

Brandeis University

Department of Economics

January 2007 Newsletter for Majors and Minors

The Economics Department faculty and staff welcome you back to Brandeis for the “spring” semester. We hope that you had a good break and are ready for the challenges of a new semester.

Spring courses

A list of all spring Economics classes, with links to preliminary syllabi for most courses, is posted on the Economics Department website (http://www.brandeis.edu/departments/economics/undergrad_courses3html.html).

Please consult Prof. Coiner (coiner@brandeis.edu) if you have any questions about spring courses.

Majors and minors will find four new courses offered this semester:

Lower-level electives (prerequisite Econ 2a only):

ECON 69a, “The Economics of Race and Gender.” This lower-level elective is cross-listed in AAAS and WGS. The course will be taught by Sue Lee, a researcher at the Heller School.

ECON 122b, “The Economics of the Middle East.” This course will be taught by Dr. Eric Graber and Dr. Mohammed Samhoury. Both are senior fellows at the Crown Center with extensive hands-on experience in the Middle East region.

Upper-level electives:

ECON 162a, “Outsourcing & Offshoring: Information Technology and Globalization.” This course will be taught by Prof. Catherine Mann, author of a new book on information technology and globalization, who joined the Brandeis faculty this year.

ECON 185a, “Econometrics with Linear Algebra.” This course is an alternative to ECON 184a for students who have previously studied linear algebra. Both econometrics courses will be taught by Prof. Hong Li in spring 2007.

New faculty

In addition to those mentioned above, students will find several new faces among faculty teaching spring Econ courses. Macroeconomic Theory (ECON 82b) will be taught by Associate Prof. George Hall, who joined the Brandeis faculty this year. Dr. Hongtao Guo, visiting assistant professor, will teach two sections of The Global Economy (ECON 8b). These sections were originally scheduled to be taught by Prof. Rashmi Shankar. Prof.

Shankar has taken a leave of absence due to her mother's illness. Paul Deng, a Ph.D. candidate in IBS, will teach Development Economics (ECON 175a). Vinay Nundlall, also a Ph.D. candidate in IBS, will teach Financial Economics (ECON 171a.)

Math requirement for Econ 80a and Econ 82b

Students enrolling in the intermediate micro or intermediate macro courses must have demonstrated basic proficiency in calculus. Every student planning to enroll in Econ 80a or Econ 82b must satisfy this requirement in one of three ways: a) completing Math 10a with a grade of C- or better; b) scoring at least 4 on the AP Mathematics AB test, or at least 3 on the AP Mathematics BC test; or c) passing a placement exam administered by the Economics Department at the beginning of each semester.

Advising

Prof. Coiner, the Undergraduate Advising Head, has prepared a detailed memo that answers many of the basic questions students may have about their academic program (<http://www.brandeis.edu/departments/economics/files/advising%20memo%20web%208-16-06.pdf>). This memo can also be accessed from the Economics Department website (click on "Advice for Students"). Please take time to read it before meeting with your advisor or Prof. Coiner.

Recruiting seminars

During January and February candidates for several faculty positions in Economics and IBS will be visiting campus to give seminars on their research. Watch for notices of these seminars. The UDRs will alert you via email to opportunities to see candidates.

Finally...

We hope this will be a productive, satisfying, and enjoyable semester for all our students. We especially urge senior majors to take full advantage of the spring course offerings in the Economics Department.

Rachel McCulloch
Chair