

Insurance Economics

Essay Instructions

Please read the following instructions very carefully.

1. Your task is to **summarise the paper(s) allocated to you and to put them into perspective with the course contents they relate to** (discussion). This should be done in **essay** form (as explained during and after class). The length of the essay should be **roughly 3 pages** (± 1 page). Excessively long essays will be downgraded.
2. Please manage your time wisely. You have just 24 hours to read, understand, summarize and relate/discuss your paper(s). This means that **you will have to be selective** at every stage.
 - **Reading & Understanding:** Cursory reading (*querlesen*) will likely be key for you. Focus on thoroughly reading and understanding the Abstract (if applicable), the Introduction and the Discussion/Conclusion of the paper(s). After that you can move on to the sections of the paper(s) you believe to be the most important for your summary, but don't overdo it. In all likelihood, there will be quite a few sections of the paper(s) that won't make it into your summary, so don't waste your time on reading those exhaustively. Also, if a paper has technical aspects (like a theoretical model or an involved empirical methodology section), don't worry about having to understand (or summarise) any intricate details. **An intuitive understanding of what the paper does is all you need.**
 - **Summary & Discussion:** You won't get around the need to be selective about which aspects of the paper(s) you want to incorporate in your essay. If you want to summarise a paper of, say, 30 pages in 1-2 pages, there may be sections that you won't mention at all. Focus

on those that (a) capture the essence of the paper and (b) that you want to discuss in relation to some aspects of the *Insurance Economics* course. Which sections those are, is your decision. The goal is to have a concise, coherent, and well-flowing essay. Sometimes less is more.

3. When **summarising the paper(s)**, make sure to do this **in your own words**. Try to understand the essence of the paper and summarize it by creating your own structure and wording. You must **avoid close paraphrasing** (selectively rewriting parts of the original source while keeping the original structure intact). This would amount to poor academic misconduct, bordering on plagiarism.
4. Don't get too worked up about the 'essay' part of the assignment. Just approach it like an exam question, the only difference being you need to first read one (or two) unknown paper(s) (where the reading part will in all likelihood take up more of your time than the writing part). So don't waste your time on creating a 'nice essayistic' writing style. Concentrate on giving a factually correct (and concise!) summary of the paper(s) you are given and relating it to the course contents. **Linguistic finish is not the key to success for this assignment.**
 - You can write the essay in either **English or German**. Whichever is easier for you.
5. Please refer to the **official communication by the University** when it comes to the **submission of the essays**, (deadline, submission link, etc.)

Best of luck!