ECON2000  State of Affordable Housing  
R. Van Meter

Prerequisites: ECON1131

How does housing affect the lives of Americans? Where you live determines your access to schools, quality of healthcare, fresh food, clean air, parks & recreation, affordable credit, and even how long you are likely to live. This course explores concepts of housing policy and planning at the national, state, and local levels. It examines programs and policies used to subsidize housing for millions of Americans and help them gain access to a decent place to live. Topics will be considered from multiple perspectives including housing finance, design, community planning, inequality, operations, management, and sustainability. We will explore the historical and economic context of US housing and discuss the barriers that low-income families face that affects their access to decent housing. The course will be divided into three sections: history, policies, and today’s issues. Students will explore some of the most recently developed programs and how they fit into effective community revitalization. These programs will be evaluated in class discussions and group presentations. Restriction—Sophomores only.

ECON2209  Sports Economics  
Martin Konan

Prerequisites: ECON1131, ECON1151

This course will develop fundamental economic concepts in the context of the sports industry. Students will apply economic theory to various aspects of both collegiate and professional sports. Topics include (but are not limited to) wage discrimination in sports, alumni giving and collegiate athletics, academics and collegiate athletics, sports rights and broadcasting, sports and gambling, salary caps, revenue sharing, insurance contracts, expansion and stadium/arena financing.

ECON2211  Math for Economic Analysis  
Bruce Watson

Prerequisites: ECON1131

Assuming only high school algebra, the course develops all of the main mathematical tools used in modern economics. Students will learn the skills necessary to do well in subsequent economics courses, such as Micro Theory (ECON2201) and Macro Theory (ECON2202), as well as advanced electives, such as Game Theory in Economics (ECON3308) and Financial Economics (ECON3379). Those who have completed Multivariate Calculus (Math 2202) should not take this course.

Beginning with applications of standard algebra to economics, the course looks at partial and general equilibrium and comparative statics. Topics subsequently explored include linear algebra (matrices and vectors), and applications of univariate (single-variable) calculus to economics. Multivariate calculus is covered next, with applications to consumer theory of the firm. Finally, unconstrained and constrained optimization is covered, including techniques such as the Lagrange multiplier and Jacobian matrices. Applications and examples are drawn from practical problems in economics and business. Throughout the course, an emphasis is placed on combining intuition with rigor—the math is used to provide a more rigorous analysis of the intuitive understanding students acquired in their principles of economics courses. Restriction—Freshmen and sophomores only.
ECON2212 Geographic Info Systems for Planning and Decision  Will Cohen
Prerequisites: ECON1131

Large quantities of information are available to describe our social and physical environment with high detail, but making sense of this data requires specialized skill sets. Geographic Information Systems (GIS) is a general approach to analysis and is a powerful set of tools for understanding complex problems or for making a compelling argument about issues grounded in the physical or social environment. It is widely used in the public and private sectors. This course will introduce students to the use of GIS and representation as a means of looking at and representing spatial data. Students will learn how to perform the three broad steps of spatial analysis: 1) collecting and organizing data, 2) analyzing this data for appropriate patterns, and 3) using software to represent data on maps to support decision making.

ECON2242 Public Policy in an Aging Society  Matthew Rutledge
Prerequisites: ECON1131

We live in a rapidly aging nation. In two decades, the age distribution of the US will look like that of Florida today. We will analyze the underlying demographic trends, the economic status of the aged, the fiscal challenge of an aging society, public policies (especially social insurance) designed to assist older Americans, the impact of public policy on individual behavior, and proposals for reform.

ECON2261 Money, Banking, and Financial Markets  Hossein Kazemi
Prerequisites: ECON1131 and ECON1132
Not open to students who have completed ECON3361; cannot be taken concurrently with ECON3361.

This course deals with topics such as significance and functions of money in the economy, behavior of interest rates, banking and management of financial institutions, central banking and the conduct of monetary policy, Federal Reserve System, financial derivatives, money market, foreign exchange market, and the international financial system.

ECON2273 Development Economics  Deepak Joglekar
Prerequisites: ECON1131, ECON1132, and ECON1151
Not open to students who have completed ECON3374
+ Fulfills cultural diversity core requirement.

This course considers what we know about developing countries, and applies economic theory to help us understand the constraints of poverty. We will describe the economies of less developed countries and the lives of the poor, focusing on changes in poverty, inequality, demography, and health. We will consider theories and evidence for why some countries are rich and others poor. We will examine how land, labor, and credit markets function in poor countries and communities, and the consequences for health, education, and child labor. We will consider migration and its consequences. Finally, we will discuss aid and the international institutions.
ECON2277  Environmental Economics & Policy  Richard Sweeney
Prerequisites: ECON1131
This course provides an introduction to the economics of environmental policy. We begin by examining market failures from externalities and public goods. We then discuss public policy options to correct these failures, and develop tools to assess the costs and benefits of each approach. With this framework in place, the remainder of the course is spent evaluating past efforts to conserve land and improve air and water quality, before concluding with an extensive discussion about global climate change policy.

