Department of Economics
Graduate Classes
Spring Semester 2019

TENTATIVE

890: Topics in Economics
881: Topics in Applied Microeconomics
883: Topics in Econometrics
882: Topics in Macroecon/International Finance
885 Topics in Economic Theory

823	Forecasting Financial Markets	Patton, Andrew	T	3:05 - 5:35	
881.01	Topics in Applied Microeconomics *Dynamic Discrete Choice*	Arcidiacono, Peter	MW	11:45 - 1:00	01/09-02/27

In this module we will work our way up from discrete choice models to dynamic discrete choice models. In dynamic discrete choice modules individuals make decisions today recognizing the impact these decisions have on the value of future decisions. We will pay particular attention to recent advances in how to compute these types of models when unobserved variables are present. There will be a heavy emphasis on programming.

881.34	Topics in Applied Microeconomics *Economics of Discrimination & Inequality*	Bayer, Patrick	MW	8:30 - 9:45	03/04-04/24
882.01	Special Topics in Macro *Macroeconmetrics*	Bianchi, Francesco	W	3:05 - 5:35	03/04-04/24
882.05	Special Topics in Macro *History of Modern Macroeconomics*	Hoover, Kevin	MW	8:30 - 9:45	01/09-02/27
882.08	Special Topics in Macro *Asset Prices And The Macroeconomics*	Jurado, Kyle	TTH	10:05 - 11:20	01/10-02/26

This course will focus on models that have been constructed to jointly explain the dynamics of asset prices and macroeconomic quantities. It will also include a basic introduction to stochastic calculus, to help students feel comfortable working with models formulated both in discrete time and continuous time.

882.11	Special Topics in Macro *Topics In Monetary Economics*	Jurado, Kyle	TTH	10:05 - 11:20	02/28-04/23

This course will focus on two fundamental issues in monetary economics: price level determination and the real effects of nominal disturbances. Attention will be given both to theoretical models and empirical evidence.

882.16	Special Topics in Macro *Macro Labor I: Theory And Applications*	Ferraro, Domenico	TTH	11:45 - 1:00	01/10-02/26
882.17	Special Topics in Macro *Macro Labor II: Business Cycle*	Ferraro, Domenico	TTH	11:45 - 1:00	02/28-04/23

This course covers topics in business cycle research. It starts out with the basic theory of market hours/employment determination in the context of the real business cycle (RBC) model of aggregate fluctuations. Then, it introduces search frictions and revisits the classic questions of amplification and propagation of shocks in the context of a business cycle model in which unemployment and labor force participation are jointly determined as an equilibrium outcome.

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| 883.10 | Topics in Econometrics | Abdulkadiroglu, | T | 3:05 - 5:35 | 02/28-04/23 |

Econometrics of Market Design

We will explore the use of existing strategies from the microeconometrics literature, such as IV and 2SLS to estimate treatment effects on outcome variables of interest, with a focus on questions in economics of education. Our purpose is twofold: First, we will fill in the gap between theory and applications. To this end, we will review theoretical aspects that are essential for applications but not part of the core econometrics, such as uncovering counterfactuals for the purpose of interpreting results. Then we will see them at work by reproducing and reconstructing articles in full detail. This will lay out the foundation for the main goal of the course, namely econometrics of market design: A growing number of school districts use centralized assignment mechanisms to allocate school seats. Many of these assignment schemes use lotteries to ration seats when schools are oversubscribed. The resulting random assignment opens the door to credible quasi-experimental research designs for the evaluation of school effectiveness. Extracting quasi-experimental variation from data produced by such market design mechanisms introduces new theoretical questions as well as opportunities for applied work, which will be covered in the rest of the class. This course is intended for second and third year PhD students.

| 883.16 | Topics in Econometrics | Masten, Matt | MW | 1:25 - 2:40 | 03/04-04/24 |

Robustness And Sensitivity

Hampel (1992) describes the "robustness problem" as: "What happens if our ideal modeling assumptions are more or less violated? How are they violated, and what can we do about this?" In this course we will address this question by formally studying robustness checks, which are ubiquitous in modern empirical work. We will focus on methods for assessing nonrefutable assumptions in the context of selection on observables and instrumental variables identification strategies. We will briefly discuss how to apply the general ideas beyond these strategies.

| 885.03 | Topics in Economic Theory | McAdams, David | MW | 11:45 - 1:00 | 03/04-04/24 |

Auctions: Theory and Empirical Foundations

Applying game theory in practice is more of an art than a science. This course will train you in that art, allowing you to leverage the key ideas of game theory to gain a strategic advantage in business and in life. People rarely make decisions in a vacuum. The choices we make affect others, and their choices impact us. Such situations are known as "games" and game-playing, while sounding whimsical, is serious business. Important application areas range from economics and strategy (e.g. price wars) to finance (e.g. liquidity in asset markets) to entrepreneurship (e.g. raising venture capital) and organizational behavior (e.g. social norms). Through numerous real-world examples and case studies, this course will enhance students' ability to think strategically—to recognize the crux of complex strategic challenges and leverage the core concepts of game theory to brainstorm creative potential solutions.

TENTATIVE

885.05	Topics in Economic Theory	Lewis, Tracy	Th	4:40 - 7:10	01/10-02/21

This course reviews recent developments in Industrial Organization and Contract Theory. The course addresses fundamental issues of how firms compete or collude, how markets govern and moderate competition, and how the structure and conduct of rival firms affects market performance and organization. Non cooperative game theory is the organizing principle and analytical tool that is employed to systematically assess theories of competition and as well as competition policy and antitrust regulations. This year the course is designed as an advanced seminar for graduate students and faculty who wish to learn about recent theoretical advances in dynamic and relational contracting and their impact on competition in present day platform, network and two sided markets. The class is tailored to those students interested in developing a dissertation topic in theoretical and empirical IO, contracts, or market design. Those attending this seminar should have a good first year graduate level background in micro theory, game theory and the theory of information economics.

885.14	Topics in Economic Theory	Yildirim, Huseyin	TTH	8:30 - 9:45	01/10-02/26

Economics of Contracts

890.01	Special Topics	Ba, Bocar	WF	1:25 - 2:40	

Economics of Crime

There is widespread interest across the political spectrum in reforming criminal justice policy in the United States. Social scientists have responded to this phenomenon with a flurry of research attempting to understand the causes and consequences of our new, expansive criminal justice system. This course considers empirical research from the economics literature on a variety of topics related to the criminal justice system.