

ECONOMICS COURSE DESCRIPTIONS FOR SPRING 2008

The following course descriptions give the number and title of each course. Lecture hours per week, laboratory and/or tutorial hours per week, and credits each semester are in parentheses. The instructor's name, as available, is also included.

10010/20010 Principles of Micro Economics

(3-0-3)

MWF 9:35-10:25 Warnecke; MWF 10:40-11:30 Warnecke; MWF 11:45-12:35 Rakowski; MWF 12:50-1:40 Basu; MWF 1:55-2:45 Basu, Hungerman; MWF 3:00-3:50 Kim; TR 9:30-10:45 Doran, Gresik; TR 2:00-3:25 Gresik

An introduction to economics, with particular attention to the pricing mechanism, competitive and monopolistic markets, government regulation of the economy, labor-management relations and programs, income determination and public policy, trade and the international economy.

100200/20020 Principles of Macro Economics

(3-0-3)

TR 9:30-10:45 Lee; TR 11:00-12:15 Lee; TR 2:00-3:15 Ros; TR 3:30-4:45 Ros

A continuation of introduction to economics with emphasis on the measurement of national economic performance, alternative explanations of short-run economic fluctuations and long-run economic growth, money and credit, fiscal and monetary policy.

13181 Social Science University Seminar (Freshman Only)

(3-0-3)

TR 2:00-3:15 Kim; T R 12:30 - 1:45 Leahy

Economics sections will deal with different aspects of economic analysis and policy issues. The focus will be on understanding how economists think about theoretical issues and how they apply their analytical tools to real-world economic problems and policies. No background in economics is assumed.

30010 Intermediate Micro Theory

(3-0-3)

TR 12:30- 1:45 Sullivan; MWF 1:55-2:45 Rakowski

An examination of the language and analytical tools of microeconomics, emphasizing the functional relationship between the factor and product markets and resource allocation.

30020 Intermediate Macro Theory

(3-0-3)

MW 1:30-2:45 Dutt; TR 9:30-10:45

An intensive examination of Macroeconomics with particular reference to the determination of economic growth, national income, employment and the general price level.

30220 Marxian Economics

(3-0-3)

TR 2:00-3:15 Ruccio

An introduction to Marxian economic analysis. Topics include the differences between mainstream and Marxian economics, general philosophy and methodology, Marxian value theory, and critical appraisals and current relevance of Marx's "critique of political economy."

30260 Political Economy of Development

(3-0-3)

TR 11:00-12:15 Kim

The course is divided into two parts. The first part provides an overview of the institutional and empirical features of the developing world, followed by a survey and critical evaluation of the conventional development theories. The second part looks into the selected topics evoking the critical, controversial stakes in Third World development debates today. The topics include; rent-seeking activities, land tenure and peasantry, micro-financing, corporate governance, failed state and market failure, market and democracy, income-distribution and poverty, feminism in development, ethnic conflicts in resource use, and population pressures. The approach taken in this course is a political-economy perspective with references to the historical, cross-cultural, and empirical materials. The course aims at providing the students with intellectual spaces for alternative development paradigms and strategies. Where appropriate, the tools used in economic analysis will be reviewed at an elementary and accessible level.

30330 Statistics for Economics

(3-0-3)

MW 11:45-1:00 Betson; MW 1:30-2:45 Kim

This course seeks to introduce the student to the principles of probability and statistical theory appropriate for the study of economics. The emphasis of the course will be on hypothesis testing and regression analysis

30331 Econometrics

(3-0-3)

MW 1:30-2:45 Buckles

Provides students with an understanding of when and how to use basic econometric methods in their work as an economists, including the ability to

recognize which econometric technique is appropriate in a given situation as well as what explicit and implicit assumptions are being made using the method. Topics covered include estimation and hypothesis testing using basic regression analysis, problems with basic regression analysis, alternative econometric methods, limited dependent variables, and simultaneous equation models.

33200 Introduction to Political Economy

(3-0-3)

TR 3:30-4:45 Ruccio

The course is an introduction to the "other" side of economics: heterodox economics or political economy. Political economy perspectives include Marxian, Post Keynesian, radical, institutionalist, feminist, and other approaches. The course will also investigate the theoretical and social consequences of different approaches, and how policies and institutional changes that promote social justice and human dignity can be formulated in our current economic environment.

