

**DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS
COURSE OFFERINGS--FALL 2017**

ECON2206 Real Estate and Urban Action

Neil McCullagh

Prerequisites: ECON1131, ECON1132

The course explores concepts of real estate and neighborhood revitalization, including the intersection of social, cultural, political, financial, and supportive-service factors critical to transforming distressed neighborhoods into safe, desirable neighborhoods. The course exposes students to practitioners, case studies, and learning by doing. Students will develop skills and knowledge in real estate development and neighborhood revitalization.

Classes include presentations by developers, community partners, public officials, and planners with “hands-on” experience transforming communities. The course includes two field trips that take place on Saturdays. The final is a neighborhood transformation plan in which students demonstrate understanding of course concepts and skills.

ECON2207 The Global Economy

Can Erbil

Prerequisites: ECON1131, ECON1132

This course aims to deepen your understanding of real world economic issues, while providing you with a stronger analytical base. We will focus on international trade theory and policy, and issues in international finance.

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.

ECON2242 Public Policy in an Aging Society

Matt 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
Nancy Kimelman**

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.

ECON2277 Environmental Economics and Policy

Richard Sweeney

Prerequisites: ECON1131

Not open to students who have completed ECON 2278, Environmental Economics

The 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.

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

Tayfun Sonmez

Prerequisites: ECON2201 or ECON2203

This course is an introduction to game theory. Game theory consists of a coherent set of concepts and 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.

ECON3312 Evolutionary Economics

Don Cox

Prerequisites: ECON2201 and ECON2228

The course uses evolutionary biology to better understand the psychology of preferences, a central concept in economics. Why are people risk averse? Impatient? What explains novelty-seeking habits, addictions? What makes parents provide for children? We will use evolutionary thinking to explore these and a host of other diverse topics: violence, adolescent risk taking, sexual behavior, mating preferences, marriage and divorce, rearing and investing in children, extended families, trade and specialization, cooperation and conflict, cults and gangs, religion, and interactions between genetic and cultural forces. This

course has an intensive research and writing requirement and enrollment is limited.
Prerequisites: Micro theory and econometrics. You should be comfortable using Stata.

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.

ECON3317 Economics of Inequality

Geoff Sanzenbacher

Prerequisites: ECON2201 or ECON2203

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.

ECON3327 Financial Econometrics

Kit Baum

Prerequisites: ECON2228 and Calculus I

This course extends ECON2228 to present panel data models, selected topics in time series analysis, and limited dependent variable models. Methods used in financial econometrics, such as rolling CAPM estimation, volatility estimation and event studies will be stressed. Examples and datasets are drawn from financial economics.

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. Significant writing/research component. **Please note this course requires a strong conceptual understanding of Micro Theory.**

ECON3340 Labor Economics

Mark Kazarosian

Prerequisites: ECON2201 or ECON2203

This course will introduce students to the methodology of labor economics from the neo-classical perspective. The principal emphasis will be on neo-classical 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.

ECON3354 Advertising and Media Markets: Advanced Research Methods
Julie Holland Mortimer

Prerequisites: ECON2201 and 1151. Econometrics required but may be taken concurrently

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
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 horizontal relationships and mergers, vertical integration and control through contractual arrangements, price discrimination, information and search costs, network externalities, collusion and anti-trust, and adverse selection. The course will incorporate insights from developments in behavioral economics and investigate the degree to which the market protects consumers from their own mistakes or could benefit from regulation to prevent exploitation.

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
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**Anthony Laramie
Mark Kazarosian**

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 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.

ECON3372 International Finance**Bruce Watson
Brian Bethune**

Prerequisites: ECON2201 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 interests 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 and ECON2228

The 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**Anukriti**

Prerequisites: ECON2201 and 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 examine various theories of why some countries and groups are rich while others are not, with emphasis on understanding what changes might occur to promote development. We will consider what might be holding the poor back including: lack of infrastructure and capital, population

growth, lack of education, poor health, corruption, and institutional impediments such as poorly developed or tightly constrained markets. We will examine different methods to evaluate the effects of a policy or program, and what we do, and do not, know about poverty. Students will write a paper which considers the research and economic reasoning for a particular program to help the poor by a government giving foreign aid, a developing country government, or an NGO. This course is appropriate for economics majors as well as for majors in international studies with the appropriate prerequisites.

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 Law

Prerequisites: ECON2201 (ECON2203), ECON2202 (ECON2204), and ECON2228
MUST ATTEND AND REGISTER FOR REQUIRED 2 HOUR LAB MONDAYS 6-8.

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-evalaute 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.

ECON3384 (Economic) Principles and Theory of Medical and Health Care

Martin Konan

Prerequisite: ECON2201 or ECON2203 and ECON1151

This course is designed to teach students how to use basic principles and theories of microeconomics and statistics when thinking about medical and health care issues. In the course, we will use these concepts to understand the demand for health care, the supply of health care, the health insurance market, and the role of the government in health policy. We will focus on the U.S. health care industry. The market structure and the conduct and performance of the sub-sectors that compose this industry will be covered. Private insurance, pharmaceuticals, physician services, hospital service and medical markets will be evaluated. Alternative health care systems will also be studied.

ECON3390 Applied Health Economics**Sam Richardson***Prerequisites: ECON2201 and ECON2228*

A perennial health policy debate concerns the proper role of government in the allocation of health care. The first fundamental theorem of welfare economics states that (under certain assumptions) markets result in efficient allocations, so one might expect most economists favor minimal government involvement in allocating health care. We will begin by studying economic theories about why health care markets may be inefficient, along with the empirical evidence regarding those theories. As the course progresses, our emphasis will shift: in groups, students will use publicly-available data to write and present a research paper investigating a policy-relevant health economics question.

#Enrollment limited; significant writing/research component.**+Fulfills cultural diversity core requirement.****For up-to-date information on Economics course offerings see <http://www.bc.edu/economics>**