ECONOMICS

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Economics is much broader than the study of recessions and inflation or stocks and bonds. Economists study decision making and incentives such as how taxes create incentives for labor market and savings behavior. Many current public policy debates concern questions of economics, including: causes and consequences of inequality and gender and racial wage gaps; how to address poverty; the impact of immigration and trade on the well-being of a country’s citizens; the cause of the Great Recession; and how to predict future downturns.

Those with economics training find employment in government agencies, nonprofits, and, of course, economic consulting and investment banking. In addition to pursuing advanced degrees in economics, economics majors also go on to do graduate work in law, medicine, and business.

INTRODUCTORY COURSES

Introductory courses in microeconomics, macroeconomics, and data analysis and econometrics serve students considering a major in Economics, as well as others who seek an introduction to the subject. ECON 115 is concerned with microeconomics and includes such topics as markets, prices, production, distribution, and the allocation of resources. ECON 116 covers such macroeconomic issues as unemployment, inflation, growth, and international economics. ECON 117 introduces students to basic aspects of working with data to answer economic questions, as well as to the fundamentals of statistical analysis. ECON 116 and 117 have microeconomics as a prerequisite. Despite the numbering, students may wish to take ECON 117 before or concurrently with ECON 116, as the data skills taught in ECON 117 may be helpful in ECON 116. ECON 115, 116, and 117 are lecture courses with accompanying discussion sections.

First-year students and sophomores looking for smaller, slightly more discussion-oriented versions of introductory microeconomics and macroeconomics may enter a lottery for admission to ECON 110 and 111. Those with little or no experience in calculus may be better served by ECON 108, which covers microeconomics with greater discussion of quantitative methods and examples. ECON 108, 110, and 115 are similar in substance; ECON 111 and 116 are similar in substance as well. A student may receive credit for only one course each in introductory microeconomics and introductory macroeconomics.

The department recommends that students interested in majoring in Economics take at least two introductory economics courses in the first year. In order to make the introductory courses available to all first-year students and to students majoring in other subjects, the introductory courses do not have a mathematics requirement.

PLACEMENT AND EXEMPTIONS FOR INTRODUCTORY COURSES

In the summer before they enter, all first-year students receive, through the University’s electronic bulletin board, a personalized recommendation for a first course in economics, based on application data and AP (or equivalent) exam scores. In general, students who receive a score of 5 on the Microeconomics or Macroeconomics AP exam and a score of 5 on the AP Calculus BC exam are allowed to place out of the corresponding introductory course and instead enroll in intermediate-level courses (ECON 121 or 125 for microeconomics, ECON 122 or 126 for macroeconomics). Students who have the requisite AP Economics score but not the corresponding AP Calculus score may take calculus (e.g., MATH 112, MATH 115, 118, or 120), and then place out of the corresponding introductory economics course. Students may substitute a score of 7 on the International Baccalaureate higher-level Economics examination or A on the GCE A-level Economics examination for AP test scores of 5 in economics. In addition, a score of 7 on the International Baccalaureate higher-level Mathematics examination or A on the GCE A-level Mathematics examination may be substituted for a qualifying AP Calculus score.

Because of its emphasis on data manipulation, the department recommends that even students with a background in statistics should begin their econometrics and data analysis training with ECON 117.

REQUIREMENTS OF THE MAJOR

Students majoring in Economics are required to take twelve term courses. Three of these are the introductory courses, one in microeconomics, one in macroeconomics, and one in data analysis and econometrics. All majors must take the following courses: one term of intermediate microeconomics (ECON 121 or 125) and one term of intermediate macroeconomics (ECON 122 or 126); and one Yale mathematics course, usually selected from MATH 112, 115, 118, or 120. ENAS 131 may also be used to meet the math requirement. The department recommends that students also take ECON 123, a course in econometrics and data analysis at the intermediate level. All of the aforementioned required courses should be completed prior to the senior year. Majors must also take two courses numbered ECON 400–491, at least one of which must be taken in the senior year.

Subject to approval by the director of undergraduate studies (DUS), students may count toward the major one course related to economics but taught in another field, in addition to the required course in mathematics.

Mathematics Students are advised to meet the mathematics requirement for the major during their first year. To fulfill the requirement, the department recommends that majors take MATH 118 or 120. Students who place out of these mathematics courses must take a higher-level mathematics course at Yale and should consult the DUS for help choosing a course. Students who intend to pursue
a graduate degree in economics should take additional math courses, including linear algebra (MATH 222 or 225) and real analysis (MATH 300 or 301).

Data analysis and econometrics Students are strongly advised to take a two-term sequence of data analysis and econometrics courses, especially if they are considering writing a senior essay or are interested in research experience on or off campus. The statistical analysis of economic data has become central to the work of economists, and the ability to analyze large data sets is a skill that will serve students in the job market both inside and outside of academia. Most students should take ECON 117, followed by 123. Students with a stronger mathematics background, who prefer a more theoretical treatment of the material or who plan to pursue a graduate degree in economics, are encouraged to take either ECON 135 or S&DS 241 and S&DS 242, followed by ECON 136. (Note: S&DS 241 and 242 together count as one course towards the economics major.) Prospective majors are urged to start their econometrics sequence by the fall of sophomore year.

