



Brandeis University

Department of Economics

July/August 2021 **Newsletter** for Majors and Minors

Department Chair

Dear Students,

I hope you have had a wonderful summer. I know that Economics faculty are excited to get the fall semester underway, and are working hard to develop the engaging and challenging courses you will find on our course schedule for the fall semester.

We are excited to be offering a new lower-level elective course this fall: **Econ 23a Latin American Economic Development** with Professor Montti. This course has Econ 2a or Econ 10a as a prerequisite, fulfills the DJW requirement and is cross-listed with IGS and SJSP.

As a reminder, for students subject to the Brandeis Core requirements, we will be offering two-credit practicums in **Writing in Economics (Econ 26b)** and **Oral Communication in Economics (Econ 25a)** which develop critical skills in writing and oral communication of economic ideas. Econ 25a has Econ 80a as a prerequisite (or co-requisite) and fulfills the Oral Communications foundational literacies requirement for Economics majors. Econ 26b has Econ 82b as a prerequisite (or co-requisite) and fulfills the Writing Intensive foundational literacies requirement for Economics majors. In addition, junior and senior majors can take certain graduate courses at IBS for upper-level elective credit. Further information on these options is provided below.

Students can also earn Econ credits by taking our classes in Copenhagen in summer 2022! Dr. Nelson Sá will lead this fantastic program. For more information, see the [Brandeis in Copenhagen website](#).

Be well, be healthy, and feel free to be in touch with me about any concerns, questions, or requests at ebrainer@brandeis.edu.

Betsy Brainerd, Chair



Fall Registration

Registration for fall 2021 courses through the new Workday system is well under way and continues through **September 13th**. You can find the list of times and instructors for all economics courses for the fall semester on the [Econ website](#).

Workday is an automated system for enrolling in courses and will put you on the waitlist if the course is full. We will enroll students from the waitlist as we have in the past according to student's academic standing (seniors before juniors, etc.), declared major, and place on the list. As space becomes available all the way up until the end of registration, we will continue to admit more students wherever possible.

Workday overrides DO NOT enroll you in a course, they allow you to bypass the prerequisites.

NOTE: Any student with a time conflict must have a "Time Conflict form" signed by both conflicting course instructors to be able to enroll.

(Please note: A qualified senior is any econ major senior who has completed at least 88 credits by the end of the spring 2021 semester)

Please remember, adding a course late does not excuse you from completing all required assignments.

Students who have questions about registering for economics courses should contact our Academic Administrator, Leslie Yancich at lesliey@brandeis.edu.



Need some help navigating Workday?

Open a ticket at: workday-help@brandeis.edu, or check out [Workday Student Resources](#), or, call the helpdesk: **781-736-WORK (9675)** to speak to the Technology experts!

Reminder: Math requirement for Econ 80a, Econ 82b, Econ 83a and Econ 184b

Every student must satisfy a calculus requirement before enrolling in Econ 80a, 82b, 83a or 184b. Specifically, students must establish competence in calculus in any one of three ways: completion of Math 10a (or equivalent course) with a grade of C- or better; scoring at least 4 on the AP Mathematics AB test, or at least 3 on the AP Mathematics BC test; or passing a placement exam the Econ Department administers at the beginning of the semester. A sample of the exam can be found [here](#). **The exam is scheduled for Friday, September 3rd, from 2-4:00. You can sign up on the lower left side of the [economics website](#).**

Please note, a student may only take this exam once. Students must satisfy this requirement **before** taking Econ 80a, 82b, 83a or 184b. Students should also prepare for this requirement by having AP test scores and/or transfer credit grades and syllabus information available before classes begin. ***Students who have not satisfied the requirement in one of these ways will be removed from these courses.***



Graduate level courses

We may be able to offer some spots in graduate level courses to qualified junior and senior undergraduates. Spaces are limited and all prerequisites must be met to enroll. Anyone wishing to enroll in these courses must use the following form, which will be approved by the registrar's office: https://students.global.brandeis.edu/register/Grad_course_registration_Fall_21

Senior Honors 2021-2022

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 who can help match students with appropriate faculty advisors. Many Econ faculty members have suggested potential senior thesis research topics, and these are now available on the Economics Department website. For more information about the senior honors program, go to the Senior Honors Program page of the Econ website. If you were unable to attend the informational meeting in the spring, please email me and I will send you the handouts. For the 2021-22 academic year, the program will be chaired by Professor Schoenle. **Please note: All proposals are due on Friday, September 3rd by 5:00 pm. No exceptions!**

Advising /Undergraduate Advising Head

Professor Nelson Sa will be the acting UAH for the fall '21/Spring '22 semesters. Please see the detailed memos that answer many of the basic questions students may have about their academic program. This memo is on the "Advice for Students" page on the Economics Department website. Please take time to read it before meeting with your advisor or Professor Sa.

***Substitution Petition forms** – if you have submitted a form and do not see it reflected in your audit after 2 weeks, please contact Leslie at lesliey@brandeis.edu. Do not re-submit the form!

TA Training

We have a tentative TA Training session scheduled for **Friday, September 10th, from 1:30-2:30**. We will confirm this with all TA's on Monday, September 6th. If we are unable to have it at that time, we will notify students on how to use our online training as well as having a Zoom Q&A to help all of our new TA's!

UDRs for 2019-2020

We welcome our UDR's back to campus for an exciting host of events. Please feel free to reach out to them with any questions, suggestions, or ideas for the Economics department!

Frances Hoffen '22 fhoffen@brandeis.edu

Naftali Kruman '23 naftalikruman@brandeis.edu

Spandana Shankara '22 sshankara@brandeis.edu

Willow Yang '23 willowyang@brandeis.edu

Important Dates!

Thurs., 8/26/21 First day of classes

Mon., 9/6/21 Labor Day. No classes/staff holiday

Tues. 9/7/21 - Weds., 9/8/21 Rosh Hashanah No university exercises. Staff holiday Tuesday

Mon. 9/13/21 Last day to add classes.

Weds., 9/15/21 First day for undergraduates to elect a pass/fail option for a class taken in the current term.

Thurs., 9/16/21 Yom Kippur: No university exercises. Staff holiday.

Tues., 9/21/21 Sukkot: No university exercises.

Mon., 9/27/21 **BRANDEIS TUESDAY**: Tuesday class schedule in effect.

Tues., 9/28/21 Shemini Atzeret: No university exercises/classes.

Parking

Parking can be frustrating sometimes but please remember that students may **NOT** (even if you're late for class and there's a spot open!) park in the **circle in front of the IBS building**. These spots are reserved for guests, faculty, and staff. Thank you for your cooperation!



***REMEMBER TO CHECK THE BRANDEIS WEBSITE FOR ALL UPDATED COVID INSTRUCTIONS FOR CAMPUS!**

