ECON2206 Real Estate and Urban Action  
Neil McCullagh

The only prerequisite is an interest in any facet of real estate and urban action. Given the multidisciplinary tasks required to create viable communities, students from all schools at Boston College are welcome to participate.

Real Estate and Urban Action is a class in which students explore the interdisciplinary fields that are engaged in neighborhood revitalization. The course uses the transformation of the failed Columbia Point housing project (Dorchester, MA) into Harbor Point, a successful mixed income neighborhood, as a core teaching case study, highlighting how successful redevelopment addresses the social and economic needs of community residents. Classes include guest lectures from developers, public planning officials, and supportive services experts on the social, cultural, and political factors critical to transforming distressed neighborhoods into safe and economically viable neighborhoods. It is a practical course, in which students gain experience through field trips and interactions with real estate and supportive services professionals, culminating in a team neighborhood transformation proposal.

ECON2211 Math for Economic Analysis  
Bruce Watson

Prerequisites: ECON1131 or ECON1101

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 (MATH2202) 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 introductory linear algebra (matrices and vectors), and applications of univariate (single-variable) calculus to economics. Multivariate calculus is covered next, with applications to consumer theory and the 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.

ECON2212 Geographic Info Systems for Planning and Decision  
Will Cohen

Prerequisites: ECON1131 or ECON1101

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.
ECON2229 Economic and Business Forecasting  Richard McGowan, S.J.  
Prerequisites: ECON1151, MATH1100  
Course is open only to economics majors, economics minors, and CSOM economic concentrators.  
The theory and practice of applied time series analysis will be explored. First the different segments (trend, seasonality, cyclical, and irregular) of a time series will be analyzed by examining the Autocorrelation functions (ACF) and Partial Autocorrelation functions (PACF). The specifics model to model the various types of time series include linear regression, panel regression, seasonal decomposition, exponential smoothing, ARIMA modeling as well as combining models. This course is offered as an online hybrid course. In addition to the online lectures presented on the Canvas LMS, there are three required on-campus class meetings on Saturday mornings. Please see the course syllabus for additional details.

ECON2242 Public Policy in an Aging Society  Matthew Rutledge  
Prerequisites: ECON1131 or ECON1101  
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.

ECON2277 Environmental Economics and Policy  Richard Sweeney  
Prerequisites: ECON1131 or ECON1101  
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.

ECON2278 Environmental Economics  Gokce Olcum  
Prerequisites: ECON1131 or ECON1101  
The course will examine different aspects of natural resource allocation and the protection of environmental quality from an economic standpoint, including: specific areas of market failure, the allocation of public goods, the estimation of non-market values, public policy avenues for influencing natural resource management, and ethical issues in natural resource management.

ECON3305 Market Design  Mehmet B. Yenmez  
Prerequisites: ECON2201 or ECON2203, 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  Vera Sharunova  
Prerequisites: ECON2201 or ECON2203  
This course is an introduction to game theory. Game theory consists of a coherent set of concepts and

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*Fulfills cultural diversity core requirement.  
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analytical tools to examine interactive or strategic situations between people, that is, situations where the well being of one actor depends not only what s/he does but also on what others do. Hence in deciding how best to act, each person needs to consider how others are likely to act as well. Game theory has become a widely used tool of analysis in a wide range of disciplines, including economics, business, political science, law, and international relations.

**ECON3317 Economics of Inequality**  
*Geoffrey Sanzenbacher*  
*Prerequisites: ECON2201 or ECON2203, ECON2228*

The course will provide both a theoretical and empirical analysis of economic inequality. This will include analysis and discussion of recent trends in inequality and an examination of the economic causes and consequences of inequality. Specific attention will be paid to the difference between inequality of economic outcomes (e.g., employment status, earnings, and occupation) and inequality of economic opportunity. The course will also touch on economic policy, including discussions of programs designed to combat inequality of outcomes, like welfare and food stamps, as well as those designed to combat inequality of opportunity, like Head Start.

**ECON3324 Money and Financial Markets**  
*Hossein Kazemi*  
*Prerequisites: ECON2202 or ECON2204, ECON2228*

*Not open to students who have completed ECON3361.* This course covers topics such as the significance and multiple functions of money in the economy, the behavior of interest rates, the banking system, financial markets, and the management of financial institutions. This course further covers the Federal Reserve System and the conduct of monetary policy, different asset classes, the foreign exchange market, and the international financial system. There is a heavy emphasis on use of market data and the analysis of economic releases—earnings reports, government policy statements, etc.—to provide a comprehensive introduction to the subject. Moreover, through an extensive use of Bloomberg in this class students learn how to access and analyze data and economic releases to provide a window into how modern practitioners in the discipline analyze financial markets.