ECON2871  Industrialization & Democratization in Korea  Ingu Hwang
This introductory course surveys the political and economic transformation of South Korea from decolonization through the high growth era to today's global neo-liberal age. It traces how a war-ravaged country became a prosperous and industrialized nation. In exploring this transformation, it also examines the relationship between Korea's industrialization and its democratization: How did US Cold War modernization impact the Korean state's economic strategy and it's political development? Why and how did Korean society campaign for social and political justice during the economic high growth era? The course also considers the reconfiguration of South Korea's political economy since the 1990s.

ECON3305  Market Design  Bumin Yenmez
Prerequisites: ECON2201 or ECON2203, and ECON1151
This is an introductory-level course on market design. It aims to provide students with fundamental concepts of matching and allocation problems without money as well as auctions. The focus of the course is both introducing students to the market design theory as well as exploring real-life applications such as on-campus housing, school choice, kidney exchange, search engine auctions, and spectrum auctions. Some knowledge of statistics and calculus is required for the theoretical part. Students will be required to write a final paper and do an in-class presentation.

ECON3308  Game Theory in Economics  Tayfun Sonmez
Prerequisites: ECON2201 or ECON2203
Game Theory is the social science that analyzes how to think (and act) strategically in interactive situations. This course presents Game Theory with its applications to the real world situations.

ECON3315  Economics of Immigration  Miguel Matamoros
Prerequisites: ECON2201 or ECON2203
This course is an upper level elective. A basic understanding of statistics and econometrics will be helpful, but is not required. This course will examine the economic decisions of migrants and their impacts on both destination and origin economies. It will emphasize the effect of immigration on wage distribution, labor market efficiency, and innovation, and will consider current public policy issues such as border control, visa allocation, and refugee admission.
ECON3331 Distributive Justice Uzi Segal
The course will deal with the allocation of goods and rights when markets cannot or should not be used. Topics covered will include measurement of utility, bargaining, utilitarianism, non-utilitarian social welfare functions, social and individual preferences for randomization, ex-ante and ex-post analysis of social welfare, equality, the trolley problem, and the creation of social groups. The course will cover both the formal literature as well as some of the relevant philosophical and legal literature.

ECON3338 Law and Economics Robert Pritchard
Prerequisites: ECON2201 or ECON2203
In this course we utilize microeconomic analysis to evaluate the “performance” of legal institutions, with particular attention to the issue of economic efficiency. We will focus on questions in the common law fields of property, torts, and contracts (and in the theory and practice of criminal law if time permits).

ECON3356 Industrial Organization for Business Decisions Bruce Watson
Prerequisites: ECON2201 or ECON2203
We study the behavior of firms and the structure of industries, applying game theory to understand the strategic interaction of firms when the assumptions of perfect competition break down. The course combines theoretical micro-economic analyses with studies of actual firm behavior in individual industries. Topics include pricing, game theory, collusion, outsourcing, auctions, and adverse selection. The course will incorporate insights from developments in behavioral economics and consider regulation for consumer protection.

ECON3361 Monetary Theory & Policy Hossein Kazemi
Prerequisites: ECON2202 or ECON2204 and ECON2228
This course is an analysis of the operation and behavior of financial markets and financial institutions. Emphasis is placed on financial intermediaries, including commercial banks, and the central bank. The money supply process and alternative theories of the demand for money are considered, as well as their implications for monetary policy and macroeconomic performance.

ECON3363 Micro Public Policy Issues Joe Quinn
#Enrollment limited; significant writing/research component.
Prerequisites: ECON2201 or ECON2203
This is a seminar on the economic analysis of current microeconomic public policy issues. During the first half of the course, students will read and discuss articles on selected topics (from the syllabus), and prepare first drafts of papers on topics of their own choice. The second half of the course will be run like a professional economics conference. Students will read and critique others’ papers, present their own drafts to the class, and then revise their own papers on the basis of the comments received.
ECON3365 Public Finance  Mark Kazarosian
Prerequisites: ECON2201 or ECON2203
This is a course in the microeconomics of the public sector. We will discuss the rationale for the government's role in a market economy, major expenditure programs, and the theory and structure of the tax system. The focus will be on the federal (as opposed to state and local) government's expenditure and tax programs, with special attention given to topics of current concern.

ECON3367 American Economic Policy  Nancy Kimelman
Prerequisites: ECON2201 and ECON2202
This course allows students the opportunity to apply macroeconomic and microeconomic techniques and models to issues of current importance. Although the choice of topics is based on the interests of the students present, typically the course covers the economic effects of immigration, changes in the minimum wage, negative interest rate policies, fiscal challenges of the federal government, Social Security reform, income inequality, and trade.