Intermediate microeconomics and macroeconomics Two course options are available in both microeconomics and macroeconomics. The intermediate courses are numbered ECON 121 and 122. Students with a stronger mathematics background are encouraged to take ECON 125 and 126 instead. The intermediate courses need not be taken in sequence: in particular, ECON 125 is not required for 126.

Field courses The department offers a wide selection of upper-level courses that explore in greater detail material presented in introductory courses. Advanced fields of economics include theoretical, quantitative, and mathematical economics; market organization; human resources; finance; international and development economics; public policy and the public sector; health; labor; poverty; environmental economics; and economic history. Some field courses have no prerequisites or only introductory microeconomics as a prerequisite. Others apply intermediate-level theory or econometrics to economic problems and institutions, and for this reason list one or more of the theory or econometrics courses as prerequisites.

Advanced lecture courses Advanced lecture courses, generally numbered ECON 400–449, are limited-enrollment courses that cover relatively advanced material in more depth than regular field courses. Prerequisites usually include two of intermediate microeconomics, intermediate macroeconomics, and econometrics or a mathematics course such as MATH 120. Advanced lecture courses may be applied toward the senior requirement. While these courses vary in approach, they share features of other Economics courses: like field courses, they devote some time to traditional lecturing, and like seminars, they emphasize class interaction, the writing of papers, and the reading of journal articles.

Seminars Although there is diversity in approaches in the various seminars (courses generally numbered ECON 450–489), all have in common an emphasis on class interaction, the writing of papers, and the reading of journal articles. Seminars represent an opportunity for students to apply and extend the economics they have learned through their earlier coursework. Seminars may be applied toward the senior requirement.

Enrollment in seminars and advanced lecture courses is limited. Senior Economics majors who have not yet completed the senior requirement for the major are given priority for these courses and may preregister; see the department website for instructions. Students must take two of three core courses in intermediate microeconomics, intermediate macroeconomics, and econometrics before enrolling in a seminar. Other majors and nonmajors may enroll in Economics seminars and advanced lecture courses as space permits, but they may not preregister.

Distinction in the Major To be considered for Distinction, students must meet the appropriate grade standards as described in this bulletin under Honors and submit a senior essay to the Economics department. Students who fail to submit an essay will not be considered for Distinction. Grade computation for Distinction does not include the introductory economics courses, the required mathematics course, or courses taken outside Yale. Economics courses taken beyond the requirements of the major are counted toward the Distinction calculation.

Credit/D/Fail Courses taken Credit/D/Fail and residential college seminars may not be counted toward the requirements of the major.

Roadmap See visual roadmap of the requirements.
Note that the essay must be written during the senior year and that students may submit a senior essay only if they have an approved prospectus and a senior essay adviser. Senior essays that are not submitted on time will receive a grade of Incomplete. Senior essays with grades of Incomplete without permission of the residential college dean are subject to grade penalties when submitted.

Students are advised to complete a second semester of econometrics either before or concurrently with writing the senior essay; at least one of the two econometrics courses should include work in data analysis. Beginning with the class of 2021, students will not be allowed to write a senior essay without completing two semesters of econometrics.

Meetings for seniors to discuss the senior essay guidelines and requirements will be held on Tuesday, August 27, 2019, at 12:15 p.m. and Wednesday, August 28, 2019, at 4:00 p.m. in Rm. 106, 28 Hillhouse Ave. Senior essay prospectus forms are due Monday, September 30, 2019.

ADVISING
The Economics department has faculty representatives/advisers for each residential college, typically fellows of that college. Students majoring in economics should consult with and secure written approval of their course selection from one of their college representatives. Questions concerning the major or programs of study may also be directed to the college representative. College representatives can be found on the department website.

Transfer credits Students who take a term abroad or take summer courses outside of Yale may petition the DUS to count at most two courses from outside Yale toward the requirements of the major. Students who take a year abroad may petition to count at most three courses. Many economics courses taken outside Yale do not meet the requirements of the Economics major; students should consult with the DUS before taking such courses. Courses taken outside Yale may not be counted toward the major requirements in introductory microeconomics, introductory macroeconomics, intermediate microeconomics, intermediate macroeconomics, or econometrics. See the departmental website section on transferring credits.

Graduate courses Well-qualified students who have acquired the requisite background in undergraduate courses may, with written permission of the instructor, the DUS, and the director of graduate studies, be admitted to graduate courses and seminars. Descriptions of courses are available on the department website.

Students who are planning graduate work in economics should take additional mathematics courses beyond the one-term course required for the major. Many graduate programs in economics require courses in multivariate calculus, linear algebra, and real analysis. Please see the department website on PhD program preparation. Students are urged to discuss their plans for graduate work with the DUS as early in their college careers as possible.

