

Economics

Office: 206 Tilton Hall

Phone: (504) 865-5321

Fax: (504) 865-5869

Website: www.tulane.edu/~economic/

Professors

Scott S. Cowen, Ph.D., George Washington (President of the University)

Yutaka Horiba, Ph.D., Purdue

David A. Malueg, Ph.D., Northwestern

Douglas R. Nelson, Ph.D., North Carolina

William H. Oakland, Ph.D., M.I.T.

Associate Professors

Ila Semenick Alam, Ph.D., Rice

John H. Edwards, Ph.D., Maryland

Jonathan B. Pritchett, Ph.D., Chicago (Chair)

Emilson C.D. Silva, Ph.D., Illinois

Assistant Professors

Manfred Dix, Ph.D., Illinois

Christopher Wheeler, Ph.D., Wisconsin

Myeong-Su Yun, Ph.D., Rutgers

Students wishing to major in economics during the course of their undergraduate studies can choose between two programs: The Bachelor of Arts in economics and the Bachelor of Science in economics.

Each of these programs shares a common core in economic theory and quantitative methods but is tailored to the diverse interests and career goals of students. The B.A. in economics combines economic science with broad liberal arts training, providing an excellent background for postgraduate work in business, public policy, or law, and also for the student who will enter the labor force upon graduation. The B.S. in economics provides a rigorous quantitative background for advanced study in economics or for outstanding postgraduate programs in business.

Students seeking a stronger background in mathematics should consider Mathematical Economics as a possible major. Those students enrolled in the School of Business wishing to emphasize economics should consult their academic advisors.

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MAJOR

Students pursuing either the B.A. or the B.S. program are strongly encouraged to complete Economics 101 (or 103) and 102 (or 104) in their freshman year. They are also encouraged to complete Economics 301 (or 303) and 302 during their second year.

Bachelor of Arts in Economics

Economics 101 (or 103)

Economics 102 (or 104)

Economics 301 (or 303), passed with a grade no lower than C-

Economics 302, passed with a grade no lower than C-

A statistics requirement

Six additional economics courses, excluding Economics 388 and 389, two of which must be completed at the 400 level or above.

Bachelor of Science in Economics

Economics 101 (or 103)

Economics 102 (or 104)

Economics 301, passed with a grade no lower than C-

Economics 302, passed with a grade no lower than C-

Economics 441

A statistics requirement

Five additional economics courses, excluding Economics 388 and 389, one of which must be completed at the 400 level or above.

Math 121 and 122

We recommend that students take additional courses in mathematics, including Math 221 Several Variable Calculus, Math 301 Probability and Statistics, and Math 309 Linear Algebra.

Statistics Requirement

The statistics requirement for both Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science majors can be satisfied by completing either Economics 323, Mathematics 301, or the combination of Mathematics 111 and 112. Students should note that Economics 323 may be counted as one of the additional economics courses required for the major.

MINOR

A minor in economics is to consist of 101 (or 103) and 102 (or 104) plus any three other courses offered in the department except for 301, 302, 303, and 323. The completion of 301 (or 303) is strongly recommended even though it does not count toward the minor. Students who complete 101 (or 103) and 102 (or 104) to fulfill a requirement in their major cannot count these courses toward the minor in economics.

SPECIAL HONORS

The purpose of the Honors Program in economics is to provide exceptional students with an opportunity to complete an intensive program in their major area and to receive recognition for that work. To be eligible for departmental honors in economics, a student must earn, in courses completed at Tulane, a cumulative grade-point average of at least 3.4 and a grade-point average of at least 3.5 in all courses taken in economics and in related courses serving to fulfill major requirements.

Honors also requires completion of the Honors Thesis (Economics H499, H500). The honors thesis is an additional requirement for the honors candidate in that H500 will not count as one of the ten economics courses required for the major. The student must select a thesis director from the economics faculty and register for H499 at the beginning of the first semester of the senior year. By mid-semester, the student must submit a prospectus to the Honors Program that has been approved and signed by the thesis director. Subject to departmental approval, the student will register for H500 during the second semester and complete a draft of the thesis a month before the projected date of graduation. An oral examination is held after all other requirements are met.

ECON 101 Introductory Microeconomics (3)

Staff. An introduction to theory of prices and the allocation of resources. Topics include the pricing of goods and services, the determination of wages and returns to capital, market structure, and international trade.

ECON 102 Introductory Macroeconomics (3)

Staff. Prerequisite: ECON 101 or 103. An introduction to theory of aggregate income, employment, and the price level. Topics include unemployment, alternative monetary and fiscal policies, and economic growth.

ECON 103 Honors Introductory Microeconomics (4)

Staff. No prerequisites. Open to students with an honors standing only. A reading intensive introduction to microeconomics. The course satisfies the ECON 101 requirement. Students can not take both ECON 101 and 103.

