Department of Economics
Graduate Classes
Spring 2024 Semeter

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 855-01	**International Finance and Macroeconomics**	MW 6:15PM - 7:30PM	Laura Castillo Martinez	Soc Sci 327	01/10/2024 - 04/17/2024
	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 881-01	TOPICS IN APPLIED MICROECON - **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**	F 8:45AM - 11:15AM	Arkadev Ghosh	Soc Sci 327	01/10/2024 - 02/23/2024
	This will be a course in development economics with a particular focus on the interplay between culture and institutions, as well as topics in behavioral development. We will begin with theories of poverty, and the role of institutions and culture in economic development. We will then move onto behavioral topics such as the psychology of poverty, identity and discrimination, as well as social preferences and preference formation. The methods covered in the course will include field experiments, lab experiments, reduced form observational studies, as well as combining experiments with structural estimation. The goal of the course is to help you do your own research in development and related fields, by helping you ask better questions and equipping you with the tools to answer them.				
ECON 881-02	TOPICS IN APPLIED MICROECON - **HETEROGENEITY & MACRO**	M 10:05AM - 12:35PM	David Berger	Perkins LINK 065	03/04/2024 - 04/17/2024
	This is a course on empirical macroeconomics with a focus on using micro data and models with microeconomic heterogeneity to understand macro phenomenon. Recent increases in computational power and the availability of big data have been transformational in empirical macroeconomics. The use of micro data provides additional discipline on macroeconomic models and often leads to insights or conclusions that differ from analysis using aggregate data alone. In this course, we will build the computational tools necessary to bring micro data to heterogeneous agent macro models and discuss multiple ways to use micro data to discipline and test macroeconomic models. The course will focus mainly on building up classic results and computational tools for both household and firm models. The focus will be on recent applications and current questions in empirical macroeconomics. Some particular applications include the role of transaction costs and lumpy adjustment in firm and household and housing models, the aggregate implications of volatility/uncertainty and financial frictions and understanding the aggregate dynamics of consumer durables, inflation and investment. We will also discuss the mechanisms in and how to solve heterogenous agent New Keynesian models (HANK) that are becoming increasingly popular.				
ECON 881-03	TOPICS IN APPLIED MICROECON - **PRODUCTIVITY**	F 1:25PM - 3:55PM	Allan Collard-Wexler	Soc Sci 109	01/10/2024 - 02/23/2024
ECON 881-04	TOPICS IN APPLIED MICROECON - **IO of HEALTHCARE MARKETS**	MW 4:40PM - 5:55PM	Emily Cuddy	Soc Sci 327	02/28/2024 - 04/17/2024
	This course surveys topics in the industrial organization of health care markets. It will focus on the effect of competition on price, quality, and decision making for various agents in the health care system, e.g., physicians, health insurers, pharmaceutical firms, etc. Theory and empirical work are included.				
ECON 882-01	TOPICS MACRO/INTERNATL FINANCE - **PRODUCTION NETWORKS**	MW 8:30AM - 9:45AM	Federico Huneeus Lagos	Soc Sci 327	02/28/2024 - 04/17/2024

ECON 884-01	TOPICS IN HISTORY OF ECON - **HISTORY OF MODERN MACROECON**	MW 1:25PM - 2:40PM	Kevin Hoover	Soc Sci 111	01/10/2024 - 02/26/2024

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.

ECON 884-02	TOPICS IN HISTORY OF ECON - **HISTORY OF MODERN MICROECON**	MW 1:25PM - 2:40PM	Steven Medema	Soc Sci 111	02/28/2024 - 04/17/2024

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.

ECON 885-12	TOPICS IN ECONOMIC THEORY - **PSYCHOLOGY & ECONOMICS**	TuTh 10:05AM - 11:20AM	Todd Sarver	Soc Sci 113	01/10/2024 - 02/22/2024

This course will focus on recent papers incorporating psychological biases and cognitive constraints into economics. The aim of the course is to explore the role of these "behavioral" assumptions in generating new and more realistic predictions in a range of economic applications, including investment and insurance decisions, consumption and savings decisions, contract theory, and industrial organization. Topics can be adjusted based on student interests, but will likely include some of the following: risk preferences and reference-dependent utility; dynamic inconsistency and time preferences; behavioral IO; belief distortions and self-signaling; welfare; cognitive constraints and imperfect memory; evolution of preferences. Course evaluation will be based on a referee report on one of the papers from the reading list and 2-3 problem sets. Sample course materials and past reading lists can be found at: https://sites.duke.edu/toddsarver/teaching/

ECON 890-01	SPECIAL TOPICS IN ECONOMICS - **ADVANCED METHODS IN APPLIED MICROECON**	W 10:05AM - 12:35PM	Jason Baron	Soc Sci 327	01/10/2024 - 04/17/2024

This course introduces students to increasingly widespread econometric methods in applied microeconomic research. The class covers the seminal papers behind methods such as the examiner assignment research design, the outcome test, empirical models of assignment mechanisms, marginal treatment effects, Empirical Bayes, and identification at infinity. Mastery of these methods will help students understand the research frontier in various subfields within applied microeconomics and hopefully spark ideas for how to make meaningful contributions in these literatures. These methods are much less common than other well-known quasi-experimental methods such as regression discontinuity designs, difference-in-differences, etc., but are becoming increasingly important within applied microeconomics.

ECON 890-02	SPECIAL TOPICS IN ECONOMICS - **MACRO-LABOR**	Th 3:05PM - 5:35PM	Gregor Jarosch, Laura Pilossoph	Reuben-Cooke 128	01/10/2024 - 04/17/2024

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.