Now that most midterm exams are past and finals are just a few weeks ahead, it’s time to plan for the fall semester.

**Fall pre-registration**

Pre-registration for fall 2012 courses begins Tuesday, April 17th. A list of all fall Economics classes is posted on the [Econ website](http://www.econ.brandeis.edu).

Students who have questions about pre-registering for economics courses should contact the Econ department administrator, Meredith Robitaille ([mrobitai@brandeis.edu](mailto:mrobitai@brandeis.edu)).

**New Fall Courses**

The Department is pleased to announce two new 2 credit practicum courses to be offered in the Fall 2012 semester. We are also pleased to once again be able to offer a game theory course.

**Econometrics Research Practicum (Econ 194b).** This course applies knowledge of econometrics by analyzing data and writing an econometrics research paper. Classes will meet once a week throughout the semester; each class will cover a different topic in applied econometrics using economics journal articles for illustration. This course is designed for students who have already taken econometrics and is a great course to take if a student is interested in getting experience in independent research.

**Financial Services Practicum (EL 94).** This practicum is only open to students concurrently enrolled in Econ 171a or Econ 172b. Students who opt for this practicum option will have the opportunity to work with the [Charles River Public Internet Project](http://www.charlesriverproject.org) teaching financial literacy to an immigrant population. Topics would include budgeting, how to get a mortgage, etc. Students who would like to enroll in this course must pick up an add form from Meredith Robitaille in the Economics Department office. Students can enroll during either the preregistration or fall registration periods. Students must be already registered for Econ 171a or Econ 172b to be granted permission to add this practicum. The practicum meetings will be held on Wednesdays from 2:30-3:30pm. Feel free to email Meredith ([mrobitai@brandeis.edu](mailto:mrobitai@brandeis.edu)) with questions about this practicum.

**Game Theory and Economic Applications (Econ 181a).** This course analyzes decision making in multi-person settings. Students will study models of equilibrium and various kinds of games under perfect and imperfect information. The applications include business strategy and competition, auctions, and risk sharing.
Changes to the Major Requirements for Students Entering in Fall 2012

The department has changed the Economics major requirements for students entering next fall. Instead of the traditional Econ 2a and Econ 8b sequence, student will now be taking Introduction to Microeconomics (Econ 10a) and Introduction to Macroeconomics (Econ 20a). Students who matriculated prior to Fall 2012 will be able to complete their Economics major by either completing A Survey of Economics (Econ 2a) and The Global Economy (Econ 28b, formerly Econ 8b) or the new intro sequence of Econ 10a and Econ 20a. Please feel free to consult with Professor Redenius (redenius@brandeis.edu), Meredith Robitalle (mrobitai@brandeis.edu) or your department major advisor if you have any questions about these changes.

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

Students enrolling in Intermediate Micro, Intermediate Macro or Statistics must have demonstrated basic proficiency in calculus. Every student planning to enroll in Econ 80a, Econ 82b or Econ 83a 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.

The economics department takes the math requirement very seriously. Knowledge of calculus is important for success in the core courses and in most upper-level electives. Starting this fall, if you have enrolled in Intermediate Micro, Intermediate Macro, or Statistics and have not satisfied the math requirement, the Registrar’s Office will automatically de-enroll you from the course. The next math placement exam will be given immediately prior to the start of the fall semester, with the exact date, time and place to be announced.

Senior honors

To graduate with honors in Economics, a student must maintain a GPA of at least 3.5 in courses in the major and write a senior thesis. Juniors planning to write a thesis are advised to begin the process this term by discussing potential topics with faculty members or with Prof. Brainerd, who supervises the thesis-writing process and helps to match students with appropriate faculty advisors. Sometimes a term paper for a course is the first step in a successful research project. Enrollment in the Econometrics Research Practicum is another suggested path. Many Econ faculty members have suggested potential senior thesis research topics, and these are now available on the Economics Department website. Students who identify their topic early can use the summer to read background material or collect data. Students must complete an Econometrics course prior to enrolling in Econ 99a, the senior thesis course.

For more information about the senior honors program, go to the Senior Honors Program page of the Econ website.
Advising

Prof. Coiner and Prof. Redenius, the current Undergraduate Advising Head, have prepared a detailed memo that answers many of the basic questions students may have about their academic program. This memo is on the Advice for Students page of the Economics Department web site. Please take time to read it before meeting with your advisor or Prof. Redenius.

New Faculty

This fall the Economics Department welcomes Benjamin Shiller ‘04, Assistant Professor of Economics. Having completed his Ph.D. at the Wharton School, Professor Shiller has recently completed a prestigious post-doctoral fellowship for the Economics of Digitization and Copyright Initiative at the National Bureau of Economic Research. We are delighted to welcome Professor Shiller, who will be teaching two sections of Intermediate Microeconomic Theory (Econ 80a) this fall.

Jens Hilscher, Assistant Professor of Finance in the International Business School, will be teaching Financial Economics (Econ 171a) in the fall. Professor Hilscher has taught for the undergraduate Economics department in the past, but it has been many years since he has done so. We are excited to have him teaching for us this year.

We'd also like to welcome Professor Adam Jaffe back to the department. Professor Jaffe officially returned last academic year, but has been on a research sabbatical. Many students will be excited to find out that he will be teaching Game Theory and Economic Applications (Econ 181a) for the Econ department this fall.

New UDRs for 2012-2013

Neelanjana Gupta ‘13 will be continuing as an Econ UDR next year. In addition, we have appointed three new UDRs: Yosef Schaffel ‘13, Jeffery You ‘13 and Sara Shahanaghi '14. Please join us in welcoming these three to the UDR program!

We extend our thanks to our graduating UDRs, Traci Gordon ‘12 and Daniel Graulich ’12, for their outstanding service this year.

Graduating Student Survey

If you are graduating this year and would like to share your experience with Econ majors, please make sure that we know how to reach you! Please keep a look out for our graduating student survey and give us a non-Brandeis email address so that you can receive our yearly alumni newsletter. Congratulations to all our graduates!

Kathryn Graddy
Chair