REQUIREMENTS OF THE MAJOR
Prerequisites None
Number of courses 12 term courses (incl senior req)
Specific courses required ECON 121 or 125; and ECON 122 or 126; and ECON 117 or 131, 123, 132 or 136
Distribution of courses 3 introductory classes (or equivalents with DUS permission); 2 core courses (intermediate micro and intermediate macro); 1 math course; 4 electives
Substitution permitted 1 related course in another dept, with DUS approval
Senior requirement 2 courses numbered ECON 400–491, at least 1 in senior year, as indicated

FACULTY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS
Associate Professors Timothy Armstrong, Mitsuru Igami, Philipp Strack
Assistant Professors Eduardo Dávila, Jose-Antonio Espín-Sanchez, Mira Frick, John Eric Humphries, Zhen Huo, Ryota Iijima, Ilse Lindenlaub, Yusuke Narita, Cormac O’Dea, Michael Peters, Nicholas Ryan, Anna Sanktjohanser
Senior Lecturers Marnix Amand, Michael Boozer, Evangelia Chalioti, William Hawkins, Tolga Koker, Guillermo Noguera, Soenje Reiche, María Saez Martí
Lecturer Katerina Simons
Introductory Courses

* ECON 108a or b, Quantitative Foundations of Microeconomics  Tolga Koker  
Introductory microeconomics with a special emphasis on quantitative methods and examples. Intended for students with limited or no experience with calculus. Enrollment limited. Online preregistration is required; visit economics.yale.edu/undergraduate-program for more information. May not be taken after ECON 110 or 115.  QR, SO

* ECON 110a or b, An Introduction to Microeconomic Analysis  Staff  
Similar to ECON 115, but taught as a lecture discussion with limited enrollment. Enrollment limited to first-years and sophomores. Online preregistration is required; visit economics.yale.edu/undergraduate-program for more information. May not be taken after ECON 108 or 115.  QR, SO

* ECON 111a or b, An Introduction to Macroeconomic Analysis  Staff  
Similar to ECON 116, but taught as a lecture discussion with limited enrollment. Enrollment limited to first-years and sophomores. Online preregistration is required; visit economics.yale.edu/undergraduate-program for more information. May not be taken after ECON 116. Prerequisite: ECON 108, 110, or 115.  SO

* ECON 115a or b, Introductory Microeconomics  Staff  
An introduction to the basic tools of microeconomics to provide a rigorous framework for understanding how individuals, firms, markets, and governments allocate scarce resources. The design and evaluation of public policy. May not be taken after ECON 108 or 110.  QR, SO

ECON 116a or b, Introductory Macroeconomics  Staff  
An introduction that stresses how the macroeconomy works, including the determination of output, unemployment, inflation, interest rates, and exchange rates. Economic theory is applied to current events. May not be taken after ECON 111. Prerequisite: ECON 108, 110, or 115.  SO

ECON 117a or b, Introduction to Data Analysis and Econometrics  Staff  
Introduction to data analysis from the beginning of the econometrics sequence; exposure to modern empirical economics; and development of credible economic analysis. This course emphasizes working directly and early with data, through such economic examples as studies of environmental/natural resource economics, intergenerational mobility, discrimination, and finance. Topics include: probability, statistics, and sampling; selection, causation and causal inference; regression and model specification; and machine learning and big data. Prerequisites: ECON 108, 110, 115, or equivalent and familiarity with single variable calculus. Students who have taken ECON 131 may not receive major credit for this course.  QR, SO

Intermediate Courses

ECON 121a or b, Intermediate Microeconomics  Staff  
The theory of resource allocation and its applications. Topics include the theory of choice, consumer and firm behavior, production, price determination in different market structures, welfare, and market failure. After introductory microeconomics and completion of the mathematics requirement for the major or its equivalent. Elementary techniques from multivariate calculus are introduced and applied, but prior knowledge is not assumed. May not be taken after ECON 125.  QR, SO

ECON 122a or b, Intermediate Macroeconomics  Staff  
Contemporary theories of employment, finance, money, business fluctuations, and economic growth. Their implications for monetary and fiscal policy. Emphasis on empirical studies, financial and monetary crises, and recent policies and problems. After two terms of introductory economics and completion of the mathematics requirement for the major or its equivalent. May not be taken after ECON 126.  QR, SO

ECON 125a, Microeconomic Theory  Ryota Iijima  
Similar to ECON 121 but with a more intensive treatment of consumer and producer theory, and covering additional topics including choice under uncertainty, game theory, contracting under hidden actions or hidden information, externalities and public goods, and general equilibrium theory. Recommended for students considering graduate study in economics. After introductory economics, and MATH 118 or 120 or equivalent. May not be taken after ECON 121.  QR, SO

* ECON 126b, Macroeconomic Theory  Zhen Huo  
Similar to ECON 122 but with a more intensive treatment of the mathematical foundations of macroeconomic modeling, and with rigorous study of additional topics. Recommended for students considering graduate study in economics. After two terms of introductory economics, and MATH 118 or 120 or equivalent. May not be taken after ECON 122.  QR, SO

Data Analysis and Econometrics

ECON 123a or b, Intermediate Data Analysis and Econometrics  Staff  
Comprehensive and theoretical examination of econometrics, with further exploration of topics covered in ECON 117. A term research project addresses a research question chosen by the student, and involves the application of learned methods to a relevant data set. Prerequisites: ECON 108, 110, 115, or equivalent; ECON 117; and familiarity with single variable calculus.  QR, SO
ECON 135a, Introduction to Probability and Statistics  Timothy Armstrong
Foundations of mathematical statistics: probability theory, distribution theory, parameter estimation, hypothesis testing, regression, and computer programming. Recommended for students considering graduate study in economics. Prerequisites: Introductory microeconomics and MATH 118 or MATH 120 and MATH 222; or MATH 120 and MATH 225.  QR, SO