**ECON3331 Distributive Justice**  
*Uzi Segal*  
*Prerequisites: ECON2201 or ECON2203*

The course will analyze modern analysis of justice and fairness. We will discuss bargaining situations and social choice questions. Part of the course will be devoted to the recent experimental literature regarding fairness. Limited enrollment (12). Significant writing/research component. This course requires a strong conceptual understanding of Micro Theory.

**ECON3340# Labor Economics**  
*Mark Kazarosian*  
*Prerequisites: ECON2201 or ECON2203, ECON2228*

This course will introduce students to the methodology of labor economics from both institutional and neoclassical perspectives. The principal emphasis will be on neoclassical theory and empirical work dealing with the supply and demand for labor; the operation of the labor market; the determination of wages; and the impact of trade unions and collective bargaining. Special emphasis will be placed on applications of theory and empirical findings to policy questions.

**ECON3353 Industrial Organization –Competition and Antitrust**  
*Charles Murry*  
*Prerequisites: ECON2201 or ECON2203*

This course is an economic analysis of market outcomes when firms are imperfectly competitive. We will consider the consequences of imperfect competition on market performance. We will analyze such issues as oligopoly behavior, collusion, mergers and takeovers, advertising, product differentiation, price discrimination, entry and entry deterrence, innovation and patents, and antitrust law.
ECON3354# Advertising and Media Markets: Advance Research Methods  Julie Mortimer
Prerequisites: ECON2201 or ECON2203, ECON1151, ECON2228 (can be taken concurrently)
Extensive research project. This course develops advanced research methods to study the advertising and media markets. The goal of the course is to provide hands-on experience with advanced research methods, including the ability to analyze and critique previous research and to identify important research questions. The course is designed primarily for junior economics majors who are interested in writing a senior thesis, or for junior and senior economics majors anticipating quantitative work in economics or marketing after graduation. Methods that are taught include theoretical tools from industrial organization, such as game theoretic models of imperfect competition, pricing, and entry, as well as statistical and empirical methods of analysis using data on advertising and media programming choices. Questions addressed in the course include the following: What is the impact of advertising on product markets? How do advertisers compete for air time, both across and within industries?

ECON3356 Industrial Organization for Business Decisions  Michael Grubb
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, ECON2228
This course is an analysis of how the operation and behavior of financial markets are influenced by monetary policy, the actions taken by the Federal Reserve (the Fed) to promote full employment, price stability, and moderate long-term interest rates. Emphasis is placed on studying the interaction between financial intermediaries (e.g. commercial banks, investment banks, mutual funds, hedge funds, etc.) and a nation’s central bank. Students are introduced to the modern theories of the demand for and supply of money, as well as their implications for economic activity, the cost of living, employment, and the conduct of monetary policy. Particular emphasis is given to recent Fed policy, including Quantitative Easing and Quantitative Tightening and the impact of these policies on asset prices and long-term interest rates. Furthermore, through an extensive use of Bloomberg in this class students learn how to analyze the impact of these and other Fed policies on the U.S. economy and financial markets to provide a window into how modern practitioners in the discipline follow and respond to changes in U.S. monetary policy.

ECON3363# Micro Public Policy Issues  Joseph Quinn
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 / Christopher McHugh
Prerequisites: ECON2201 or ECON2203, may be taken concurrently
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

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+Fulfills cultural diversity core requirement.
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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.

**ECON3371 International Trade**

*Christofer McHugh*

*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**

*Brian Bethune*

*Prerequisites: ECON2202 or ECON2204, ECON2228*

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*

*Prerequisites: ECON2201 or ECON2203, ECON2228*

*Enrollment limited; significant writing/research component.*

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 microfinance.

**ECON3382 Introduction to Computational Investing**

*Tzuo Law*

*Mandatory two-hour lab required with course, which meets W 7-9 PM.*

In this course, students develop skills to 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. Please show up in class if you are interested but cannot register or do not meet the requirements. Traditionally, all interested students have been able to eventually register. 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. Juniors encouraged to enroll.

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