ECON3371 International Trade  Danial Lashkari
Prerequisites: ECON2201 or ECON2203
Not open to students who have taken ECON2271
This course is an analysis of the foundations of trade and the principle of comparative advantage leading to a sophisticated study of protectionism. Current U.S. protectionist issues will be illuminated, as well as economic warfare, control of international factor movements, and interaction of trade and economic development.

ECON3372 International Finance  Christopher McHugh
Prerequisites: ECON 2201 and ECON2202
International financial markets, international trade and balance of payments issues will be studied by using analytical models of the open economy. Topics of particular interest are exchange rate determination, capital flows, trade flows, and other international linkages between economies. The course will apply the analytical tools of international economics to address macroeconomic aspects of current policy issues such as the global impact of the financial crisis, exchange rate policy, sovereign debt crises, and persistent trade deficits and international indebtedness.

ECON3373 Impact Evaluation in Developing Countries  Paul Cichello
#Enrollment limited; significant writing/research component.
Prerequisites: ECON2201 or ECON2203, ECON2228
This course reviews advanced econometric techniques and research designs used to estimate the causal effect of programs or policies implemented in developing countries. Fixed effects, difference-in-difference, instrumental variable, and propensity score methods are discussed as are regression discontinuity, natural experiment, and randomized experiment designs. The economic rationale for such programs is also addressed. Topic areas include health, education, service delivery, insurance, and micro-finance.
ECON3374  Development Economics and Policy  S. Anukriti
#Enrollment limited; significant writing/research component.
+ Fulfills cultural diversity core requirement.
Prerequisites: ECON2201 or ECON2203, ECON1151
This course examines development economics and development policy. The purpose is to understand the lives of the poor and the economies of poor countries in order to understand what, if anything, can be done to improve their lives. We will consider what might be holding the poor back including population growth, lack of education, poor health, corruption, and institutional impediments such as poorly developed or tightly constrained markets. This course is appropriate for economics majors as well as for majors in international studies with the appropriate prerequisites.

ECON3376  International Economic Relations  Jim Anderson
Prerequisites: ECON 2201 and ECON2202
This course introduces the study of economic relations among countries. It combines material contained in ECON3371 and ECON3372, and substitutes for both those courses. Primarily designed for international studies majors, it is also appropriate for economics and other social science majors, with the proviso that the comprehensive coverage of the course implies that the workload is heavy and expectations for students are high. Topics include the determinants of trade in goods, services, and capital; the economic policies that nations use to influence such trade; the theory and practice of international macroeconomics; and problems of coordinating macroeconomic policies among countries. The course features the usefulness (and limitations) of game theory for explaining international economic interactions.

ECON3379  Financial Economics  Peter Ireland
Prerequisites: MATH1100, MATH1102, or MATH1105; ECON2201 or ECON2203; ECON1151 or ECON1155; and ECON2228
This undergraduate elective focuses on financial economics, with specific emphasis on asset pricing and the valuation of risky cash flows. After developing and studying the details of consumer decision-making under uncertainty, it uses that general framework as a basis for understanding both equilibrium and no-arbitrage theories of securities pricing, including the capital asset pricing model (CAPM), the consumption capital asset pricing model (CCAPM), Arrow-Debreu theories, martingale pricing methods, and the arbitrage pricing theory (APT).

ECON3382  Introduction to Computational Investing  Tzuo-Hann Law
Mandatory two-hour lab required with course, which meets W 7-9.
In this course, students develop skills automate an investment strategy. The first third of the course covers programming skills (Python), market structure, and portfolio evaluation. The second third covers optimization and commonly used strategies. In the final third, we cross-evaluate student projects and discuss theory behind applications. Students work on a group project after the first third of the course. By the end of the course, successful students are able to write and evaluate fully functional programs on an online trading platform. This is not a course that promotes quantitative investing. It is an immersion to acquire the
universally useful skills required to automate investments. The lab session is mandatory. Course offered in the Fall only. Sophomores and juniors are highly encouraged to take this course. If the course is full, simply show up in class and the instructor will sort things out. There are no formal requirements.

ECON3394 Urban Economics  Robert Pritchard
Prerequisites: ECON 2201
This course deals with the economy of cities. The subjects treated are location and land use, urban transportation, housing, and local taxation and provision of public services. While the emphasis of the lectures will be on theory, there will be some discussion of public policy. Also, all students must write a field essay which entails applying urban economic theory to some aspect of the Boston urban scene.

#Enrollment limited; significant writing/research component.
+Fulfills cultural diversity core requirement.

For up-to-date information on Economics course offerings, please see http://www.bc.edu/economics