the students. Students are expected to read the course materials in advance, otherwise, their ability to learn and participate will be hindered.

During the classes, we will provide methodical inputs to improve your analytical skills and to facilitate the scientific writing process of your term paper.

4 COURSE MATERIALS

For each class, there are required (theoretical, conceptual and empirical) and optional readings.

5 COURSE SCHEDULE

Overview

Week	Lecturer	Topic
W1: 20/04	Markus Hanisch	Course outline and Introduction - Orientation
W2: 27/04	Markus Hanisch	Cooperation as a Pattern of (Human) Behaviour (LO 1)
W3: 04/05	Markus Hanisch	The Cooperative Model (LO 2)
W4: 11/05	Markus Hanisch	Governance in the Cooperative (LO 2)
W5: 18/05	Himmelfahrt Holiday	
W6: 25/05	Aicha Mechri	Cooperatives and sustainable value chains
W7: 01/06	Marcel Robischon	Coops and agroecology
W8: 08/06	Katrin Martens	Cooperatives in Rural Innovation Systems
	Markus Hanisch	Empirical research structure and Research proposal content (LO 4)
W9: 15/06	Agustina Malvido	The Cooperative and the Market (LO 1 and 2)
W10: 22/06	Jos Bijman	Cooperatives and Member Commitment: The Dutch Flower Industry Case
W11: 29/06	Benjamin Dannemann	Cooperatives and Renewable Energy Transformation (LO 2)

W12: 06/07	Margitta Minah	Farmer organisations in transition and developing economies (LO 3)
W13: 13/07	Markus + Aicha (during ICA)	Colloquium: Research proposal presentations (students)
W14: 20/07	Markus + Aicha (during vacation)	Colloquium: Research proposal presentations (students)
22/07	End of lecture period	

Week	Lecturer	Topic description	Readings
W1: 20/04	Markus Hanisch	Course outline and Introduction - Orientation Overview over the course, lecturers, and topics. Access to Moodle platform. Rules for dealing with literature and handouts. Requirements for earning credits and deadlines for topic selection and research proposal submission.	
W2: 27/04	Markus Hanisch	Cooperation as a Pattern of (Human) Behaviour (LO 1) Research in economics and human-evolutionary behaviour has shown that individuals are far more concerned about the well-being of others than previously assumed, laying a ground for cooperation. The lecture gives an introduction into concepts and a framework to analyse cooperation, while also discussing the actual situation in terms of cooperative behaviour.	Required: Cardenas, J.C. and Carpenter, J. (2008). Behavioural Development Economics: Lessons from Field Labs in the Developing World. <i>Journal of Development Studies</i> 44 (3): 337-364. Ostrom, E. (2010). Analyzing collective action. <i>Agricultural Economics</i> , 41, 155-166. Optional: Kollock K. (1988) Social Dilemmas: The anatomy of cooperation. <i>Annual Review of Sociology</i> , 24, 183,214.
W3: 04/05	Markus Hanisch	The Cooperative Model (LO 2) Presentation and discussion of different cooperative definitions and their historical development and relevance worldwide. Analysis of their different functions and roles in comparison with investor-oriented firms, NGOs, unions, and governments.	Required Krivokapic-Skoko, Branka (2002): The Concept and Classifications of Agricultural Co-operatives. Australian Centre for Co-operative Research and Development. Bathurst, Australia (ACCORD Paper, 8). Optional: Torgenson, R. (1997): Evolution of Cooperative Thought, Theory and Purpose. <i>Journal of Cooperatives</i> . Grashuis, J.; Cook, M. L. (2018): An examination of new generation cooperatives in the upper Midwest: Successes, failures and limitations. In <i>Annals of Public and Cooperative Economics</i> 89 (4), pp. 623-644.
W4: 11/05	Markus Hanisch	Governance in the Cooperative (LO 2) In recent literature cooperatives have been described as hybrid organizations between markets and hierarchies. The lecture introduces the analysis	Required: Bijman, J., Hanisch, M., and van der Sangen, G. (2014). Shifting control? The changes of internal governance in

