

Department of Economics
Graduate Classes
Spring 2023 Semester

890: Topics in Economics

881: Topics in Applied Microeconomics

882: Topics in Macroecon/International Finance

883: Topics in Econometrics

884: Topics in History of Economics

885: Topics in Economic Theory

Class	Class Title	Days & Times	Instructor	Room	Class Dates
ECON 826-01	Partial Identification: Theory and Applications in Industrial Organization	WF 1:45PM - 3:00PM	Allan Collard Wexler; Adam Rosen	Soc Sci 105	01/11/2023 - 04/19/2023
Focus on the use of partially identifying models for applications in industrial organization, investigating a mix of methodological, theoretical, econometric and applied issues. Particular areas of application in the IO literature will comprise a selection of research employing various models of auctions, entry, matching, and demand estimation. For each area of application, we will cover both the econometric theory underlying the partial identification analysis employed, as well as the motivation for the use of the partially identifying model in empirical practice.					
ECON 855-01	International Finance and Macroeconomics	M 5:15PM - 7:45PM	Laura Castillo Martinez	Soc Sci 327	01/11/2023 - 04/19/2023
Course provides a broad overview of core field models and explores active current research areas. Topics generally include international transmission of business cycles, global imbalances and external adjustment, international asset pricing and financial intermediation, the international monetary system, global financial cycle, determination of nominal and real exchange rates, exchange rate pass-through and invoicing, monetary and fiscal policy in the open economy, alternative exchange rate arrangements, and sovereign debt.					
ECON 881-23	TOPICS IN APPLIED MICROECON - INTRA HOUSEHOLD DISTRIBUTION	MW 1:45PM - 3:00PM	Marjorie McElroy	Soc Sci 113	01/11/2023 - 03/01/2023
ECON 881-24	TOPICS IN APPLIED MICROECON - APPS IN LABOR AND FAMILY ECON	MW 1:45PM - 3:00PM	Marjorie McElroy	Soc Sci 113	03/02/2023 - 04/19/2023
ECON 881-26	TOPICS IN APPLIED MICROECON - LABOR MARKETS & ECON DEVELPMT	TuTh 1:45PM - 3:00PM	Rob Garlick	Soc Sci 327	03/02/2023 - 04/19/2023
This course will examine the intersection of development economics and labor economics. Topics and methods will be relevant to students in both fields. The course will cover selected topics from: labor market returns to human capital; multisector labor market models with a focus on informality and self-employment; migration and spatial mismatch; family enterprises and home production; labor market frictions, including financial frictions and limited information; globalization, (de) industrialization and sectoral transformation; and labor market regulation, including health and safety regulations and wage regulations. We will emphasize “taking theory to the data” and will consider how different research designs and econometric tools are deployed within each topic.					
ECON 882-01	TOPICS MACRO/INTERNATL FINANCE - FIRM DYNAMICS AND TRADE	Tu 10:15AM - 12:45PM	Daniel Xu, Matthias Kehrig	Soc Sci 327	01/11/2023 - 04/19/2023
This course aims at familiarizing you with the current research in international trade and micro-founded macroeconomics. We will go over main topics where heterogeneous agents play a key role, such as productivity heterogeneity, industry equilibrium with heterogeneous firms, factor reallocation, concentration, firms and trade, trade networks. Organization, assessment and scheduling are subject to change at our discretion.					
ECON 883-01	TOPICS IN ECONOMETRICS - MACHINE LEARNING IN ECONOMICS	MW 8:30AM - 9:45AM	Michael Pollmann	Soc Sci 111	01/11/2023 - 02/27/2023
In this module we will focus on when and how to use machine learning methods in economics. We will cover using ML methods (e.g. LASSO, random forests, neural networks) as a flexible alternative to linear regression, ML methods that allow using non-standard data (e.g. image, text), and generative adversarial networks (e.g. to design empirically-relevant simulations or estimate structural models). By the end of the course, you should have an understanding of when and how to use these methods, as well as simple implementations that you can use in your own research.					
ECON 883-02	TOPICS IN ECONOMETRICS - (QUASI-) EXPERIMENTAL METHODS	MW 8:30AM - 9:45AM	Michael Pollmann	Soc Sci 111	03/01/2023 - 04/19/2023
In this module we will focus on recent advances for (quasi-) experimental approaches and design-based ideas for empirical analyses in applied microeconomics. Depending on student interest, we will discuss how to apply these methods and the econometric frameworks used to motivate and study them. Topics will include doubly-robust estimation of treatment effects and partially linear models, heterogeneous treatment effects, difference-in-differences and synthetic controls, regression discontinuity designs, and instrumental variables.					