ECON 104 Honors Introductory Macroeconomics (4)

Staff. Prerequisite: ECON 101 or 103. Open to students with an honors standing only. A reading intensive introduction to macroeconomics. The course satisfies the 102 requirement. Students can not take both 102 and 104.

ECON 301 Intermediate Microeconomics (3)

Staff. Prerequisite: ECON 101 or 103. An exposition of modern microeconomic theory. Theory of consumer choice, production cost, product markets, and input markets. Students may not receive credit for both Economics 301 and 303.

ECON 302 Intermediate Macroeconomics (3)

Staff. Prerequisite: ECON 102 or 104. An exposition of modern macroeconomic theory. Theory of national income, employment, and the price level. The role of monetary and fiscal policy in economic stabilization and growth.

ECON 303 Intermediate Microeconomics with Calculus (4)

Staff. Prerequisites: ECON 101 or 103 and Mathematics 121. An exposition of modern microeconomic theory using calculus. Topics include theory of consumer choice, firm production cost, competitive and noncompetitive market structures, markets with public goods or externalities, and general equilibrium. Students may not receive credit for both Economics 301 and Economics 303.

ECON 310 Economics of Money and Banking (3)

Staff. Prerequisite: ECON 102 or 104. Covers both theory of monetary systems and the current structure of United States financial institutions. General topics to be included are monetary systems, financial intermediation and resource allocation, informational value of economy-wide financial markets, the term structure of interest rates, United States financial institutions and their relation to the federal reserve system, regulatory issues, and current tactics in monetary control.

ECON 323 Economic Statistics (4)

Staff. An introduction to statistics as a tool for description and inference used in economic science. A survey of the techniques of statistical summary. Sampling theory and procedure, index numbers, correlation, and regression models. An introduction to the principles of statistical inference: probability, estimation, and testing hypotheses.

ECON 332 Urban Economics (3)

Staff. Prerequisite: ECON 101 or 103. A review of the determinants of the location, size, growth, and form of urban areas. Study of the major issues of contemporary urban life: physical deterioration, growth of ghettos, congestion, pollution, transportation, and land use.

ECON 333 Environment and Natural Resources (3)

Staff. Prerequisites: ECON 101 or 103. An introduction to the economic theory of how and why people make decisions that have consequences for the natural environment and the availability of renewable and nonrenewable natural resources. Analysis will include valuation of pollution damages and controls, the use of environmental valuations to determine optimal levels of pollution, and the evaluation of policy options to achieve those optimal levels. Economic principles will be used to determine optimal rates of extraction and utilization of natural resources. The course will apply analytical results to current environmental and natural resources issues.

ECON 334 Government in the Economy (3)

Staff. Prerequisite: ECON 101 or 103. An analysis and description of the role of government in the economy with specific applications to the United States. Sources of market failures such as public goods, externalities, and non-competitive practices are discussed. Other topics include theories of public choice, anti-trust legislation, regulation, the pricing of public sector output, and cost-benefit analysis.

ECON 335 Law and Economics (3)

Staff. Prerequisite: ECON 101 or 103. Economic analysis of legal rules and institutions. Topics include property law, tort law, liability rules, the Coase theorem, and accident and nuisance law. Selected applications of current interest.

ECON 336 Current Economic Issues (3)

Staff. Prerequisite: ECON 102 or 104. An analysis of contemporary macroeconomic and microeconomic issues. Topics will reflect current economic issues.

ECON 337 The World Economy (3)

Staff. Prerequisites: ECON 101, 102 or equivalent. This course offers a non-technical introduction to the analysis of international economic issues. While we will be primarily interested in developing standard economic approaches to these issues we will also offer a variety of other useful approaches from political science, sociology, and less mainstream parts of economics. Among specific issues to be treated: protectionism, multinational firms, debt crisis, international macroeconomic policy coordination and European integration.

ECON 354 Development Economics (3)

Staff. Prerequisite: ECON 101 or 103. An analysis of the problems of generating economic growth in less developed countries. Alternative strategies for promoting economic growth. The impact of the industrialized Western World on the economic development of poor countries.

ECON 358 Labor and Population in Latin America (3)

Staff. Prerequisite: ECON 101 or 103. An examination of labor markets and demographic problems in Latin America. The course explores in more depth some of the topics introduced in 354 such as dual labor markets, labor union activity in Latin America, migration and fertility change. Basic demographic methods to analyze migration and fertility are taught and the demographic experiences of selected Latin American countries reviewed.

ECON 359 Economic Development of Latin America (3)

Staff. Prerequisite: ECON 102 or 104. An introduction to economic issues that are of particular concern to Latin America. Emphasis is placed on understanding the position of Latin America within the world economy by studying measures of development and poverty, discussing theoretical models of structural economic change, and examining changes in international trading relations. As Economics 359 is a survey course, it is best taken before Economics 358, and 466.

