A Word from Our Department Chair

Here are some highlights from our teaching offerings in the Spring. First, Prof. Yinchu Zhu will be team-teaching a new COSI/ECON upper level elective on Machine Learning in Economics. This promises to be an exciting class with the tools of machine learning and computer science being applied to examples from economics, so students who have the prerequisites should definitely consider this class.

If you have issues enrolling, please contact Leslie Yancich, our department administrator, who will be able to help. Second, for students subject to the Brandeis Core requirements, we will be offering four sections each of the 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. Third, Prof. Josh Abel will be teaching one section of Econ 184b (Econometrics) in the Spring. Josh works in economic consulting and those who have this interest for the future should consider enrolling in his class. And finally, Prof. Ashley Miller, our new professor this year, will be teaching the introductory classes in Econ 2a and Econ 10a in the Spring. Prof. Miller comes to us with a lot of teaching experience and those who intend on starting their journey in economics would greatly benefit from taking either of these classes with her.

Good luck on your Spring classes and hope it is a semester with lots of learning on new ideas and concepts.
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, January 27TH, from 1:00-3:00. 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.

Spring Registration

Early registration for spring 2023 courses will begin November 15th at 10:00am. General registration will begin on Tuesday, November 22nd at 10:00 am and continues through Monday, January 30th until 11:59 pm. You can find the list of times and instructors for all economics courses for the fall semester here.

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.

PLEASE REMEMBER.....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 lesliy@brandeis.edu.

Need help with 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!

TA positions for spring will be opening up this week. Please visit workday to see most updated listings.
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 Geoff Clarke will take over as the UAH for the Spring 2023 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 Clarke.

*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, January 20th, from 2:00-3:00 pm. We will confirm this with all TA’s prior to that time.

UDRs 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

Meet the Majors Event

The yearly MEET THE MAJORS event, hosted by the Undergraduate Departmental Representatives (UDRs), provided students with the opportunity to learn more about the economics major. The event was useful for first years and sophomores who have not yet declared their major, and would like to better understand the requirements, expectations, and experiences of a Brandeis Economics student! Several speakers, both students and professors, gave the students advice, and reiterated the importance of the Economics major. The event was well attended and a great success.

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!