

2015-2016 Economics Course Descriptions

ECN 1055 Introduction to Economics. An introduction to the tools and techniques of economic analysis. Economics principles and concepts are used to examine current issues such as pollution, education, health care, poverty, housing, discrimination, international trade, national debt, inflation and unemployment. Designed for majors outside the Department of Economics, Accounting, and Business Administration. Not open to students with credit for both ECN 200 and ECN 201. 4 Semester Hours.

ECN 2005 Introduction to Microeconomics. An introduction to economic principles and analytical tools needed to think intelligently about social and economic problems. The course looks at the behavior of individual economic units—consumers, producers, and workers—and examines topics such as opportunity cost, gains from trade, market equilibrium, price controls, consumer decision-making, production, cost, market structure, input markets, and externalities. The course emphasizes concepts and principles and their use in analyzing economic issues. 4 Semester Hours.

ECN 201 Introduction to Macroeconomics. An introduction to the activities and impact of government, consumers, and business firms on the national economy, including the determination of national income and the use of monetary and fiscal policy. Prerequisite: ECN 105 or ECN 200. 4 Semester Hours.

ECN 271 Quantitative Methods for Business. Methods of solving quadratic equations. A study of limits, continuity, differentiation, and an introduction to indefinite and definite integrals, including applications to minimization and maximization problems related to Business and Economics. Functions of two or more variables, including partial differentiation, and applications to Business and Economics. Prerequisites: ECN 201 and a satisfactory score on the mathematics placement examination. 4 Semester Hours.

ECN 299 Special Topics in Economics. See All-University 299 course description.

ECN 310 Health Economics. This course examines how economic analysis can be applied to various components of the health care system. Microeconomic theory is used to understand the operation of health care markets and the behavior of participants (consumers, insurers, physicians, and hospitals) in the health care industry. International comparisons and the role of the public sector will be included. Prerequisites: ECN 105 or ECN 200. 4 Semester Hours.

ECN 315 Money and Banking. A study of the nature and definition of money, the role of money and financial institutions in the macro-economy, interest rates, monetary policy, the demand for and supply of money, financial crises, and the Federal Reserve System. Prerequisites: ECN 200, ECN 201. 4 Semester Hours.

ECN 327 International Trade. An analysis of international economics using the tools of microeconomics: the pure theory of trade, trade in intermediate goods, trade with imperfect competition, tariffs, quotas, discriminatory and non-discriminatory trade liberalization, regional integration, migration, and the World Trade Organization. Prerequisites: ECN 200, ECN 201. 4 Semester Hours.

ECN 330 Economics of Gender. This course examines the impact of gender differences on economic opportunities, activities, and rewards. Economic issues emphasized are labor force participation, earnings, investment in human capital, and gender segregation in the workplace. Cross-societal comparisons also will be made. Prerequisites: ECN 105 or ECN 200. 4 Semester Hours.

ECN 360 Managerial Microeconomics. Intermediate microeconomic theory from the perspective of the business manager. Topics are similar to those of ECN 200 but are presented at a more advanced level: household decision-making, behavioral economics, prices, production, cost, wages, market structure, the contributions of game theory to the understanding of economic behavior. An empirical project using regression analysis. This course is intended to serve the requirements of both the economics majors for intermediate microeconomics and the business majors for managerial economics. Prerequisites: ECN 200, ECN 201, previous exposure to differential calculus and Ordinary Least Squares regression. 4 Semester Hours.

ECN 365 Global Macroeconomics. A course in international monetary economics and intermediate open-economy macroeconomics. Foreign exchange rates, balance of payments, capital flows, international indebtedness, common currencies, alternative international monetary systems. The analysis of consumption, investment, government expenditures, exports, and imports. A study of monetary, fiscal, and exchange-rate policies. Responses to international economic crises. The role of the IMF. Short-run business cycle concerns and long-run economic growth. Prerequisites: ECN 200, ECN 201. 4 Semester Hours.

ECN 371 Environmental Economics. An economic analysis of the environment. The course treats a high-quality environment as a scarce resource and looks at various types of pollution such as air pollution, water pollution, and noise pollution. It studies the relative strengths of alternative policies—both market and non-market approaches—for improving the environment. Special attention is devoted to environmental issues that cross national borders. Prerequisites: ECN 200, ECN 201. 4 Semester Hours.

ECN 372 Natural Resource Economics. Economic theory of managing non-renewable and renewable resources, including optimal use, the incentives for use under decentralized markets, and public policy design. Topics in conservation and sustainable economic growth. Prerequisites: ECN 200, ECN 201. 4 Semester Hours.

