

Econ 105 - Introduction to Research Methods I**Instructor:** Kağan Parmaksız (kaganp@metu.edu.tr)**Office:** A213**Lectures:** Mon 1330-1630 – FAUD**Office Hours:** TBA

Course Description: This course intends to; briefly introduce the students to the history of science, selective 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 social science with specific emphasis to economics. The course will introduce students to the history and philosophy of science and the methodology of economics at a basic level. Readings in history of science as a way to the historical development of scientific methodology, some fundamental debates in 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:

- have historical knowledge on the emergence of modern natural and social science methodology.
- be aware of some of the philosophical discussions on what constitutes scientific method
- 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 lecture each week having read the relevant material for that lecture.

Assessment:

Midterm Exam	50% (Nov 26th)
Final Exam	50%
Written Project (Optional)	20% of the midterm.

The course grade will be based on an equally weighted midterm exam and a final exam. 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. You will have the option to prepare a written project to account for 20% weight of the midterm after the grade for the midterm is announced. The topics and the requirements for the optional project will be announced later in 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 and Development of Science	1-8
A very brief introduction to Philosophy of Science	9-11
A brief introduction to Economics as a scientific discipline	11-14