33440 Collective Bargaining: Public

(3-0-3)

TR 9:30-10:45 Leahy

This course will examine the relevant state and federal laws covering the public-sector collective bargaining. It will examine the various issues and techniques covering collective bargaining in government. The major part of this course will be a game theory in which an actual contract will be bargained.

33480 Migration, Education, Assimilation: Three Forces

(3-0-3)

TR 2:00-3:15 Wozniak

This course uses the tools of economics to understand driving trends and episodes of migration, education, and assimilation throughout America's history. Readings will apply economic concepts in various historical contexts, from the settling of the country by Europeans to the present day. Examples of course topics include: the major waves of European migration to the U.S., including waves of Irish immigration; the development and rise of the high school in America; important trends in educational attainment particularly of women and minorities; the economic effects of Civil Rights legislation; and the English language only debate. Economics knowledge at the level of Principles of Microeconomics would be helpful but is not required. A research paper is required.

40280 Consumption and Happiness

(3-0-3)

MW 11:45-1:00 Dutt

Do increases in consumption increase happiness? This course will look at the available evidence which suggests that happiness does not increase with consumption and income for people beyond a point, by their own reckoning. It will examine why this may be so, looking especially at the idea that happiness from consumption depends on not the amount we consume but rather on the amount we consume relative to others. It will also examine how increases in consumption can adversely affect other things many people think are important - including time with family and friends, the environment, economic growth, and income distribution.

40361 Federal Reserve Policy

(3-0-3)

2 credits

TBA Bonello

An in-depth analysis of Federal Reserve Open Market Committee policy actions. Students must participate in college Fed Challenge competition.

40400 Advanced Labor Economics

(3-0-3)

TR 3:30-4:45 Sullivan

This class presents a detailed exposition of neoclassical labor market theory and empirical research in labor economics. Topics include the determinants of labor supply and demand, occupational and educational choice, mobility, wage dispersion, and discrimination. Students will use the econometric methods introduced in ECON 30331 to analyze the effects that policies have on worker behavior and labor market outcomes. Policies that will be examined include the minimum wage, welfare reform, affirmative action, education policy, and income redistribution policies.

40570 Economics of the Law

(3-0-3)

MW 3:00-4:15 Betson

This course will introduce students to the economics analysis of our legal framework pertaining to property, contract and tort law. Additional topics will include an examination of the legal process and the relationship between crime and punishment.

40700 International Economics

(3-0-3)

MWF 1:55-2:45 Rakowski

A study of the general theory of international trade; the pattern of trade, gains from trade, tariffs, trade and special interest groups, trade and growth, foreign exchange markets, balance-of-payment problems, and plans for monetary reform.

43202 Political Economy of Globalization

(3-0-3)

TR 11:00-12:15 Wolfson

Reviews key economic concepts and methods relevant for peace research, and examines the relation between political economy issues and war and peace. It examines the political economy of the causes of war, including the roles of arms races, poverty, inequality, ethnicity, natural resources, the environment, and globalization. It explores the economic consequences of war and military expenditures, including those on human development indicators and economic growth. Finally, it discusses the political economy of the prevention of conflict and of post-war reconstruction. For Kroc M.A. students; others by permission only. Spring (CORE)

43290 The Politics of Science

(3-0-3)

TR 6:30-8:30 Mirowski

The purpose of this course is to explore a topic that is often dealt with only obliquely in the history and philosophy of science: the dual ideas that in some eras, politics has a direct impact on the process and outputs of science, and that science may perform a role in certain political movements and structures. We begin in the early 20th century with the two phenomena of the Soviet Revolution and the collapse of Weimar, and explore how these both were justified/blamed on the progress of science. Next, we survey the contrasting positions of J.D. Bernal and Michael Polanyi, as representations of the 'left' planning orientation and the birth of 'neoliberalism.' This leads into a section on treatments of the different meanings of 'liberty' in the postwar era. We will also briefly survey the effect of science studies on this discussion, for Ezrahi, to Latuour to modern controversies over whether 4S should remain 'neutral' in its stance. We wind up with modern arguments over whether science has been 'perverted' in recent political developments, for the Sound Science movement to the attempt to turn stem cells into a partisan issue.

43961 Econ Honors Program Seminar

1 Credit

T 5:00-6:15 Jensen

This seminar provides instructional support for economics majors completing the undergraduate economics honors program. It also provides a venue where honors program students present progress reports on their senior honors essays to their peers at regular intervals. The seminar is graded on a satisfactory/unsatisfactory basis and may be taken twice.