ECON 884-01	TOPICS IN HISTORY OF ECON - HISTORY OF MODERN MACROECON	TuTh 1:45PM - 3:00PM	Kevin Hoover	Soc Sci 111	01/11/2023 - 02/28/2023
<p>How did macroeconomics come to be as we know it today? The problems that macroeconomics addresses are very old; yet, before the 1930s, there was no clear distinction between micro- and macroeconomics. The background to modern macroeconomics is found in monetary theory, starting in the mid-18th century and business cycle analysis, starting in the mid-19th century. The course begins with this background and emergence of a distinct field at the hands of John Maynard Keynes and the econometricians, Ragnar Frisch and Jan Tinbergen – in large part in reaction to the Great Depression. The development of macroeconomics is traced with special reference to the policy problems it addressed (e.g., the problems of growth and inflation) and its technical challenges (e.g., microfoundations and macroeconometrics). The course carries the story of macroeconomics up through the early debates between the New Classical and New Keynesian schools to the beginnings of dynamic stochastic general-equilibrium (DSGE) models and structural vector autoregression (SVARs) that dominate macroeconomics today. Readings and discussion will also introduce students to the methods of modern historiography and the application of historical methods in a variety of contexts.</p>					
ECON 884-02	TOPICS IN HISTORY OF ECON - HISTORY OF MODERN MICROECON	TuTh 1:45PM - 3:00PM	Steven Medema	Soc Sci 111	03/01/2023 - 04/19/2023
<p>The ‘micro’ side of economics has been the subject of enormous change over the course of the last century. The evolving conception of economics as the science of choice under conditions of scarcity and the application of mathematical and quantitative methods to economic problems have led to fundamental changes in what economists do and how they do it. Indeed, the field as it stands today would scarcely be recognizable to the economist of a century ago. This course puts these changes in historical relief by examining key episodes in the history of microeconomics and its applications over the course of the last century. Particular attention is given to the development of economics as a modeling science, the ascendance of general equilibrium and game-theoretic approaches, the development of applied fields, the expanding boundaries of economics, and the quantitative turn associated with advances in microeconometrics. Readings and discussion will also introduce students to the methods of modern historiography and the application of historical methods in a variety of contexts.</p>					
ECON 885-14	TOPICS IN ECONOMIC THEORY - ECONOMICS OF CONTRACTS	TuTh 10:15AM - 11:30AM	Huseyin Yildirim	Soc Sci 113	01/11/2023 - 02/28/2023
<p>Module covers the basics of contract theory, namely hidden information and hidden action in a canonical principal-agent framework. The objective is to introduce you to its model and significant results with various realistic twists. Unlike in Econ 701, I will primarily deal with continuous types, but basic knowledge of Calculus will suffice. In the past, many Ph.D. students who planned to write theses in theory, empirical IO, health, and development took this module. MA students will also be allowed with permission</p>					
ECON 890-01	SPECIAL TOPICS IN ECONOMICS - MACRO-LABOR	W 5:15PM - 7:45PM	Gregor Jarosch, Laura Pilossoph	Soc Sci 327	01/11/2023 - 04/19/2023
<p>This course introduces state-of-the art models of employment and wages in the aggregate economy. We will learn how these models are used to think about both individual outcomes, aggregate labor market fluctuations and policy, and their interactions. The backbone of the theory will be the canonical search model which we will extend along a host of dimensions in order to make it more suitable for empirical applications. When studying these applications we will focus on how to connect the model with actual micro-data (identification and estimation) and, in the course of that, will cover several microeconomic data sources that are useful in modern, data-driven macro-labor research. Topics we will study include labor market power, unemployment scarring, discrimination in the labor market, and wage-price spirals, among many others. The course is intended for anyone interested in combining models with micro-economic data, with a focus on topics at the intersection of macro and labor.</p>					
ECON 890-02	SPECIAL TOPICS IN ECONOMICS - CHILD WELFARE	MW 1:45PM - 3:00PM	Jason Baron	Soc Sci 111	01/11/2023 - 04/19/2023
<p>This course introduces students to applied microeconomic analysis and the economics of child welfare. The course will cover the datasets, quantitative tools, and theoretical framework that economists employ to answer policy-relevant questions impacting the lives of historically underserved children and youth. Topics of interest include the role of K-12 public education on inequality and intergenerational mobility, the causal effects of foster care on children’s long-term outcomes, child welfare and juvenile justice reform, and the long-run economic and social consequences of early-life circumstances and government transfer payments. The class will be run as a seminar in which we will discuss the content of assigned readings and review frontier econometric techniques used in policy-relevant research. Class discussions will center on the research question of each paper, the dataset and research design employed by the authors, and the economic interpretation of point estimates presented in the papers. We will then use the findings of each paper to understand the current debate or consensus on each topic and discuss which policy recommendations may follow from current economic research.</p>					