

METHODS OF TEACHING THE “ECONOMIC THEORY”

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Abstract: The article is devoted to the methodology of teaching the discipline "Economic Theory" in higher education institutions. Modern approaches, innovative technologies and methodological recommendations that contribute to improving the quality of teaching and assimilation of material by students are considered. Particular attention is paid to interactive teaching methods, the use of cases, role-playing games, and the use of digital technologies. The author emphasizes the importance of integrating theoretical knowledge with practical skills necessary for the training of highly qualified specialists.

Keywords: economic theory, teaching methods, interactive learning, case method, digital technologies, higher education.

Teaching economic theory in higher education institutions is an important component of training specialists in the field of economics, management and finance. The discipline "Economic Theory" forms students' basic knowledge about the principles of the functioning of the economy, the main economic processes and patterns. The effectiveness of teaching this discipline directly depends on the methods used, which make the learning process more interesting, meaningful and productive. The theoretical foundations of the teaching methods of "Economic Theory" are based on the following principles:

- The principle of systematicity. Teaching should cover the interrelated aspects of micro- and macroeconomics, providing a holistic understanding of economic processes.
- The principle of practical orientation. Knowledge should be applicable in real economic situations, which contributes to the formation of professional skills.
- The principle of interdisciplinarity. Economic theory is closely related to mathematics, statistics, law and sociology, which requires an integrated approach to teaching.

Modern approaches to teaching economic theory:

Lecture-seminar system: the classical form of education, including lectures and seminars, remains relevant. However, lectures are becoming more interactive through the use of multimedia presentations, data visualization and engaging students in discussions. Seminars allow you to consolidate the material studied through case discussions, problem solving and group projects.

Interactive teaching methods are becoming a key tool in teaching economic theory. Among the most effective methods are:

- Case method. Students analyze real economic situations, proposing their solutions and arguing them. This develops analytical thinking and the ability to make decisions under conditions of uncertainty.
- Role-playing games. Participants act as various economic agents (entrepreneurs, consumers, regulators), which allows them to understand in practice the mechanisms of market functioning.

- Business games. They simulate real economic processes, such as company management, participation in tenders, or the formation of a state budget.

Problem-based learning is based on posing problematic questions to students that require a comprehensive analysis and justification of solutions. For example, discussing the consequences of the central bank's monetary policy or assessing the impact of taxation on the behavior of economic agents.

The use of digital technologies opens up new opportunities for teaching economic theory. Among the tools used are:

- Online platforms. Services like Moodle or Google Classroom help organize access to educational materials, tests, and assignments.
- Spreadsheets and modeling programs. For example, Microsoft Excel or STATA are used for data analysis and econometric modeling.
- Videos and podcasts. Supplement lecture material by providing examples from real-life practice.
- Virtual simulations. Allow students to explore economic processes in a simulation environment.

Collaborative learning, which involves students working together on projects or solving problems. Collaborative learning develops teamwork, communication, and critical thinking skills. For example, students can work together to develop business plans, conduct economic research, or analyze global economic trends. Such interactions promote deeper learning and knowledge sharing between participants. Problems and Challenges in Teaching Economic Theory Despite the diversity of methods, teaching economic theory faces a number of problems:

- Lack of practice-oriented materials. Textbooks often focus on theory, without including examples from real economics.
- Difficulty in understanding abstract concepts. Many topics (for example, general equilibrium theory) require visualization and additional explanations.
- Time constraints. The curriculum does not always allow for a deep study of all aspects of the discipline.
- Different levels of student preparation. This requires an individual approach and adaptation of materials.

Recommendations for improving teaching methods To improve the quality of teaching economic theory, the following can be recommended:

- Developing case studies. Creating localized examples based on the economy of a specific region will help students better understand the material.
- Integrating theory and practice. Including invited experts from business and government agencies to conduct lectures and seminars.
- Using hybrid learning. A combination of traditional and online methods to provide access to educational resources.
- Regularly updating teaching materials. Incorporating relevant data, analytical reports, and research into the learning process.

The methodology of teaching economic theory plays a key role in developing students' fundamental knowledge and skills necessary for successful professional activity. The use of modern technologies, interactive methods and a practice-oriented approach makes learning more effective and interesting. In the context of digitalization and globalization, it is important to adapt educational programs to the changing requirements of the labor market, ensuring high quality training of specialists.

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