

ECONOMICS FOR NON-ECONOMISTS: AN INTRODUCTION TO ECONOMICS

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Course Syllabus (2017/18)

Contact info

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Course Overview

This course serves as an introduction to Economics for EUI Researchers in History, Law, and Social and Political Science. The course consists of two parts. In the first part, the lectures will offer an overview of the key concepts in economic theory and econometrics. The second part will draw on articles from Journal of Economic Perspectives to illustrate economists' approach to different questions.

Pre-requisites

This course has no prerequisites.

Logistics

TBD

Course Goals and Learning Outcomes

- To promote academic literacy of the EUI community and enhance dialogue between the researchers of the different departments.
- To gain familiarity with economic thinking and to use economic theory and the tools of economic analysis to a range of issues, including the recent financial crisis.

Course Materials

This course draws on the following sources:

1. Slides: Each set of slides will be sent via e-mail to the participants in the course after each lecture. Slides will serve as lecture notes.

2. Textbooks:

Below are some textbooks designed for students who may not have extensive backgrounds in economics in order to keep the content of the course very low on math. These textbooks will be useful references for many of the topics taught on this course.

- H. Varian, "Intermediate Microeconomics: A modern approach", 9th edition (2014); New York: WW Norton.
- N.G. Mankiw, "Macroeconomics", 7th edition (2010); New York, NY: Worth; Basingstoke: Palgrave [distributor].
- N.G. Mankiw, "Principles of Economics", 7th edition (2015); Stamford, Conn. Cengage Learning.

3. Journal Articles:

We are going to use some articles from Journal of Economic Perspectives (JEP).

"JEP attempts to fill a gap between the general interest press and most other academic economics journals. The journal aims to publish articles that will serve several goals: to synthesize and integrate lessons learned from active lines of economic research; to provide economic analysis of public policy issues; to encourage cross-fertilization of ideas among the fields of thinking; to offer readers an accessible source for state-of-the-art economic thinking; to suggest directions for future research; to provide insights and readings for classroom use; and to address issues relating to the economics profession."

Course participants are actively encouraged to choose articles for the discussion based on their relevance for participants' research interests.

Examples from most recent issues include, but are not in any way constrained to:

Waldfogel, Joel. 2017. "How Digitization Has Created a Golden Age of Music, Movies, Books, and Television." *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 31(3): 195-214.

Allcott, Hunt, and Matthew Gentzkow. 2017. "Social Media and Fake News in the 2016 Election." *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 31(2): 211-36.

Goldin, Claudia, and Joshua Mitchell. 2017. "The New Life Cycle of Women's Employment: Disappearing Humps, Sagging Middles, Expanding Tops." *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 31(1): 161-82.

Course Outline:

The course consists of seven sessions. The first four sessions are devoted to lectures on following topics:

1. Introduction to Economics

2. Basics of Microeconomics, consumer and firm theory. Game theory
3. Basics of Macroeconomics, goods and money markets
4. Primer in quantitative methods

The last three sessions are devoted to the discussion of research papers.

Course Assessment:

To the best of my knowledge, in case of ***full-certified attendance***, for the *SPS department* this course counts as a workshop and as such gives *10 credits*. The *Law Department* will give *3 credits* (need to have the approval by the supervisor in the PRP), whereas the *History Department* won't give any credits for it. Consequently, there will not be a formal assessment.