

# DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS

Department Newsletter, August 2020

*Dear students,*

Welcome to the fall 2020 semester, which promises to be a semester like no other!

Our faculty have worked all summer to prepare their courses as outstanding remote/hybrid or in-person courses. I have read all of the re-worked syllabi, and I am immensely proud of the care, thought and dedication to student learning that is evidenced in our faculty's plans for the fall semester. No matter what the modality of the Economics courses you will be taking this fall, I am confident that it will be a terrific learning experience for you. And although most office hours will be held virtually this fall, please know that we continue to be there for you as your teachers, advisers and mentors. Please do not hesitate to reach out for anything we can help you with.

## Letter from the Chair



**Professor Elizabeth Brainerd**

Chair, Economics Department;  
Susan and Barton Winokur Professor  
in Economics, and Women's, Gender  
and Sexuality Studies

We are thrilled to be welcoming two outstanding new faculty members this fall, Amelia Hawkins and Yinchu Zhu. I know you will join us in giving a warm welcome to these new members of our community.

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 26b has Econ 80a as a prerequisite (or co-requisite) and fulfills the Writing Intensive foundational literacies requirement for Economics majors. Econ 25a has Econ 82b as a prerequisite (or co-requisite) and fulfills the Oral Communications foundational literacies requirement for Economics majors. Junior and senior majors can also take certain graduate courses at IBS for upper-level elective credit.

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

# Fall Registration

Registration for Fall 2020 courses continues through Wednesday, September 9th. You can find the list of times and instructors for all economics courses that will appear during registration for the fall semester on the Econ website.

During registration, if a course you hope to take is closed or requires a code, please put your name on the course demand list on Sage. For ALL Upper level econ courses (econ 135,141,160,171,182, & 184), students MUST put themselves directly onto the demand list. This will time stamp your request and will be used to allow students in wherever possible. We will enroll students from the demand list according to their academic standing (seniors before juniors, etc.), declared majors, and place on the list.

**NOTE:** Any student with a time conflict must have a "Time Conflict form" signed by both conflicting course instructors to be able to enroll. As space becomes available all the way up until the end of registration, we will admit more students wherever possible. Again, qualified seniors will be given priority over juniors, juniors over sophomores, etc.

(Please note: A qualified senior is any econ major senior who has completed at least 88 credits by the end of the spring 2020 semester)

If you are on the demand list and trying to enroll, it is important that you attend all of the class meetings, as long as they do not conflict with another course you are taking. 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 the department administrator, [Leslie Yancich](mailto:lesliey@brandeis.edu) at [lesliey@brandeis.edu](mailto:lesliey@brandeis.edu).



# TA Training

Being a TA this fall will require some necessary changes to our usual TA format! So that we can accommodate all TAs, we will be putting a link onto the Economics website allowing TAs to go in and view a pre-recorded session. This will be mandatory for all TAs (new or experienced) as Professor Redenius will not only go over the basics of being a TA, but also some of the challenges of TA'ing for online courses.

We will update all TA's with a date for this in the next week or so!

# Advising

Professor Redenius, the current Undergraduate Advising Head, has 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 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 Yancich at [lesliey@brandeis.edu](mailto:lesliey@brandeis.edu). Do not re-submit the form!

# Senior Thesis Honors

Seniors who are interested in writing a senior thesis should attend the Zoom meeting scheduled with Professor Jefferson on August 27th at 9:00 a.m. (EST). Please email Leslie Yancich and she will send you the link to the Zoom meeting. Please download the Senior Thesis Guidelines and the Advising Memo for due dates and policies. This can be found on the Economics website.

For those of you who attended the information session in the early spring, we have updated the Guidelines due dates to reflect the new academic calendar so please make sure you have the current version. It can be found [here on the Economics website](#).



Do you have questions about Workday?

Click here!

Do you have questions about Sage?

Click here!

*Check out their bios!*

2020-2021

Economics UDRs

Bob Corpening '21  
rcorpening@brandeis.edu

Rebecca Li '21  
rebeccaye@brandeis.edu

Annie Huang '21  
anniehuangyaxi@brandeis.edu

Frances Hoffen '22  
fhoffen@brandeis.edu

## Graduate-Level Courses

We may be able to offer some spots in graduate-level courses to qualified undergraduates for Fall 2020. Spaces are limited and all prerequisites must be met to enroll. Codes are required for these courses. Please check with the department to make sure the graduate course you want will qualify as an upper level elective towards the Economics major.

Please email [lesliey@brandeis.edu](mailto:lesliey@brandeis.edu) if you are interested or have questions.

## Important Dates

8/26/2020 - First day of classes

9/9/2020 - Last day of registration for Fall 2020

9/30/2020 - Brandeis "Monday"

10/8/2020 - Last day to drop a course without a "W"

11/4/2020 - Spring 2021 registration begins

11/5/2020 - Last day to drop a course with a "W"

12/3/2020 - Last day of classes

