

ECONOMICS (ECON)

Course Descriptions

ECON 201 Prin: Macroeconomics 3 Credit Hours

Together with ECON 202, this course serves to introduce the student to the basic ideas and concepts of modern economic analysis, and applies them to current economic problems, policies and issues. The focus of this course is on macroeconomics: income and wealth, employment, and prices at the national level in the United States economy. It is recommended that students take ECON 201 before ECON 202. MATH 105 is highly recommended but not required. (F,W,S).

ECON 202 Prin: Microeconomics 3 Credit Hours

Together with ECON 201, this course serves to introduce the student to the basic ideas and concepts of modern economic analysis, and applies them to current economic problems, policies, and issues. The focus of this course is on microeconomics, the behavior of consumers and firms and their interactions in specific markets. It is recommended that students take ECON 201 before ECON 202. MATH 104 or 105 is highly recommended but not required. (F,W,S).

ECON 301 Intermediate Macroeconomics 4 Credit Hours

The course focuses on what determines national output, economic growth, unemployment, and inflation both in the short- and long-run. The course also explores policy applications for fiscal and monetary policies and reviews debates about various schools of thought on macroeconomic policy approaches. This is a project-based learning course with hands-on learning organized in teams. (YR).

Prerequisite(s): ECON 201 and ECON 202 and (MATH 104 or MATH 100 or MATH 101 or MATH 105 or MATH 113 or MATH 115 or Math Placement with a score of 113)

ECON 302 Intermediate Microeconomics 4 Credit Hours

In this course you will learn how to use models to study economic phenomena and develop economic intuition through practice-based learning, so you can confidently respond to business and policy-relevant challenges that you will encounter in your career. Topics covered include consumer and producer theory, firm behavior, market power, game theory, asymmetric information and public goods. (YR).

Prerequisite(s): ECON 202 and (MATH 104 or MATH 100 or MATH 101 or MATH 105 or MATH 113 or MATH 115 or Math Placement with a score of 113)

ECON 305 Economic Data Analysis 4 Credit Hours

This course provides you with the basic tools to succeed in today's data-driven world. The focus of this class is on learning basic statistical tools for describing and presenting data, to draw inferences and make predictions, and apply these concepts to make data-informed and evidence-based decisions. Using a practice-based learning approach you will study real-world applications of the concepts covered in class. (YR).

Prerequisite(s): (ECON 201 or ECON 202) and (MATH 104 or MATH 105 or Math Placement with a score of 113)

ECON 311 Money and Banking 4 Credit Hours

The course focus is on various concepts of the financial system. We will focus on how the Federal Reserve engages in Monetary Policy and its role in the economy; financial assets of stocks, bonds, and derivatives; as well as the role foreign exchange rates play in economic interconnection of nations. We will link all these topics to historic recessions and global financial crises. (AY).

Prerequisite(s): ECON 201

ECON 313 The Rise Of Cryptocurrencies 4 Credit Hours

Dive into the transformative world of cryptocurrencies and blockchain technology! Starting with the origins of money and Bitcoin, we explore how blockchain works, its economic implications, and its challenges to traditional financial systems. Topics include price volatility, decentralized finance (DeFi), and the social impact of digital currencies. Delve into the ethical debates and environmental concerns shaping the future of digital assets. We will examine the rise of Bitcoin, Ethereum, stablecoins, and NFTs, but also emerging trends like central bank digital currencies (CBDCs). The course culminates with hands-on projects applying our knowledge to real-world scenarios to envision the future of this disruptive technology. (F, OC).

ECON 323 Economics and AI 4 Credit Hours

AI is poised to transform the world, but how specifically will it affect the economy? How will growth be affected? How do copyrights and patents work with AI generated products? Will AI become a substitute for workers and cause mass unemployment or will it lead to an age of abundance? While the future is uncertain, this class explores various topics and tries to understand the potential and pitfalls of AI from an economic perspective. (AY).

Prerequisite(s): ECON 201 and ECON 202

ECON 325 Economics of Poverty and Discrimination 4 Credit Hours

An analysis of the economic aspects of poverty and discrimination. Emphasis on the theoretical economic causes of poverty and the economic bases for discriminatory behavior, the impact of poverty and discrimination on individuals and society, and the effect of reform policies on the two problems. (OC).

Prerequisite(s): ECON 201 or ECON 202

ECON 331 Industrial Organization 4 Credit Hours

In this course you will learn theories and empirical evidence on the causes and effects of market power in industrial markets. The course will also provide you with an in-depth discussion of pricing and strategic behavior as well as of the role of information and patents. Using a practice-based learning approach you will study real-world applications of the concepts covered in class. (AY).