ECON 136b, Econometrics  Staff
Continuation of ECON 135 with a focus on econometric theory and practice: problems that arise from the specification, estimation, and interpretation of models of economic behavior. Topics include classical regression and simultaneous equations models; panel data; and limited dependent variables. Recommended for students considering graduate study in economics. Prerequisites: After ECON 135 or STAT 241 and 242. May not be taken concurrently with STAT 242.  QR, SO

Field Courses

ECON 159b, Game Theory  Benjamin Polak
An introduction to game theory and strategic thinking. Ideas such as dominance, backward induction, Nash equilibrium, evolutionary stability, commitment, credibility, asymmetric information, adverse selection, and signaling are applied to games played in class and to examples drawn from economics, politics, the movies, and elsewhere. After introductory microeconomics. No prior knowledge of game theory assumed.  QR, SO

ECON 170a, Health Economics and Public Policy  Howard Forman
Application of economic principles to the study of the U.S. health care system. Emphasis on basic principles about the structure of the U.S. system, current problems, proposed solutions, and the context of health policy making and politics. After introductory microeconomics.  SO

ECON 171b / AFAM 146b / EDST 271b, Urban Inequalities and Educational Inequality  Gerald Jaynes
Analysis of contemporary policy problems related to academic under performance in lower income urban schools and the concomitant achievement gaps among various racial and ethnic groups in United States K-12 education. Historical review of opportunity inequalities and policy solutions proposed to ameliorate differences in achievement and job readiness. Students benefit from practical experience and interdisciplinary methods, including a lab component with time spent in a New Haven high school. Prerequisites: Any course offered by Education Studies, or one course in history or any social science, either: Anthropology, Economics, Political Science, Psychology, Sociology. EDST 110 is preferred, although not required.  SO

ECON 182b / HIST 135b, American Economic History  Naomi Lamoreaux
The growth of the American economy since 1790, both as a unique historical record and as an illustration of factors in the process of economic development. The American experience viewed in the context of its European background and patterns of industrialization overseas. After introductory microeconomics.  SO

ECON 184b / GLBL 234b, International Economics  Peter Schott
Introduction to conceptual tools useful for understanding the strategic choices made by countries, firms, and unions in a globalized world. After two terms of introductory economics.  SO

ECON 186a, European Economic History, 1700–1815  Timothy Guinnane
European economic growth and development from the late seventeenth century through the first stages of the British industrial revolution. The role of institutional development, trade and imperialism, agricultural improvements, and industrialization. Particular attention to comparisons between Britain and other parts of Europe. After ECON 115 or 121, and ECON 116 or 122.  SO

ECON 214a, Financial Theory  John Geanakoplos
Study of the financial system as part of the global economy, rather than only the financial world. Topics include bond pricing, the capital asset pricing model, option pricing, the social security system, the mortgage market, hedge funds, collateral, default, and financial crises. Prerequisite: After introductory microeconomics.  QR, SO

ECON 225b, Financial Markets  Robert Shiller
An overview of the ideas, methods, and institutions that permit human society to manage risks and foster enterprise. Description of practices today and analysis of prospects for the future. Introduction to risk management and behavioral finance principles to understand the functioning of securities, insurance, and banking industries. After two terms of introductory economics.  SO

ECON 255a, Introduction to Corporate Finance  Michael Pascutti
Introduction to the concepts and techniques necessary to analyze and implement optimal investment decisions. Prerequisite: introductory microeconomics and introductory macroeconomics.  SO

ECON 301b, International Trade: Data and Analysis  Guillermo Noguera
The goal of this course is to provide students with rigorous theoretical and empirical tools to analyze questions of current interest in international trade. The emphasis is on applying economic concepts to international trade data, using both computable economic models and empirical regression methods. This course is primarily intended for junior and senior economics majors. Students benefit from having a background in MATH 118 or MATH 120, statistics/econometrics, and intermediate microeconomics. If you do not satisfy these requisites, instructor’s approval is necessary.  SO
ECON 325b / EP&E 321b / GLBL 322b / PLSC 185b / SAST 281b, Economics of Developing Countries: Focus on South Asia  Zachary Barnett-Howell
Analysis of current problems of developing countries. Emphasis on the role of economic theory in informing public policies to achieve improvements in poverty and inequality, and on empirical analysis to understand markets and responses to poverty. Topics include microfinance, education, health, agriculture, intrahousehold allocations, gender, and corruption. Prerequisites: introductory microeconomics and introductory econometrics.  SO

ECON 330a / EVST 340a, Economics of Natural Resources  Robert Mendelsohn
Microeconomic theory brought to bear on current issues in natural resource policy. Topics include regulation of pollution, hazardous waste management, depletion of the world’s forests and fisheries, wilderness and wildlife preservation, and energy planning. After introductory microeconomics.  Q8, SO

* ECON 331a, The Economics of Energy and Climate Change  William Nordhaus
The essentials of energy and environmental economics, with applications. Analysis of core topics in public goods, intertemporal choice, uncertainty, decision theory, and exhaustible resources. Applications include energy security, nuclear power, the relationship between nuclear power and nuclear proliferation, and climate change. Enrollment limited. Prerequisite: two terms of introductory economics.  SO

