

Econ 105 - Introduction to Research Methods I**Instructor:** Kağan Parmaksız (kaganp@metu.edu.tr) **Office:** A213**Lectures:** Mon 940-1230 – FAUD**Office Hours:** Thursday 13:30-14:30 (O)

Course Description: This course intends to introduce the students to ideas and debates on what constitutes scientific knowledge, how it is/ought to be produced, outline the methodological debates about these issues, and discuss their relevance within economics in this context. The course will introduce students to the history and philosophy of science and the methodology of economics at a basic level. Readings on the history of science as a way to the historical development of scientific methodology, fundamental debates in the philosophy of science, and their relevance for the methodology of economics as a scientific field will be covered.

By the end of this course, students will:

- be aware of some of the philosophical discussions on what constitutes scientific method
- have historical knowledge on the emergence of modern natural and social science methodology.
- understand the unique place of economics and its methodology within social sciences.

Organization of the course: The organization of the course is classical in-class lectures. We do not have a textbook for the course. The course will be based on assigned readings from several resources. I will announce the readings for each week and make them available online in advance for you to prepare for the lectures. I expect you to come to the lecture each week having read the relevant material for that lecture.

Assessment:

Midterm Exams (2)	30% each
Final Exam	40%

The course grade will be based on two equally weighted midterm exams and a final exam. The exams will consist of essay questions. Note that assessment may cover any aspect of the course material covered in lectures, assigned readings, and discussions made during classes. Exams will not be comprehensive; that is, each exam will cover a particular part of the course.

Communication: <https://odtuclass.metu.edu.tr>

Note that all information regarding the course, reading materials, assignments, exams and announcements will go through this system. It is your responsibility to check this site at regular intervals and be up-to-date with all relevant information.

Academic Honesty: Any form of dishonest behavior for any part of the course, which includes but not limited to; cheating during exams, plagiarizing and inappropriate collaboration in assignments, will ensure a failing grade for the course and will result in further disciplinary action in line with university regulations depending on the severity of the violation.

Information for Students with Disabilities Students who experience difficulties due to their disabilities and wish to obtain academic adjustments and/or auxiliary aids must contact ODTU Disability Support Office and/or course instructor and the advisor of students with disabilities at academic departments (for the list: <http://engelsiz.metu.edu.tr/en/advisor-students-disabilities>) as soon as possible. For detailed information, please visit the website of Disability Support Office: <https://engelsiz.metu.edu.tr/en/>

Course Outline: Below is a tentative and very brief outline of the topics we will cover throughout the semester. The detailed readings and assigned material will be made available in advance before the lecture day on course website.

<u>Topic</u>	<u>Weeks</u>
A brief introduction to History of Science	2-5
A brief introduction to Philosophy of Science	6-10
A brief introduction to Economics as a scientific discipline	11-14