Prerequisite(s): ECON 202

ECON 332 Sports Economics and Esports 4 Credit Hours

In this course, we will delve into the economic principles that underpin the sports industry, employing perspectives from industrial organization, labor economics, and public finance. Topics include the analysis of sports teams and leagues as profit-maximizing enterprises, the benefits and costs of professional and college sports teams for local communities, discrimination, competitive balance, and esports. Through a practice-based learning (PBL Level 1: Fundamental) approach, students will engage with real-world applications of the concepts covered in class. (AY, OC).

Prerequisite(s): ECON 202

ECON 340 Happiness and Wellbeing: Practice and Policy 4 Credit Hours

Can we unlock secrets to a happier and more fulfilling life? In this course you will learn what contributes to happiness and wellbeing and discover simple changes that can make a big impact. We will discuss the science of happiness and the emergent field of wellbeing economy. You'll discover research-backed strategies to boost your own wellbeing and learn how governments and organizations around the world are working to foster happier societies. From personal mindset shifts to global wellbeing policies, we'll uncover how happiness is something we can measure, improve, and even design for! (OC).

ECON 347 Currencies, Capital, and Crises: Global Perspectives 4 Credit Hours

How do exchange rates shift the fortunes of nations? Why do some countries spiral into currency and financial crises? This course explores the intricate world of international finance, where currencies, capital flows, and economic shocks shape the global economy. You'll uncover the forces behind currency valuation, the impact of globalization on capital markets, and the policies that influence open economies. Through real-world case studies—like financial crises and emerging market booms—you'll tackle questions about central bank interventions, global debt dynamics, and the future of global currencies. This is a project-based learning course with hands-on learning organized in teams. (W).

Prerequisite(s): ECON 201

ECON 348 Global Trade, Tariffs, & the Standard of Living 4 Credit Hours

Course analyzes theoretical models of how global trade affects the standard of living of trading nations as well as studies investigating the empirical validity of these models. Tariffs and other trade restrictions are then analyzed in how they impact the countries that impose them and how that impacts the standard of living in those countries. Students cannot receive credit for both ECON 448 and ECON 348. (OC).

Prerequisite(s): ECON 202

ECON 351 Environmental Economics 4 Credit Hours

This course looks at environmental and resource problems from an economic perspective. We will consider various ways in which markets fail and discuss what kind of policies could improve environmental outcomes. Focus will be on current policies and environmental developments. (AY).

Prerequisite(s): ECON 202

ECON 355 Health Economics 4 Credit Hours

Using microeconomic concepts and statistics, this course provides a comprehensive overview of health care markets and determinants of health in high-income countries, particularly the U.S. Even though there is a degree of overlap with health services research, public health, and clinical medicine, the thrust of this course is economic. Topics include the demand and supply of health services, public and private approaches in financing health care and the application of cost-benefit analysis to the provision of healthcare. Prerequisites: ECON 202. Recommended: ECON 302 or other quantitative methods course. (AY). (AY).

Prerequisite(s): ECON 202

ECON 361 U S Economic History 4 Credit Hours

This class will focus on longer term trends and themes in American history with various comparisons to contemporary issues. Some main topics you are expected to learn: theories on why the US is richer than other colonies, historical health issues, economics of slavery, post-Civil War Racism, reasons for why the Great Depression lasted as long as it did, how the US left the Great Depression etc. (YR).

Prerequisite(s): ECON 201 or ECON 202

ECON 362 European and International Economic History 4 Credit Hours

The course focuses on various major economic events/topics, such as the transition from hunter gathering to farming, Mathusian economies, the Industrial Revolution, the impact of the slave trade on Africa, the reversal of fortunes between the Mideast and Europe, etc. Various other topics are discussed, such as Chinese economic history, the Black Death, historic legal systems, etc. (AY).

Prerequisite(s): ECON 201 or ECON 202

ECON 380 Real Estate and Cities 4 Credit Hours

In this course you will learn about real estate, property ownership, rent control, and land use. We will also examine the effects of urbanization, population density, and transportation developments on city landscapes. We will discuss the role of local governments in residential permits, zoning regulation, and Michigan's Land Bank Legislation. We will examine the legal and policy frameworks such as fair housing laws and federal tax policy and how these affect cities. This course is perfect for those interested in real estate, urban planning, and public policy. (AY, OC).