ECON 335a, Growth and Macroeconomics  Fabrizio Zilibotti
The course provides a rigorous framework for understanding the process of economic growth. The main focus of the course is on the factors sustaining long-run growth. We emphasize the role of governments and institutional factors. The final part of the course explores the demand side of the economy and short-run equilibrium phenomena such as monetary policy, financial factors, stabilization policy, and financial crises. Introductory Macroeconomics, Intermediate Macroeconomics  SO

ECON 338a / EAST 338a / GLBL 318a, The Next China  Stephen Roach
Economic development in China since the late 1970s. Emphasis on factors pushing China toward a transition from its modern export-and investment-led development model to a pro-consumption model. The possibility of a resulting identity crisis, underscored by China’s need to embrace political reform and by the West’s long-standing misperceptions of China. Prerequisite: introductory macroeconomics.  SO

ECON 339b, Advance Competition Economics and Policy  Fiona Scott Morton
Limits that antitrust laws, as applied and interpreted by agencies, courts, and competitors, place on firm behavior. Economic theories underlying antitrust enforcement. Whether legal rules restricting competitive behavior increase social welfare and how they affect managerial choices. The evidence and reasoning advanced in key antitrust cases; how outcomes may affect social welfare and firm strategies. Goals and procedures of US and EU antitrust agencies.  SO

ECON 350a, Mathematical Economics: General Equilibrium Theory  Eduardo Davila
An introduction to general equilibrium theory and its extension to equilibria involving uncertainty and time. Discussion of the economic role of insurance and of intertemporal models, namely, the overlapping generations model and the optimal growth theory model. Recommended for students considering graduate study in economics. After MATH 118 or 120, and intermediate microeconomics.  Q8, SO

ECON 351b, Mathematical Economics: Game Theory  Philipp Strack
Introduction to game theory and choice under uncertainty. Analysis of the role of information and uncertainty for individual choice behavior, as well as application to the decision theory under uncertainty. Analysis of strategic interaction among economic agents, leading to the theory of auctions and mechanism design. Recommended for students considering graduate study in economics. After MATH 118, 120, and intermediate microeconomics.  Q8, SO

* ECON 360b, Capital Markets  Gary Gorton
Topics related to capital markets, with emphasis on the financial crisis of 2007–2008. The design, pricing, and trading of corporate bonds, credit derivatives, and money market instruments; bond restructuring, bond ratings, and financial crises; basic tools used to address such issues, including fixed income mathematics, binomial option pricing, and swaps. Prerequisites: intermediate microeconomics and econometrics. Note: ECON 360a "Capital Markets" is cross-listed with SOM MGT 947a and has space for up to five undergraduates.

ECON 361a or b, Corporate Finance  Staff
Financial management from inside the corporation or operating entity. Topics include capital budgeting and valuation, optimal capital structure, initial public offerings, mergers, and corporate restructuring. Cases and problem sets provide applications. Prerequisites: intermediate microeconomics and econometrics.

ECON 363a, The Global Financial Crisis  Andrew Metrick and Timothy Geithner
Comprehensive survey of the causes, events, policy responses, and aftermath of the recent global financial crisis. Study of the dynamics of financial crises in a modern economy. Prerequisite: Successful completion of a course in introductory economics.  SO

ECON 365b / CPSC 366b, Algorithms  James Glenn
Paradigms for algorithmic problem solving: greedy algorithms, divide and conquer, dynamic programming, and network flow. NP completeness and approximation algorithms for NP-complete problems. Algorithms for problems from economics, scheduling, network design and navigation, geometry, biology, and optimization. Provides algorithmic background essential to further study of computer science. Either CPSC 365 or CPSC 366 may be taken for credit. Prerequisites: CPSC 202 and 223.  QR
* ECON 366b / CPSC 366b, Intensive Algorithms  Yang Cai
Mathematically sophisticated treatment of the design and analysis of algorithms and the theory of NP completeness. Algorithmic paradigms including greedy algorithms, divide and conquer, dynamic programming, network flow, approximation algorithms, and randomized algorithms. Problems drawn from the social sciences, Data Science, Computer Science, and engineering. For students with a flair for proofs and problem solving. Either CPSC 365 or CPSC 366 may be taken for credit. Prerequisites: MATH 244 and CPSC 223. QR

ECON 375b / GLBL 219b, Monetary Policy  William English
Introduction to modern macroeconomic models and how to use the models to examine some of the key issues that have faced monetary policymakers during and after the global financial crisis of 2008–2009. Prerequisites: Intermediate level macroeconomics (ECON 122 or 126) and introductory econometrics. WR, SO

Advanced Lecture Courses

Senior Economics majors may preregister for advanced lecture courses; see the departmental website for instructions. Other interested students may enroll with permission of the instructor during the course selection period.

