

Brandeis University

Department of Economics

October 2008 Newsletter for Majors and Minors

Now that most midterm exams are past, we're already thinking ahead to next "spring"—as we officially call the semester that begins on January 13.

Spring pre-registration

Pre-registration begins Monday October 27. A list of all spring Economics classes, with links to preliminary syllabi for some courses, is posted on the Econ website (http://www.brandeis.edu/departments/economics/undergrad_courses091.html).

We expect many courses to be full during pre-registration. Students wishing to register for a course that is already full should place themselves on the "Demand List" for the course. We use these lists to add students to courses when 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.

Students who have questions about spring courses or academic requirements for the Econ major and minor should contact Professor Coiner (coiner@brandeis.edu) or Meredith Robitaille (mrobitai@brandeis.edu), the Academic Administrator for Economics.

Math requirement for Econ 80a and Econ 82b

Students enrolling in intermediate micro or intermediate macro *must* demonstrate basic proficiency in calculus. Every student in Econ 80a or Econ 82b must already have satisfied 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. This third option is intended mainly for students who studied calculus before coming to Brandeis but did not take the AP exam. Students planning to take the placement test should see Prof. Coiner as soon as possible.

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 strong 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 are usually offered in alternate years. Econ 185 was offered in spring 2008 but will not be offered in spring 2009 (we expect to offer it again in 2009-2010). Econ 215a will be offered in spring 2009. Although the course is intended primarily for Ph.D. students, it is also

suitable for advanced undergraduates with strong math skills including linear algebra. Interested students should consult with Prof. Hong Li about the advisability of enrolling in Econ 215a. Her permission is required.

New faculty

Students will find two new faces among faculty teaching spring Econ courses. Xia Meng, an advanced student in the Ph.D. program in the Brandeis International Business School, will be teaching a section of Econ 83a. Tyler Hull, also an advanced student in the Ph.D. program, will be teaching Econ 171a.

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"). Students should take time to read it before meeting with their advisor or Prof. Coiner.

Department activities

Our three 2008-9 UDRs (Jonathan Freed '09, Mohit Gourisaria '09, and Elizabeth Setren '10) have helped to organize three events this semester.

At *Life after Brandeis* on October 15, ten recent alumni returned to campus to discuss their experiences in post-graduation jobs and graduate programs and respond to career questions from current majors.

At the annual *Meet the Majors* event on October 23, Prof. Coiner provided information about majoring in Economics, as well as special considerations for those planning to study abroad or to combine the Econ major with the Business minor.

On Wednesday, November 5, at 5:30, Economics, Business, and the Hiatt Career Center will jointly sponsor an information program on internships in economics, business, and finance. The program will be in Lemberg 55.

The UDRs will be planning additional events for the spring. They are interested in receiving suggestions from Econ majors and minors.

Finally...

We hope this will be a productive, satisfying, and enjoyable year 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