ECON 387 Economics of Cars 4 Credit Hours

How has the history and structure of the auto industry affected technology, trade, the shape of our cities, or our regional and national economies? What are the implications of a car-centric transportation system for the environment, energy consumption, safety, or social exclusion? Can a global pandemic affect our mobility systems well into the future? These are some of the questions explored in this course where we examine relevant economics research and engage with practice-based learning projects. In this course we will focus on economic analysis and its policy implications. Course prerequisite: ECON 201 or ECON 202. (OC).

Prerequisite(s): ECON 201 or ECON 202

ECON 390 Topics in Economics 1 to 3 Credit Hours

Examination of problems and issues in selected areas of economics. Title as listed in Schedule of Classes will change according to content. Course may be repeated for credit when specific topics differ. (OC).

ECON 390N The Economics of Cars 3 Credit Hours

How has the history and structure of the auto industry affected technology, trade, the shape of our cities, or our regional and national economies? What are the implications of a car-centric transportation system for the environment, energy consumption, safety, or social exclusion? Can a global pandemic affect our mobility systems well into the future? These are some of the questions explored in this course where we examine relevant economics research and engage with practice-based learning projects. In this course we will focus on economic analysis and its policy implications. Course prerequisite: ECON 201 or ECON 202. (OC).

Prerequisite(s): ECON 201 or ECON 202

ECON 398 Economics Internship 4 to 8 Credit Hours

This internship affords the student the opportunity to apply tools learned in economics courses to real-world work situations. The student has 10-20 hours of unpaid work per week under the guidance of a faculty advisor and complementary academic work supervised by an economics professor. Only 4 credit hours may be applied to meeting the concentration requirements in economics; up to 8 credit hours may be applied toward graduation credit. The internship is offered only on the S/ E grading basis. Students cannot receive credit for both ECON398 and ECON498.(F,W,S). 4 TO 8 Credit hours (F, W, S).

ECON 4011 Monetary Economics 4 Credit Hours

What is the nature of inflation? How are money, output and prices related? Does monetary policy only affect economic activity through interest rates? Should we conduct monetary policy with rules or discretion? These are a few questions we will explore in this course, based entirely on research articles, and project-based learning related to policy decisions faced by the Federal Reserve. The course is run as a seminar with much discussion, participation, and student-guided sessions, including student presentations of research articles. (AY).

Prerequisite(s): ECON 301

Restriction(s):

Can enroll if Level is Undergraduate

ECON 4015 Introduction to Econometrics 4 Credit Hours

In this course you learn methods of empirical analysis that are highly sought after by prospective employers. Using a practice-based learning (PBL Project) approach, you will learn how to apply several econometric techniques that are useful for business and policy decision-making, including OLS, Probit, Tobit, and Difference-in-differences. Students cannot receive credit for both ECON 4015 and ECON 415. (W, YR).

Prerequisite(s): ECON 305 or STAT 325

Restriction(s):

Can enroll if Level is Undergraduate

ECON 4021 Economics of the Labor Sector 3 Credit Hours

Theoretical analysis and empirical studies of the nature and operation of labor markets. Includes theories of wage determination and income distribution, the nature of unemployment, the impact of collective bargaining on the economy, the extent and economic effects of discrimination, and the nature and effects of government wage and employment policies. ECON 321, Labor in the American Economy, is valuable background to this course although it is not a prerequisite. This course counts as a required capstone (4000-level) course in Economics and also counts toward the Economics Honors designation. Students cannot receive credit for both ECON421 and ECON4021. (OC).

Prerequisite(s): ECON 302

Restriction(s):

Can enroll if Level is Undergraduate

ECON 4065 History of Economic Thought 3 Credit Hours

Course examines the evolution of economic thought and theory from the early origins to the present, focusing on the major contributions to economics, especially from Adam Smith onward, and assesses the current condition of economic analysis. Students cannot receive credit for both ECON 465 and ECON 4065. (OC).

Prerequisite(s): ECON 302

Restriction(s):

Can enroll if Level is Undergraduate

ECON 4085 Public Finance 4 Credit Hours

Analysis of the role of government in the economy. Course examines theories of the need for and nature of government intervention in economic activities. Includes analysis of the local, state and Federal US tax system and its labor supply implications, intergovernmental transfers and transfers to individuals, cost-benefit and budget analysis as well as models of political economy and public choice theory. Students cannot receive credit for both ECON 4085 and ECON 481. Prerequisites: ECON 302. Recommended: ECON 305 or other quantitative methods course. (AY). (AY).