* ECON 403b / GLBL 332b, Trade and Development  Guillermo Nogueru
For some developing countries, international trade has brought about rapid growth and large-scale reductions in poverty. Meanwhile for other developing countries, international trade has simply increased inequality and brought little growth. This course draws on both theoretical models and empirical evidence to better understand the reasons for these very different experiences. Topics include: standard models of trade, trade and poverty in developing countries, the impact of trade on inequality and growth, the role of firms and multinationals in developing countries, trade policy, foreign direct investment, trade and technology transfer, the Chinese and Indian experience.
Prerequisites: Intermediate microeconomics and one econometrics/statistics course. SO

* ECON 407a / GLBL 310a, International Finance  Ana Fieler
A study of how consumers and firms are affected by the globalization of the world economy. Topics include trade costs, the current account, exchange rate pass-through, international macroeconomic co-movement, multinational production, and gains from globalization. Prerequisite: intermediate macroeconomics or equivalent. SO

ECON 409b, Firms, Markets, and Competition  Philip Haile
Analysis of imperfectly competitive markets, focusing on the interactions among firm behavior, market structure, and market outcomes. Topics include oligopoly, collusion, predation, firm entry, advertising, and price discrimination as well as public policy implications of market behavior. After intermediate microeconomics or equivalent. QR, SO

* ECON 410b, The Economics of Innovation  Mitsuru Igami
Study of forces that drive the process of innovation. Creativity and creative destruction; the innovator’s dilemma; incentives to innovate; competitive advantage; industry evolution; intellectual property. Use of both formal theoretical models and quantitative empirical studies, as well as descriptive studies from management strategy and economic history. Prerequisites: econometrics and intermediate microeconomics.

* ECON 411b, Economics of Uncertainty and Information  Staff
Individual and collective choice in the presence of uncertainty and asymmetric information. Implications of such decision making for economic phenomena. Basic analytical tools for studying decisions under uncertainty. Asset markets, adverse selection, screening, signaling, moral hazard, incomplete contracts, bilateral trade with asymmetric information, and mechanism design. Prerequisites: intermediate microeconomics and econometrics. SO

* ECON 413a / AMTH 437a / EENG 437a / S&DS 430a, Optimization Techniques  Sekhar Tatikonda
Fundamental theory and algorithms of optimization, emphasizing convex optimization. The geometry of convex sets, basic convex analysis, the principle of optimality, duality. Numerical algorithms: steepest descent, Newton’s method, interior point methods, dynamic programming, unimodal search. Applications from engineering and the sciences. Prerequisites: MATH 120 and 222, or equivalents. May not be taken after AMTH 237. QR

ECON 414b, Labor Economics: Employment, Wages, and Skills  Ilse Lindenlaub
Topics in labor economics from theoretical and empirical points of view. Models of supply and demand in a competitive market economy; changes in the allocation of workers to jobs, wage distribution, and wage inequality; reasons why the labor market may not be perfectly competitive; and what determines unemployment and the reallocation of workers after job loss. Prerequisites: intermediate microeconomics and econometrics. SO

ECON 419a, Financial Time Series Econometrics  Xiaohong Chen
This is an advanced course covers basic univariate and multivariate models and methods used to analyze financial and economic time series data and panel time series data. Topics include: classic linear models; serial dependence, autocorrelation in error variances (ARCH, GARCH); methods that allow for nonlinearity, tail dependence, comovements, conditional value at risk, fat-tails, nonstationarity; vector autoregressive models; factor models; Markov switching, latent factors, measurement errors, stochastic volatility; empirical asset pricing models. The aim of the course is to help students write their senior essays and start their own research in economics and finance. Prerequisites: ECON 117 and 123, or ECON 135 and 136. SO
ECON 420a, Applied Microeconometrics  Yuichi Kitamura and Timothy Armstrong
Advanced study of econometric theory and applied econometrics, providing students opportunity and ability to conduct high-
level empirical research, combining economics, econometrics, and data. Recommended for students planning to write or currently
writing an empirical senior essay. Econ121 (Intermediate Micro), and either Econ 132 (Econometrics and Data Analysis II) or Econ 136
(Econometrics).  SO

ECON 424a / GLBL 308a, Central Banking  William English
Introduction to the different roles and responsibilities of modern central banks, including the operation of payments systems, monetary
policy, supervision and regulation, and financial stability. Discussion of different ways to structure central banks to best manage their
responsibilities. Prerequisites: Intermediate Microeconomics, Intermediate Macroeconomics, and Introductory Econometrics.  SO

ECON 433b, The Economics of Space  Konstantinos Arkolakis
Analysis of the ways that space affects economic behavior. The course develops the required quantitative techniques to analyze detailed
spatial information on economic activity and pairs them with simple models that determine how economic activity is allocated across
space. See https://www.theeconomicsofspace.com/. Prerequisites: MATH 118, 120, or permission of instructor.  SO

ECON 438a, Applied Econometrics: Politics, Sports, Microeconomics  Ray Fair
This course has an applied econometrics focus. Topics include voting behavior, betting markets, and various issues in sports. The aim of
the course is to help students prepare original empirical research using econometric tools and to read empirical papers in economics and
other social sciences. Students write three empirical papers. The first can be an extension of an existing article, where some of the results
are duplicated and then extended. The second is similar to the first with no example provided. The third is an original paper within the
range of topics covered in the course, where data are collected and analyzed using relevant econometric techniques. Prerequisite: One or
two econometrics courses.  SO

Seminars

Senior Economics majors may preregister for departmental seminars; see the departmental website for instructions. Other interested
students may enroll with permission of the instructor during the course selection period.

