

# Brandeis University

## Department of Economics

### January 2008 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\\_courses081html.html](http://www.brandeis.edu/departments/economics/undergrad_courses081html.html)).

As usual, many courses are already closed. If you wish to register for a course that is closed, be sure to place yourself on the "Demand List" for the course. We use these lists to add students to the courses when and if places become available later on, with preference usually given to seniors and others who have already completed more Econ courses. We also guarantee that anyone on the Demand List who does not get into the desired course will receive a place the next time the course is offered.

If you hope to enroll in a course if space becomes available, be sure to attend the course regularly and keep up with the assigned work.

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

#### New faculty

Students will find a couple of new faces among faculty teaching spring Econ courses. Microeconomic Theory (ECON 80a section 3) will be taught by Jura Liaukonyte, who is now completing her Ph.D. at University of Virginia. She won a teaching award at UVA last year.

Dr. Jasmine Chen will teach Game Theory (ECON 181b). Dr. Chen earned her Ph.D. in international economics and finance from the Brandeis International Business School in 2006. She has previously taught at Bryant University and the Middlesex School.

#### Econometrics requirement for Econ majors

Econometrics is a required course for all majors who entered Brandeis in fall 2006 or later. Students can satisfy this requirement by taking Econ 184b or, for those with good math skills, Econ 185a or Econ 215a, both of which require knowledge of linear algebra. We expect to offer Econ 184 each semester. Econ 185a and Econ 215a will be offered in

alternate years. Econ 185 will be offered this semester but not in spring 2009. Econ 215a will next be offered in spring 2009.

## **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/advisingmemo-websiteversion%207-31-07.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 of opportunities to see candidates in action.

## **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**