Week	Lecturer	Topic description	Readings
		of the cooperative firm. Typical agency, information and contractual relationships are introduced and discussed. Problems of cooperative management and control are described and analysed in a comparative perspective. Links to transaction cost and information cost schools of thought explain what types of problems in the market give rise to different types of cooperative organizations.	agricultural cooperatives in the EU. <i>Annals of Public and Cooperative Economics</i> , 85(4): 641-661. Nilsson, J. (2001): Organisational principles for co-operative firms. In <i>Scandinavian Journal of Management</i> 17 (3), pp. 329-356.
W5: 18/05		Himmelfahrt Holiday	
W6: 25/05	Aicha Mechri	The cooperative from a value chain perspective (LO 1, 2 and 3) The lecture introduces the concept of value chains, lays the ground for value chain analysis and explores the role of the cooperatives within the entire the entire chain. Theoretical foundations combine findings from industrial organization and institutional economics. Using empirical examples, the role of cooperatives in processes of upgrading and governance of the value chain is highlighted.	Required: Saitone, T.L. and Sexton, R.J. (2017) Agri-food supply chain: evolution and performance with conflicting consumer and societal demands. <i>European Review of Agricultural Economics</i> 44: 634-657. Candemir, A., Duvaleix, S. and Latruffe, L. (2021) Agricultural Cooperatives and Farm Sustainability: a literature review. <i>Journal of Economic Surveys</i> , pp:1-27
W7: 01/06	Marcel Robischon	Cooperatives and the agroecological transition	Required: Saitone, T.L. and Sexton, R.J. (2017) Agri-food supply chain: evolution and performance with conflicting consumer and societal demands. <i>European Review of Agricultural Economics</i> 44: 634-657. Candemir, A., Duvaleix, S. and Latruffe, L. (2021) Agricultural Cooperatives and Farm Sustainability: a literature review. <i>Journal of Economic Surveys</i> , pp:1-27
W8: 08/06	Katrin Martens	Cooperatives in Rural Innovation Systems Cooperatives play important roles in rural areas. They link actors to markets, explore alternative income opportunities, and provide a series of crucial infrastructure and mixed services for rural dwellers. As such they may play the role of hubs in knowledge management and information brokerage. The lecture explores the roles of traditional and “new” cooperatives from the perspective of economic geography and the science of knowledge	Required: Bock, B.B. (2012). Social innovation and sustainability; how to disentangle the buzzword and its application in the field of agriculture and rural development. <i>Studies in agricultural economics</i> 114 (2): 57-63. Esparcia, J. (2014). Innovation and networks in rural areas. An analysis of European innovative projects. <i>Journal of rural studies</i> , 34 (2014): 1-14. Optional: Figueiredo, V. and Franco, M. (2018). Wine cooperatives as a form of social entrepreneurship: Empirical evidence about their impact on society. <i>Land Use Policy</i> , 79: 812-821
	Markus Hanisch	Empirical research structure and Research proposal content (LO 4) Research paper structure, writing tips (style and grammar, figures and tables, references) and exercise. Peer feedback process explanation.	
W9: 15/06	Agustina Malvido	The Cooperative and the Market (LO 1 and 2) Industrial organization literature suggests that, in situations of imbalanced markets, cooperatives can	Required:

Week	Lecturer	Topic description	Readings
		play important roles in securing fair prices for produce and inputs. The lecture combines theoretical and empirical inputs to discuss the role of cooperatives in different markets.	<p>Sexton, R.J. (2012). Market Power, Misconceptions, and Modern Agricultural Markets. <i>American Journal of Agricultural Economics</i> 95 (2): 209-219.</p> <p>Maple syrup case: Watch the Maple Syrup Heist video (Serie: Dirty Money, season 1, episode 5)</p> <p>https://www.nytimes.com/2015/08/23/business/international/canadian-maple-syrup-producers-clash-with-law.html</p> <p>http://america.aljazeera.com/multimedia/2015/4/canada-syrup-cartel.html</p> <p>http://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-39375257</p>
W10: 22/06	Jos Bijman		
W11: 29/06	Markus Hanisch	<p>Policies and Enabling Environments for Cooperative Development (LO 3)</p> <p>The lecture discusses the role of enabling environments for cooperative development with the cases of legal reforms in Turkey and Vietnam the lecture analyses the reasons for recent cooperative development in some of these countries.</p>	<p>Required:</p> <p>Brusselaers, Jan; Poppe, Krijn; García Azcarate, Tomas (2014): Do Policy Measures Impact the Position and Performance of Farmers' Cooperatives in the EU? In <i>Annals of Public and Cooperative Economics</i> 85 (4), pp. 531-553.</p> <p>Ribašauskienė, Erika; Šumylė, Diana; Volkov, Artiom; Baležentis, Tomas; Streimikiene, Dalia; Morkunas, Mangirdas (2019): Evaluating Public Policy Support for Agricultural Cooperatives. In <i>Sustainability</i> 11 (14), p. 3769.</p> <p>van der Sangen, Ger J.H. (2014): How to Regulate Cooperatives in the EU? In <i>The Dovenschmidt Quarterly</i> 2 (4), pp. 131-146.</p> <p>Optional:</p> <p>Iliopoulos, Constantine (2013): Public Policy Support for Agricultural Cooperatives: an Organizational Economics Approach. In <i>Annals of Public and Cooperative Economics</i> 84 (3), pp. 241-252.</p>
W12: 06/07	Margitta Minah	<p>Farmer organisations in transition and developing economies (LO 3)</p> <p>In recent years, farmer organisations have received renewed attention in the development context. In line with the Sustainable Development Goals Agenda, it is expected that farmer collective action can promote social, economic, and environmental targets.</p> <p>This lecture provides insight to the theoretical and empirical debates on the role and challenges of farmer organisation in transition and developing economies.</p>	<p>Required:</p> <p>Shiferaw, B., Hellin, J., and Muricho, G. (2011). Improving market access and agricultural productivity growth in Africa: what role for producer organizations and collective action institutions? <i>Food Security</i>, 3(4), 475-489.</p> <p>Fischer, E., and Qaim, M. (2012). Linking smallholders to markets: determinants and impacts of farmer collective action in Kenya. <i>World Development</i>, 40(6), 1255-1268.</p> <p>Mojo, D., Fischer, C., and Degefa, T. (2015). Social and environmental impacts of agricultural cooperatives: evidence from Ethiopia. <i>International Journal of Sustainable Development & World Ecology</i>, 22(5), 388-400.</p> <p>Optional:</p> <p>Lerman, Z., Sedik, D., and Csaki, C. (2016). <i>Agricultural cooperatives in transition countries</i>. LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing.</p>

Week	Lecturer	Topic description	Readings
			Wanyama, F. O., Develtere, P., and Pollet, I. (2008). Encountering the evidence: cooperatives and poverty reduction in Africa. Working Papers on Social and Co-operative Entrepreneurship WP-SCE 08-02.
W13:		Colloquium: Research proposal presentations (students)	
13/07			
W14:		Colloquium: Research proposal presentations (students)	
20/07			
Ende Vorlesungszeitraum am 23.07			

6 ASSIGNMENTS AND ASSESSMENT

The students are expected to write a **research proposal** by selecting a subject, compiling a research question and a way to answer it, and making use of the theories and hypotheses developed in this course or other literature.

Students will receive inputs regarding the content of a research proposal and writing tips.

The research proposal related to their final written paper should have 500-800 words (under no circumstance more than 1,200 words). Deadline to upload the proposal on Moodle will be duly announced. Based on the guidelines provided in the course, each student will give **feedback** to another student on their proposal.

After that, students will present their topic and research proposal on an **oral colloquium** in line with the guidelines and rules for research proposals and oral presentations (8 minutes), receiving feedback from the lecturers.

Lastly, students will write a **research paper** in line with the inputs received in the course and guidelines and rules for written papers (min 10, max 15 pages, excluding references).

Two students can prepare a paper jointly (20 to max 30 pages, excluding references) and, if relevant, each author can indicate their individual contribution.

Papers will be graded considering the following criteria: definition of a research problem; formulation of clear research questions, objectives and/or hypotheses; presentation of a critical literature study; application of lecture contents (concepts, theories, examples); construction of paper; language and style; figures and tables; references; and overall impression.

Attention: writing a research proposal, giving feedback to a peer, and presenting an oral colloquium are pre-requisites to write the research paper. Those steps will not be graded but have to be fulfilled according to the guidelines provided and deadlines, **otherwise the research paper will not be accepted and not be graded**

7 ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION

We strongly advise you to be present during the class to stay on board. To fulfill course requirements, you need to be involved in peer to peer activities coordinated during the course. We will provide group activities and expect you to participate actively in them to contribute to your own learning. Sending a paper end of the course is not enough.

8 COURSE FEEDBACK

At the end of each class, we will ask you for feedback on different topics. At the end of the course, you will have the opportunity to evaluate us as well. We would greatly appreciate your honest thoughts and suggestions on the course.