* ECON 444a, Market Inefficiencies and the Limits of Arbitrage  Michael Pascutti
The role of hedge funds in the United States financial markets and hedge fund behavior; understanding what hedge funds do, why
they exist, and how they are different from other investment vehicles. Study of investment strategies that provide opportunity and
risk for investors and study of academic papers analyzing (risky) arbitrage strategies. Prerequisite: intermediate microeconomics and
econometrics.  SO

* ECON 445b, The U.S. Banking System  Michael Pascutti
The special functions of banks in the U.S. economy. The benefits but fragile nature of the banking system. Prerequisites: intermediate
macroeconomics, microeconomics, and econometrics.  SO

* ECON 449b / EP&E 244b / PLSC 374b, The Economic Analysis of Conflict  Gerard Padro
Introduction to the microeconomic analysis of internal conflict. In particular, how conflict imposes economic costs on the population
and how people react to conflict. Topics include the correlates of war; the economic legacies of conflict on human capital, local
institutions, households' income, and firm performance; and the causes and impacts of forced displacement. Prerequisites: Intermediate
microeconomics and econometrics.  SO

* ECON 450a, Investment Analysis  David Swensen and Dean Takahashi
Examination of investment management in theory and practice. Discussion of asset allocation, investment strategy, and manager selection
from the perspective of an institutional investor. Focus on the degree of market efficiency and opportunity for generating attractive
returns.  SO

* ECON 453a, The Economics of Gender  Joseph Altonji
This seminar course is about the economics of gender and has a focus on labor and marriage markets. Students are given an overview
of gender differences in these markets, as well as some potential reasons for those differences. The course also discusses policies that can
affect the gender gaps. Prerequisites: ECON 121 or 125, and ECON 117, or equivalent.  SO

* ECON 454b / EP&E 254a / GLBL 331a, Evolution of Central Banking  Rakesh Mohan
Changes in the contours of policy making by central banks since the turn of the twentieth century. Theoretical and policy perspectives
as well as empirical debates in central banking. The recurrence of financial crises in market economies. Monetary policies that led to
Prerequisite: ECON 122.  SO

* ECON 456a, Private Equity Investing  Michael Schmertzler
A case-oriented study of principal issues and investment types found in substantial private equity portfolios. Discussion of enterprise
valuation, value creation, business economics, negotiation, and legal structure, based on primary source materials and original cases.
Prerequisite: Econometrics, or ECON 255, or permission of instructor.  SO
* ECON 457b / EP&E 221b, Economics, Politics, and History: Institutional Design and Institutional Change  Jose-Antonio Espin-Sanchez
The efficiency and distributive consequences of institutions’ governing of human relationships. Efficiency concerns with the size of the "pie"; ways in which different institutions generate a bigger "pie" than others. Distribution concerns with who gets a bigger piece of the "pie." Why "bad" institutions persist over time; what can be done to change from bad/old institutions to good/new institutions. Prerequisites: intermediate micro- or macroeconomics, and a course in statistics and probability.  SO

* ECON 458b, The Economics of Population  Timothy Guinnane
An overview of some basic demographic methods such as the life table and age-standardized rates, followed by consideration of the core topics in economic demography: fertility, mortality, and migration, along with their connections to the economy and economic development. The course is largely based on reading and discussion of journal articles. Prerequisites: Introductory Econometrics and Intermediate Microeconomics.  SO

* ECON 460a, Financial Economics, Information, Predictions  Yiran Zhu
Financial economics with special focus on the role of information and the use of markets as forecasting devices. Topics include choice under uncertainty, asset valuation in multi-period models, arbitrage theory, market microstructure, information aggregation, probability elicitation, prediction markets. Prerequisites: ECON 121, a course covering basic probability theory such as ECON 131 or ECON 135, and completion of all MATH requirements of the economics major.  SO

* ECON 461b, Economics, Addiction, and Public Policy  Jody Sindelar
Smoking, alcoholism, illicit drugs, and obesity studied from economic and policy perspectives. Focus on causes of and solutions to problems. After introductory microeconomics.  SO

* ECON 463b / BENG 403b, The Economics and Science of Medicine  Gregory Raskin and Yashodhara Dash
The class is an exploration of the scientific background of today's bestselling medicines, their huge commercial impact, and the companies that created them. It focuses on the most compelling aspects of drug development and company formation in the context of topical issues like cancer treatment, DNA sequencing, stem cell therapy, and drug pricing controversies. Prerequisite: Introductory microeconomics or Introductory Biology, Molecular Biology, Chemistry, or Biomedical Engineering.  SO

* ECON 465b / EP&E 224b / GLBL 330b, Debating Globalization  Ernesto Zedillo
Facets of contemporary economic globalization, including trade, investment, and migration. Challenges and threats of globalization: inclusion and inequality, emerging global players, global governance, climate change, and nuclear weapons proliferation. Prerequisite: background in international economics and data analysis. Preference to seniors majoring in Economics or EP&E.  SO RP

* ECON 470b / EP&E 232b / GLBL 233b, Strategies for Economic Development  Rakesh Mohan
How strategies for economic development have changed over time and how dominant strands in development theory and practice have evolved. Students trace the influence of the evolution in thinking on actual changes that have taken place in successful development strategies, as practiced in fast growing developing countries, and as illustrated in case studies of fast growth periods in Japan, South Korea, Brazil, China, and India. Prerequisites: introductory microeconomics and macroeconomics.

