

Georg-August-Universität Göttingen Module: M.WIWI-VWL.???? Social Assistance in Developing Countries	6 Credits 2 WLH
<p>Learning outcome, core skills:</p> <p>This course aims to provide students with an in-depth overview of the current academic literature on social assistance policies, particularly (conditional) cash transfers, in developing countries. By the end of the course, students will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be able to describe many social assistance instruments currently applied in the developing world • Be able to discuss whether these instruments are effective in fostering wellbeing of different beneficiaries (e.g. children, unemployed, and elderly) and in different situations (e.g. pandemic, disaster, fragile states) • Have gained a basic understanding of the implementation of randomized experiments and how they can be useful in evaluating the effectiveness of policies • Be able to compare conditional and unconditional transfer policies • Understand the importance of various design aspects for the effectiveness of a social assistance policy (e.g. cash vs. in-kind, payment modalities, add-on components, identification of beneficiaries, targeting) • Discuss and assess empirical research papers on the topic 	<p>Workload: Attendance time: 28 h</p> <p>Self-study time: 152 h</p>
<p>Course:</p> <p>Social assistance programs have become increasingly popular to stabilize incomes and increase prosperity in developing countries over the past two decades. In this seminar, we focus on conditional and unconditional cash transfer. We will discuss aspects of the implementation, design, and targeting of such transfers. In a series of specialized topics, we will then unravel how effective cash transfers are to improve poverty-related outcomes in different regions, in post-conflict settings, during pandemics, and as disaster relief. We will also discuss issues such as the behavior of voters in response to assistance policies, compare cash transfers and active labor market policies, and shed light on the ambiguous effect of cash transfers on female (economic) empowerment as well as gender-based violence. Moreover, we will examine the widespread hypothesis that recipients of unconditional transfers lack the incentive to work or to care for their economic future self-responsibly.</p>	<p>2 SWS</p>
<p>Examination: Term paper [70%]; Presentation of term paper and oral peer discussions of one paper [30%]</p> <p>Examination prerequisites:</p> <p>Regular attendance, active participation, discussion of another student's seminar paper</p>	<p>6 Credits</p>

Examination requirements: In the term paper, students are expected to address a self-chosen research question (within the scope of an assigned topic). Term papers should be analytical and critical, develop a coherent argument, draw own conclusions, and should go beyond the pure summary of existing literature. During the seminar, students are expected to present the core concepts and main findings from their term paper in a concise and educational way.		
Admission requirements: None	Recommended previous knowledge: B.WIWI-OPH.0007 Microeconomics I B.WIWI-VWL.0001 Microeconomics II M.WIWI-VWL.0009 Development Economics II Ability to read scientific articles	
Language: English	Person responsible for the module: Dr. Juliane Zenker	
Course frequency: Each summer semester	Duration: 1 semester	
Number of repeat examinations permitted: Twice	Recommended semester: 2-4	
Maximum number of students: 10		