The Economics Department faculty and staff welcome you back to Brandeis for the new semester.

**Spring Registration and Waiting Lists**

Registration for spring courses began on Thursday, January 12th and ends on Monday, January 30th. Although many Econ courses are already closed, additional students may be able to register for these courses as other students change their schedules.

If a spring course you hope to take is closed, please email the Department's Academic Administrator, Meredith Robitaille (mrobitai@brandeis.edu); she will place you on the course’s waitlist. As space becomes available, professors will permit additional students to register. In most cases, seniors will be given priority over juniors, and juniors over sophomores. If you are on the waitlist and hoping to enroll, it is important to attend all the class meetings (as long as they do not conflict with another course you are taking). Adding a course late does not excuse you from completing all required work.

Any student who is on the wait list and cannot be accommodated this term will receive priority in the same course the next time it is offered; for all of our core courses, that will be next semester.

**New faculty**

Students will find some new faces among faculty teaching spring Econ courses.

*Econometrics* (Econ 184b section 1 & 2) is being taught by Davide Pettenuzzo, Assistant Professor of Economics. Having completed his Ph.D. at Bocconi University, Professor Pettenuzzo has recently worked at the economic consultancy Bates, White, while simultaneously publishing important research in the field of time-series econometrics.

*Microeconomic Theory* (ECON 80a section 1 & 2) is being offered by Rawley Heimer, and *Econometrics with Linear Algebra* (Econ 171a) is offered by Manjola Tase. Both are completing their PhDs in the International Business School at Brandeis.

**New Courses**

Professor Anne Carter is teaching Econ 56b, *Social Priorities and the Market*. This course asks how the benefits and costs of economic growth are distributed in today’s market economies. It looks at how the United States and other “advanced” market economies take account of social priorities such as “fairness” in the distribution of income and wealth,
health, education, security and sustainability. This course is offered on Tuesday and Friday from 12:30-2pm.

The Department of Legal Studies will be offering a new course, LGLS127b *International Economic Law*. Econ 2a is a prerequisite and this course will be counted as a lower-level economics elective. The course is offered on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5:00-6:20 pm.

**Graduate courses**

Professor *Judith Dean* will be teaching a graduate-level course that may be of interest to some of our majors. Econ 261a *Empirical Analysis of Trade Policy* covers important issues in trade policy such as: Do more open economies grow faster? Does trade liberalization harm the environment? Do preferential trade agreements really help poor countries develop? To understand recent research, students will learn advanced econometric tools with broad applicability in economics such as pooled regressions, sample selection bias, and the estimation of simultaneous systems. Students will carry out original research, from data collection to econometric testing and evaluation. Undergraduates will need instructor permission to take this course. The prerequisites for this course are an econometrics course (Econ 184b or Econ 185a) and an international trade course (Econ 60b or Econ 160a).

Just a reminder that although undergraduate students are eligible to take graduate-level courses (courses numbered 200 and above), graduate students are given priority to enroll in these courses, and undergraduate students cannot pre-register. Students wishing to enroll in a graduate course should attend the course from the beginning of the semester and ask permission from the instructor to enroll. All students must have taken the appropriate prerequisites for the course.

**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. For those with good math skills, Econ 185a, which requires knowledge of linear algebra or Econ 311a, the first-year econometrics course in the Ph.d. program are alternative courses that fulfill the requirement. We offer Econ 184b each semester, and Econ 185a and Econ 311a in alternate years. Econ 185a is being offered this spring, taught by Manjola Tase. In the fall of 2012, Econ 311a will be offered in the Ph.d. program.

Seniors who have not already taken econometrics should bear in mind that many employers value candidates with advanced number-crunching skills.

**Math requirement for Econ 80a, Econ 82b, and Econ 83a**

Students enrolling in the intermediate theory courses must have demonstrated basic proficiency in calculus. Every student planning to enroll in these courses 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 and Prof. Redenius, the Undergraduate Advising Head, have prepared a [detailed memo](#) that answers many of the basic questions students may have about their academic program. 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. Redenius.

**Undergraduate Departmental Representatives (UDRs)**

Our UDRs have pictures and bios up on our website. If you don’t know the UDRs and their function, you can learn more by following this [link](#).

**Department activities**

The department will be holding a second movie night this semester. We will be showing “Inside Job” on February 15th at 6:00pm. Sigridur Benediktsdottir, who is in the movie and has just been appointed Director of the Financial Stability Department at the Central Bank of Iceland, will join a panel discussion afterwards, as will Arthur McEwan, who has written extensively on equality and inequality. The showing will be co-sponsored by the Rosenberg Institute at IBS, Peace, Conflict, and Coexistence Studies, and the Sociology Department.

For the spring, the UDRs are planning to hold an advising event, a “Life after Brandeis” event and an information session for juniors about the Senior Honors Program. Information regarding these events will be distributed once the department has set the dates. Feel free to contact your UDRs for more information.

**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.

**Kathryn Graddy**  
Chair