* ECON 471b / EP&E 297b, Topics in Cooperative Game Theory  Pradeep Dubey
The theory and applications of cooperative games. Topics include matching, bargaining, cost allocation, market games, voting games, and games on networks. Prerequisite: intermediate microeconomics.

* ECON 474b / EAST 454b / GLBL 312b, Economic and Policy Lessons from Japan  Stephen Roach
An evaluation of modern Japan’s protracted economic problems and of their potential implications for other economies, including the United States, Europe, and China. Policy blunders, structural growth impediments, bubbles, the global economic crisis of 2008, and Abenomics; risks of secular stagnation and related dangers to the global economy from subpar post-crisis recoveries. Focus on policy remedies to avert similar problems in other countries. Prerequisite: an introductory course in macroeconomics.  SO

* ECON 475a / EP&E 286a, Discrimination in Law, Theory, and Practice  Gerald Jaynes
How law and economic theory define and conceptualize economic discrimination; whether economic models adequately describe behaviors of discriminators as documented in court cases and government hearings; the extent to which economic theory and econometric techniques aid our understanding of actual marketplace discrimination. Prerequisites: introductory microeconomics and at least one additional course in Economics, African American Studies, Ethnicity, Race, and Migration, or Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies.

* ECON 479b, Social Networks in Development Economics  Kaivan Munshi
The effects of social networks on economic outcomes in developing countries, including the mechanisms by which such effects are created. Focus on social networks as conduits for information flows and for monetary flows. Attention to the strategies of data collection and analysis necessary for the study of economic interactions among individuals and households. Prerequisites: intermediate microeconomics and econometrics.  SO

* ECON 480a / GLBL 311a, Banking Crises and Financial Stability  Sigridur Benediktsdottir
Focus on systemic risk, banking crises, financial stability and macroprudential policies. Additional emphasis on systemic risk and prudential policies in peripheral European economies and emerging economies. Prerequisites: ECON 115 and 116, or equivalent.  SO
* ECON 481a / EP&E 298a, Empirical Microeconomics  Guillermo Noguera
Introduction to empirical microeconomics and its methodologies. Academic research in the field explored using tools from economic theory and econometrics. Topics include approaches to identification, environmental effects on health, and the economics of crime, gender, and race. Prerequisites: intermediate microeconomics and econometrics.

* ECON 483a / PLSC 159a / SAST 483a, The Political Economy of Migration  Zachary Barnett-Howell
Immigration flows are a defining political concern throughout the world, and internal migration is reshaping the political and economic landscape of the developing world. This class aims to bring students to the forefront of political and economic research on migration, with a specific focus on the region of South Asia. Studying the political aspects of migration involves engaging with formal models on the incentives of governments to facilitate or stymie internal and international movement. Studying the economic aspects of migration requires learning about the economic theories underlying location choice. Students continue with the studying of the role that infrastructure plays in regulating movement. Prerequisites: A course in econometrics/statistics and intermediate macroeconomics.

Senior Essay and Directed Reading Courses
* ECON 491a and ECON 492a or b, The Senior Essay  Rebecca Toseland
Students deciding to write one-term senior essays by enrolling in ECON 491, or two-term senior essays by enrolling in ECON 491 and 492, must choose their topics and advisers by Monday, September 30, 2019. One-term senior essays are due on Monday, December 2, 2019 by 4:30 pm. Two-term senior essays are due by 4:30 pm on Wednesday, April 1, 2020. Essays should be submitted electronically to the Economics department (qazi.azam@yale.edu) by the due date. Late essays will not be accepted without a dean’s excuse. Advisers are chosen with the assistance of the DUS. The format and character of the departmental senior essay may vary to suit the interest of the student and the demands of the topic, but it is expected that the tools and concepts of economic analysis will be employed and that the essay will contain original research. Paper lengths may vary; the normal expectation is thirty pages. Students may receive up to two credits for the senior essay, though it counts as only one departmental seminar whether one or two terms are taken. Meetings for seniors to discuss the senior essay guidelines and requirements will be held on Tuesday August 27, 2019 at 12:15 pm. and Wednesday, August 28, 2019 at 4:00 pm. in Room 106, 28 Hillhouse Avenue. Seniors planning to write either a one-term or a two-term senior essay should attend one of these meetings. Details regarding calculation of Distinction will be discussed and senior essay guidelines will be distributed. Senior essay prospectus forms are due Monday, September 30, 2019. Students who do not turn the prospectus in on time will not be permitted to write an essay.

* ECON 498a and ECON 499b, Directed Reading  Ebonya Washington
Junior and senior economics majors desiring a directed reading course in special topics in economics not covered in other graduate or undergraduate courses may elect this course, not more than once, with written permission of the director of undergraduate studies and of the instructor. The instructor meets with the student regularly, typically for an hour a week, and the student writes a paper or a series of short essays. Junior and senior majors may take this course for a letter grade, but it does not meet the requirement for a department seminar.