A WORD FROM YOUR NEW CHAIR

I hope you have had a wonderful and rejuvenating summer. I am the new chair of economics and will be taking over from Betsy Brainerd for the next few years. I teach statistics and development economics, and my areas of research span development, health, labor and gender. The Economics faculty and I are excited to get the fall semester underway, and have been working to develop the courses you will find on our course schedule for the fall semester.

We are thrilled to welcome two new faculty members to the Economics Department this fall, Professor Jingyi Huang and Professor Ashley Miller. Professor Huang’s research expertise lies at the intersection of economic history, law and industrial organization. She has an interesting paper on the Chicago meatpacking industry and others in process. Professor Huang will be teaching Econ 80a Microeconomic Theory in the fall. Professor Miller does research in labor economics and the economics of education, and she will join me in teaching two sections of Econ 83a Statistics for Economic Analysis in the fall. In addition, we are happy to welcome back Professor Mahsa Akbari, who is re-joining the Economics Department after a year’s absence.
A WORD FROM YOUR NEW CHAIR

As many of you probably know, Professor Akbari's research interests are in economic development, labor economics and applied econometrics. She will be teaching Econ 184b Econometrics and Econ 175a Introduction to the Economics of Development in the fall. While our fall course line-up does not have any new elective courses, we are tentatively planning two new electives that will debut in the spring 2023 semester: an upper-level elective perhaps in education or development economics to be taught by a new Professor, and a new team-taught course called Introduction to Machine Learning with Economic Applications. This course will be co-taught by Professor Yinchu Zhu (ECON) and Professor Pengyu Hong (COSI). The prerequisites will be COSI 10a Intro to Problem Solving in Python, along with Econ 83a Statistics for Economic Analysis. 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 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. Students can also earn Econ credits by taking our classes in Copenhagen in summer 2023. For more information, see the Brandeis in Copenhagen website.

I hope you have a healthy and productive semester filled with lots of learning on new concepts and ideas that engage and excite you. Please feel free to be in touch with me at nmenon@brandeis.edu.

FALL REGISTRATION

Registration for fall 2022 courses continues through September 8th. You can find the list of times and instructors for all economics courses HERE. WorkDay is our automated system for registering for classes. If a class you would like is full, you must put yourself on the waitlist to be considered for the class. We can only enroll students from the waitlist. If you are unable to get on the waitlist, please request an “override” on that same page. Make sure you enter comments as to why you should be approved for an override. Workday overrides DO NOT enroll you in a course, they allow you to bypass the prerequisites. 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. 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 lesley@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!

SENIOR HONORS 2022-2023

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 6th by 5:00 pm. Please email them to Professor Schoenle (schoenle@brandeis.edu) and Leslie Yancich. No exceptions!

MATH REQUIREMENT

Reminder: Math requirement for Econ 80a, Econ 82b, Econ 83a and Econ 184bEvery 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 2nd, from 2:30-4:30. 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 have met all prerequisites and should contact Leslie Yancich.

ADVISING/UNDERGRADUATE ADVISING HEAD

Professor Scott Redenius returns as the UAH for the fall 2022 semester. 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 Redenius.*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 lesley@brandeis.edu. Do not re-submit the form!
TA TRAINING
We have a tentative TA Training session scheduled for Friday, September 9th, from 2:30-3:30 pm. We will confirm this with all TA’s on Tuesday, September 6th. If we are unable to have it at that time, we will notify students on how to use our online training.

UDR’S FOR 2022-2023
We welcome our new UDR’s and continuing 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.

- Naftali Kruman ’23
  naftalikruman@brandeis.edu
- Pierre Sulemont ’23
  pierresulmont@brandeis.edu
- Huan Tian ’24
  huantian@brandeis.edu

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!