

## The Productivity Slowdown (LV-Nr. 075300/0753001)

*Version July 26, 2018*

Lecture and tutorial in the Master programmes of the Department of Management and Economics

Ruhr University Bochum, Fall Semester 2018/19

**Time and Place:** Start 09.10.2018

Lecture Tuesday 10h15 to 11h45 GBCF 04/255

Tutorial Thursday 14h15 to 15h45 GBCF 04/300

**Registration:** see Moodle

**Lecturer:** Prof. Dr. Marianne Saam, CEIT

**Exam:** See <http://www.wiwi.ruhr-uni-bochum.de/pruefungsamt/termine/wise.html.de>. You have to register as described there. Otherwise you do not obtain credit. The exam counts 75 percent of the final grade.

**Paper:** You will have to write a short paper of 5 pages, which counts 25 percent of the final grade. Details will be announced until end of October. The deadline will be announced.

### **Description of the course:**

The productivity slowdown in advanced countries is an important challenge for both economic research and policy. How do we measure it, what are possible causes in different countries? In which direction should future research on this issue move and what are potential policy implications? This module offers a combination of an introductory lecture on the topic with a tutorial where students will

critically engage with research methods and recent research publications on the issue.

### **Types of exercises in tutorial and exam:**

- Summary questions: You will be asked to summarize main results from the literature verbally.
- Questions on measurement: You will be asked about definitions and formulae for productivity measurement and about the application and interpretation of statistical productivity measures.
- Interpretation of quantitative results: You will be asked to interpret statistical or econometric results from research work.
- Questions on research methodology: You will be asked to critically reflect on research methodologies used to investigate particular aspects of the productivity slowdown.

We will practice all exercise types in the tutorial. I expect that you actively participate in discussion of solutions.

**Prerequisites:** There are no formal prerequisites for taking the course other than those stated in the Prüfungsordnung. I expect that you are able to understand basic theoretical concepts in economics such as e.g. a production function. You should also have a basic understanding of econometrics or acquire it during the course.