



University Meets Microfinance: 3 Day Microfinance Seminar – Course Outline

Part	Topics / Content	Hours	Teaching Methodology
Introduction	Introduction into Microfinance and Distribution of Topics for Students Presentations	1	
Theoretical Fundamentals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Political Background – Financial Repression • Credit Rationing in Markets with Imperfect Information • New Institutional Economics (Transaction Cost Theory and Agency Theory) • Financial Exclusion versus Access to Finance – Evidences from Industrialized and Developing Countries 	4	Interactive: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • students presentation • discussion • group exercises • summary of teacher
Microfinance Definitions and Products	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Roots of Microfinance – Informal Finance in Developing Countries and the Roots of Small Scale Finance in Industrialized Countries • Microfinance Credit Technologies – Group Lending versus Individual Credit • Savings Mobilisation and other Financial Products (Microinsurance and Remittances) 	4.5	
The History of Microfinance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Old and New Paradigms in Development Finance and the Microfinance Revolution • Commercialisation, Competition and Internationalization – A Critical Assessment of the Latest Movements in the Microfinance Industry 	2	
The Impact of Microfinance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Theory and Practice of Impact Assessments • Microfinance and Gender • Microfinance, poverty alleviation and the poorest 	4	
Institution Building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development Cooperation and the Different Models of Setting up Sustainable Microfinance Institutions • Upgrading: Pros and Cons of Credit Granting NGOs and the Example of BancoSol (Bolivia) • Downscaling of Public and Private Banks (With Examples of Latin America and Indonesia) • Linkage Banking in India • Starting from Scratch and the Example of ProCredit 	4.5	
Case Study	10 Years Alamana (Marocco) : An Assessment of Past and Future Development of a Leading Microfinance Institution	3	
Repetition and Evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Short repetition of the contents for exams preparation • Students Feedback 	1	
Total		24	

The UMM 3 Day Microfinance Seminar is based on the time-tested and successful seminar concept of the Freie Universität Berlin and its Latin American Institute. The focus point of the seminar is to create a link between theory and practice of demand and supply for financial services targeting the poor populations as well as to update on the current trends (e.g. increasing presence of commercial financial suppliers) and to encourage debate (poverty reduction and gender) around the microfinance sector. Case studies help to deepen the understanding of the subject. While in the first place designed for students of economics and business administration, the seminar also aims to broaden the understanding of poverty, poverty alleviation, international development cooperation, development finance and its links to microfinance. Thus, the seminar is also adapted to the needs and interests of other disciplines (e.g. international politics, social anthropology). Method: Students are asked to develop a presentation based on a given set of literature. To successfully finish the course students will write a short essay. A reader with all relevant literature can be provided.

Literature:

- Armendáriz de Aghion, Beatriz ; Modurch, Jonathan (2005): The Economics of Microfinance, Cambridge, Massachusetts, London: The MIT Press.
- Collins, Daryl et al (2009): Portfolios of the Poor, Princeton University Press, Princeton.
- Demirgüç-Kunt, Asli et al (2007): Finance for All. Policies and Pitfalls in Expanding Access, Washington D.C., World Bank.
- Dichter, Thomas, Malcolm Harper (2007): What's wrong with Microfinance?, Warwickshire, Practical Action Publishing.
- Sen, Amartya (1999): Development as freedom, Oxford: Oxford University Press.

A complete set of literature for each topic will be delivered when the course starts.

More information on the University Meets Microfinance – Programme is available at www.universitymeetsmicrofinance.eu .