ECON 372 Contemporary Japanese Economy (3)

Staff. Prerequisite: ECON 102 or 104. The course provides an objective analysis of the causes and consequences of the post-war Japanese economic development. It examines the historical and institutional background of the contemporary Japanese economy and brings global economic perspective to bear on the U.S.-Japan economic relationship. The course concludes with an assessment of the lessons learned from the Japanese model and its relevance to the U.S. economy.

ECON 374 Asia-Pacific Economic Development (3)

Staff. Prerequisite: ECON 102 or 104. The course analyzes economic development in the Asia-Pacific region. It examines the sources of economic growth, financial market conditions, and the nature of growing interdependence in the region.

ECON 381 The Economics of Labor (3)

Staff. Prerequisite: ECON 102 or 104. A survey and economic analysis of some contemporary labor market issues. Topics include labor force participation and the economics of retirement, the supply and demand for labor, the demand for education and investment in human capital, unions and collective bargaining, the structure of compensation, occupational choice, job turnover and labor mobility, an introduction to theory of job search as well as various other theories of unemployment. The course focuses

on theoretical and empirical aspects of labor economics, and is only peripherally concerned with institutional, legal, or management aspects.

ECON 388 Writing Practicum (1)

Staff. Prerequisite: successful completion of the First-Year Writing Requirement. Corequisite: three-credit departmental course. Fulfills the college intensive-writing requirement.

ECON 389 Service Learning (1)

Staff. Students complete a service activity in the community in conjunction with the content of the corequisite course.

ECON 391, 392 Independent Studies (1-3, 1-3)

Staff.

ECON 397, 398 Special Studies in Economics (1-3, 1-3)

Staff.

ECON 422 Industrial Organization (3)

Staff. Prerequisite: ECON 301 or 303. An examination of the extent of competition and monopoly in different industries. The effects of different forms of governmental regulation and control upon industrial performance. Some empirical evidence pertaining to selected industries.

ECON 423 Econometrics (3)

Staff. Prerequisites: ECON 323 or MATH 301, or MATH 111 and 112. Building on the statistical techniques learned in Economics 323, the course concentrates on the principal methods used to correct violations of the basic assumptions of ordinary least squares.

ECON 424 Financial Decision Making in Firms (3)

Staff. Prerequisite: ECON 101, 301, 323, or equivalent. Financial analysis, planning and control in modern business firms includes valuation, cost and allocation of capital, and capital markets.

ECON 433 International Trading Relations (3)

Staff. Prerequisite: ECON 301 or 303. An examination of the principles of international trade and the international arrangements that have been established to guide international trade. Specific topics include comparative advantage, the effects of tariffs and quotas, and the substitution of the movement of goods for the movement of capital and labor.

ECON 441 Topics in Mathematical Economics (3)

Staff. Prerequisites: ECON 303, MATH 121 and 122, or approval of instructor. A mathematical approach to microeconomic theory with an emphasis on static and dynamic optimization.

ECON 451 Advanced Topics in Macroeconomics (3)

Staff. Prerequisite: ECON 302. Structure and operation of macroeconomic system, covering both closed and open economies.

ECON 452 Economics of Public Expenditures (3)

Staff. Prerequisite: ECON 301 or 303. An examination of the economic bases for and evaluation of government expenditure programs. Topics include the rationale for government intervention into the economy, difficulties involved in setting appropriate levels of government activity, and how particular programs should be evaluated and financed.

ECON 453 Economics of Taxation (3)

Staff. Prerequisite: ECON 301 or 303. An analysis of major tax structures used in or proposed for the U.S. Economy. Each tax and the system as a whole will be judged according to the criteria of economic efficiency and tax equity. While emphasis will be national taxes, the local property tax will also be considered. Major alternatives to the present structure will be evaluated.

ECON 466 Seminar on Latin American Economies (3)

Staff. Prerequisite: ECON 301. A complement to other courses in the Latin American economics sequence focusing on a particular country or sub-region.

ECON H491, H492 Independent Studies (3, 3)

Staff. Open to outstanding juniors and seniors.

ECON 497, 498 Special Studies in Economics (1-3, 1-3)

Staff.

ECON H499-H500 Honors Thesis (3, 4)

Staff. Prerequisites: approval of department and Honors Committee. Credit is not given for H499 until satisfactory completion of H500.

ECON 607 Introduction to Mathematical Economics (3)

Staff. Prerequisites: senior standing and two courses in economics. A presentation of the primary mathematical techniques used in modern economics: calculus, linear algebra, and set theory.

ECON 608 Statistical Methods for Economic Analysis (3)

Staff. Prerequisites: senior standing and two courses in economics. A presentation of the main statistical techniques used in modern economics: probability, probability distributions, estimation, hypothesis testing. An introduction to econometrics.