

Your tasks:

- Present one paper. You will have to provide a self-written abstract of the paper in the beginning of the semester and a longer summary (3-4 pages) after your talk.
- Actively engage in the seminar! This includes asking questions during and after the talk, raising comments or concern about the research and conclusions drawn.

Grading:

- All tasks above are relevant for grading, including your contributions in terms of questions and discussion during someone else's presentation. Your final grade will be determined by the following components:
 - Talk: 50%
 - Abstract and written summary: 30%
 - Active participation: 20%

Note that, in general, presenting, writing and discussing ideas are one of the most important skills to be acquired in academia and business life.

Requirements:

- Regular attendance (please inform us for an excused absence)

Assignment of papers:

Enclosed and on the course website you find a list with papers. Please take a deep look at it. Then choose three different papers with preferences first, second, third choice. The deadline for your selection is **April 28**. Please send your preferences to Sigrid Trägenap via email: traegenap@fias.uni-frankfurt.de along with your Studiengang, Modulzuordnung (if known), Prüfungsordnung and Matrikelnummer. Include the keyword [SeminarCN] in the title in the subject of your email.

You will be informed about which paper was assigned to you and your time of presentations in due time.

Please inform us as soon as possible in case you cannot give your presentation at the time scheduled (e.g. due to health reasons).

Abstract and written summary:

- Please write a short abstract (max half page) of the paper after the assignment, until May 12. Abstracts are ubiquitous in academia as they allow you to succinctly communicate your research. They typically follow an hourglass structure:
 - 1-2 sentences: **basic introduction** to the field, comprehensible to a scientist in any discipline.
 - 2-3 sentences: **more detailed background**, comprehensible to scientists in related disciplines.
 - 1 sentence: **general problem** being addressed by this particular study. Could also include aim/hypotheses here.
 - 1 sentence: summarizing the **main methods** (with the words “**here we test**” or their equivalent).
 - 2-3 sentences: explaining what **the main result** reveals in direct comparison to what was thought to be the case previously, or how the main result adds to previous knowledge.
 - 1-2 sentences: put the results into a more **general context**.

Writing the abstract will give you a head start in understanding your paper and preparing your talk.

- We require a written summary: a coherent **3-4** pages summary with the central figures, equations and citations. It should start with a title, an abstract/synopsis and then follow the standard outline for scientific papers (see below). This is an opportunity for you to practice your writing, in general, and to write a scientific document, in particular.
- We will practice a form of 'Peer review' with your paper. We will form 2 person teams and require you to send your partner the initial summary 1 week after your talk (cc us). They will provide feedback within a week and you have the chance to revise your work and send it to us at latest three weeks after your talk.

Info for the talk:

- Present one paper and aim for 20 minutes. Sketch its main points. Try to find your understanding of the papers 'red thread' connecting the ideas and present that thread.
- Presenting every figure, equation and idea is not possible in 20 minutes. Focus on the most important parts (with respect to your red thread) and explain these as clearly as possible! **Target your audience!** Your fellow students should understand the main points of this paper after your presentation.
- We want you to explain the key method or concepts that stems from the theoretical sciences in this work. What is novel about this method? Where do its ideas come from? This is your area of expertise!
- Structure your talk as follows:
 - Research papers: motivation (Big question), background/preliminary work, approach, results, conclusions, and discussion.
 - Review papers: overall topic and motivation, approach, work being reviewed, conclusions, and discussion.
- Build comprehensible slides with e.g.
 - parts of figures taken from the paper or other sources
 - key equations
 - a few statements or questions in bullets format (not long text pieces copied from the paper)
 - small diagrams, tables where appropriate
- Aim for **20 minutes!** Another 20 minutes should be reserved for questions asked by the audience and the general discussion.
- Plan what you are going to say for each slide. You may write down text for that. But avoid reading it during the presentation, as this will result in everyone falling asleep. Memorize the content of what you want to say, not the exact words!
It is important that you understand the paper and then explain its content using your own language!
- Send us a first version of your slides one week prior to your presentation date (or earlier), such that we can provide you with feedback and help you with your presentation. At this time, confirm again that you will give your presentation.

Active participation:

We expect you to attend the presentations of others. Moreover, we ask you to actively engage, by asking questions (also during the talk), by raising comments or concerns about the research or the conclusions being drawn, by providing background information or by responding to comments of others.

Timeline of your tasks:

21st of April: Q&A session

28th of April: send your paper preferences and information to traegenap@fias.uni-frankfurt.de (see above)

12th of May: send your written abstract to us

1 week before your presentation: send your slides to us

1 week after your presentation: send your short summary paper to your peer review partner

2 weeks after your presentation: send feedback on your peer review partners paper

3 weeks after your presentation: send the final version of the summary paper to us

Contact Information

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