

## **“Money and Happiness”**

(Winter Term 2025-26)

Prof. Dr. Lea Cassar

**Preliminaries:** The seminar will take place in person as a *block course* on **Monday, October 13, 2025**. The seminar will be taught in English.

**Outline:** The course is paper-based and covers the topic of the relationship between income and happiness. The course is centered around one of the core references on the reading list, to be presented by groups of two students, followed by a general in-class discussion. Students are expected to read and be familiar with all the listed core references. The written seminar paper is supposed to build on a larger base of the relevant literature.

**Prerequisites:** This seminar is open to BSc and MSc students. Students should have solid knowledge in microeconomics, game theory, and (micro)econometrics. Students must also have participated in and passed the course “Einführung in das wissenschaftliche Arbeiten”.

**Registration:** To participate to the seminar, you need to register in FlexNow by **July 18**.

**Questions:** All of your questions will be hopefully addressed during the online startup meeting on **July 24**. Any questions before that may be directed at [lea.cassar@ur.de](mailto:lea.cassar@ur.de). In order to participate to the seminar, you **MUST** attend the startup meeting.

**Assessment:**

1. Seminar presentation (ca 30 min)
2. Written seminar paper (10 pages)

Group work (presentations and seminar papers) will be graded for the group as a whole, and each group member receives the same grade. Students who insist on individual grades must notify us **in advance**. Active participation in the general class discussions following the presentations is strongly encouraged and can upgrade your final grade by up to 0.4.

**Summary of the Important Dates:**

- Until July 18: Mandatory registration via Flexnow
- July 24, 09:00 - 10:00, via Zoom: **Startup meeting** and assignment of groups for the presentations (**Mandatory attendance!**). Please look at the papers in the reading list before the startup meeting so that you can make a more informed choice.

The meeting will take place at the following link:

<https://uni-regensburg.zoom.us/j/5054341076?pwd=aFJvN081ZWxiaEF0dEpHTHE2TS81QT09>

- August 1: Deadline to deregister from the seminar on FlexNow. If you attended the startup meeting and later decided to deregister please also inform us by email at `sekretariat.Cassar@ur.de`
- October 13, 2025, from 10.15 to 14.15 (exact time tba), in Room tba: **Seminar takes place**
- November 17, 2025, 23:59: **Deadline** for submitting the **written seminar papers** by email to `sekretariat.Cassar@ur.de`.

# Seminar References

## Money & Happiness

1. Perez-Truglia, R. (2020). The Effects of Income Transparency on Well-Being: Evidence from a Natural Experiment. *The American Economic Review*, 110 (4), 1019–1054. <https://doi.org/10.1257/aer.20160256>
2. Hvidberg, B. H., Kreiner, C. T. and Stantcheva, S. (2023). Social Positions and Fairness Views on Inequality, *The Review of Economic Studies*, 90 (6), 3083–3118, <https://doi.org/10.1093/restud/rdad019>
3. Luttmer, E. F. P. (2005). Neighbors as Negatives: Relative Earnings and Well-Being, *The Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 120 (3), 963–1002, <https://doi.org/10.1093/qje/120.3.963>
4. Benjamin, D. J., Hefetz, O., Kimball, M. S. and Rees-Jones, A. (2012). What Do You Think Would Make You Happier? What Do You Think You Would Choose?, *American Economic Review*, 102 (5), 2083–2110, <https://doi.org/10.1257/aer.102.5.2083>
5. Kaiser, C. (2020). People do not adapt. New analyses of the dynamic effects of own and reference income on life satisfaction, *Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization*, 177, 494–513, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jebo.2020.06.003>.