Prerequisite(s): ECON 302

Restriction(s):

Can enroll if Level is Undergraduate

ECON 410 Data Analytics for Economic Policy Evaluation 4 Credit Hours

This course aims to equip students with a comprehensive set of statistical tools and research designs pivotal for high-quality research in applied microeconomics and related fields. The curriculum prioritizes research design over statistical technique, focusing on real-world applications rather than theoretical proofs. Key topics include cutting-edge empirical methods for causal inference, such as matching methods, causal machine learning, differences-in-differences design, synthetic controls design, regression discontinuity design, and instrumental variables. The course also integrates recent advances in data science and machine learning, bridging across disciplines such as economics, philosophy, statistics, and computer science to enrich policy debates and research design. (W).

Prerequisite(s): ECON 305 or STAT 301 or STAT 325 or DS 301 or IMSE 317

ECON 437 Behavioral Public Policy 4 Credit Hours

In this course you will learn to apply the insights from behavioral economics and psychology to public policy design. The goal is to make it easy and natural for ordinary people to make sensible decisions through smart choice architecture, including nudges, defaults, simplification, disclosure, etc. while preserving complete freedom of choice. In this course we consider several public policies that are informed by behavioral science research, including retirement savings, household borrowing, health care, energy & fuel use, choice of nutrition, and environmental protection. (AY).

Restriction(s):

Cannot enroll if Class is Freshman or Sophomore

ECON 438 Beh Econ for Business & Policy 4 Credit Hours

Behavioral economics is the combination of economics and psychology that studies what happens if people behave like humans: irrationally, making mistakes, procrastinating, succumbing to temptations, forgetting, following rules of thumb, etc. In this course you will learn behavioral insights and by working on a PBL project you will apply these insights to develop solutions that can help individuals, businesses, and policy makers to succeed. Students cannot receive credit for ECON 336 and ECON 438 or ECON 538. (YR).

Prerequisite(s): ECON 202 or ECON 2001

Restriction(s):

Cannot enroll if Class is Freshman

ECON 442 Economic Development 4 Credit Hours

This course presents students with an understanding of the key problems, concepts, theories, institutions, sources of statistical information and policy debates that inform global economic development today. It covers an array of issues, from how we conceptualize and measure development and poverty, to debates on how we tackle poverty, to the centrality of human capital in growth and development, to sustainability, rural agriculture, and macro issues of trade and global finance. This is a project-based learning course with hands-on learning organized in teams. (AY).

Prerequisite(s): ECON 201 or ECON 202

Restriction(s):

Can enroll if Level is Undergraduate

ECON 444 Economies of the Middle East 3 Credit Hours

Survey of socio-economic issues of the post-WWII Middle East, using textbooks and web-based readings. Topics include population growth, urbanization, migration, gender issues, land reform, privatization, and stabilization policies. The Arab-Israeli conflict is not a focus of study. Grade based on papers and exams. (OC).

Prerequisite(s): ECON 201 or ECON 202

Restriction(s):

Can enroll if Level is Undergraduate

ECON 482 Regional Economics 3 Credit Hours

Course explores methods of economics evaluation of regions in terms of intra- and inter-regional activity. Regions may smaller than a nation, be a collection of nations, or be composed of portions of more than one nation. Theoretical topics include the theories of (1) the location of the firm, (2) spatial demand, (3) agglomeration economies, and (4) input-output analysis. Regional development policy is discussed using Michigan and Ontario as subjects. Students cannot receive credit for both ECON382 and ECON482. (OC).

Prerequisite(s): ECON 201 or ECON 202 or ECON 2001

Restriction(s):

Can enroll if Level is Undergraduate

ECON 483 Urban Economics 3 Credit Hours

The economics of the city and the introduction of space in economic analysis; the determination of land use patterns, the location of firms and industries, and an urban area's growth; economic analysis and policy issues concerning urban poverty, housing, transportation, the local public sector, and other urban problems. Students cannot receive credit for both ECON 483 and ECON 381. (OC).

Prerequisite(s): (ECON 201 and ECON 202) or ECON 2001

Restriction(s):

Can enroll if Level is Undergraduate

ECON 499 Directed Research 1 to 4 Credit Hours

Independent study under the direction of a faculty supervisor in advanced topic areas. Normally must be elected on the "pass/fail" option, in which case it does not count toward credit hour requirement for concentration. Special consideration for the A through E grading option must be approved by the Economics discipline. In all cases students must have faculty supervisor's permission to register.

Restriction(s):

Can enroll if Level is Undergraduate

*An asterisk denotes that a course may be taken concurrently.

Frequency of Offering

The following abbreviations are used to denote the frequency of offering: (F) fall term; (W) winter term; (S) summer term; (F, W) fall and winter terms; (YR) once a year; (AY) alternating years; (OC) offered occasionally