ECN 373 Sports Economics. This course explores professional and amateur sports from an economic perspective. The skills and techniques from several fields of economics can be used to analyze the sports world. The topics of anti-trust, monopolistic leagues, collusive behavior, and franchising can be examined with the tools of industrial organization. The financing of sports facilities is a topic in the field of public finance. Free agency, the draft, payroll caps, and player unions can be analyzed with the tools of labor economics. Prerequisites: ECN 200, ECN 201. 4 Semester Hours.

ECN 375 Development Economics. A study of Third-World development problems, such as poverty, inequality, debt burdens, and rural stagnation. The course will examine global interdependency and policies for management of food, energy, natural resources, technology, and financial flows. Prerequisites: ECN 200, ECN 201. 4 Semester Hours.

ECN 380 Comparative Economic Systems. An examination of the basic institutions of capitalism, socialism and communism from an economic point of view. The course stresses the development and functioning of present varieties of these "isms." Special emphasis is given to those countries of the former Soviet Union and Central and Eastern Europe which are making the transition from centrally planned socialistic states to market economies. Prerequisite: ECN 105 or ECN 201. 4 Semester Hours.

ECN 390 Economies of the Asian Pacific Rim. A survey of economic development in the economies of East Asia, focusing on Japan as the model for the region, the four tigers—Hong Kong, Taiwan, Singapore and South Korea—and the newly industrializing economies of Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia and the Philippines. The course will include an economic analysis of the factors that contributed to the substantial growth in East Asia from 1960 to 1989 and the subsequent financial crisis that ensued in the 1990s. Prerequisite: ECN 105 or ECN 201. 4 Semester Hours.

ECN 399 Special Topics in Economics. See All-University 399 course description.

ECN 400 Independent Study—Economics. Involves the independent investigation of a problem in economics. Open to advanced students majoring in economics. A prospectus must be submitted for approval prior to registration. Prerequisite: Permission of instructor. 4 Semester Hours.

ECN 401 SCE in Economics. With the instructor's permission, a student majoring in economics can complete a Senior Culminating Experience in an upper-level (300- and 400-courses) economics course. The student will register for the specific course and for EC 401. The particular requirements for the SCE (such as project, research, paper, presentation) should be proposed during the previous semester. Prerequisite: declared major in economics and permission of instructor. 1 Semester Hour.

ECN 436 Introduction to Econometrics. An introduction to basic econometric concepts and forecasting techniques with an emphasis on the empirical analysis of applications in various fields of business, economics, government, finance and many other fields. It covers an introduction to econometric time-series models and methods that can be used to generate forecasts. Linear regression with one regressor, linear regression with multiple regressors and some issues with multivariate linear regression analysis will be covered. Software such as MS Excel, Eviews, and SPSS will be used in the course to carry out the computer-based exercises. Typically offered in the fall semester. Prerequisite: MTH 123 4 Semester Hours.

ECN 437 Operations Research. This course focuses on the effective use of technology by organizations. Employing techniques from other mathematical sciences — such as mathematical modeling, statistical analysis, and mathematical optimization — operations research arrives at optimal or near-optimal solutions to complex decision-making problems. Topics covered include modeling and graph theory with applications to linear programming, critical path analysis, transportation and allocation problems and queuing theory. Prerequisites: MA123 and EC271 or MA 141. 4 Semester Hours.

ECN 450 Seminar in Labor. This seminar deals with the problems of labor relations and labor economics. Key issues dealt with are unemployment, poverty, race relations, and inflation. Current labor problems are emphasized. Prerequisites: ECN 201 and MGT 200. 4 Semester Hours.

ECN 455 Seminar in Economics. An in-depth study of a few contemporary problems and issues such as poverty, welfare, discrimination, crime, government, energy, and unemployment. Topics will be announced in advance. Emphasis is placed on critical analysis, discussion, research, and reporting. Prerequisites: ECN 200, ECN 201, ECN 360, ECN 365, or permission of instructor. 4 Semester Hours.

ECN 494 Honors Thesis/Project. See All-University 494 course description.

ECN 499 Internship in Economics. An experience-based course in which a student works in an appropriate business or agency. Previous classroom learning is integrated with the work experience. The location, program, method of education, and method of assessment are provided in a contract drawn between the student, the department faculty internship coordinator, and the host internship supervisor. Specific restrictions apply. Departmental approval is required prior to registration for this course. Will count as only one course towards the major or minor in economics. Graded S/U. Prerequisite: departmental approval. 1-16 Semester Hours.