Vancouver School of Economics

The University of British Columbia

<u>Graduate Course Offerings in 2017-18 Winter Session</u>

Registration by logging into the UBC Student Centre (SSC) via <u>https://ssc.adm.ubc.ca</u>

Course number, section number, followed by credit value in parenthesis. (It is recommended that you do not purchase any textbooks until after the first class.)

ECON 500 - 001 Lecture (3.0) & L1A (0.0) Discussion Group (Term 1)
Microeconomics
Instructor: Vitor Farinha Luz

An introduction to microeconomic theory. Topics include: consumer theory, decision making under risk and uncertainty, general equilibrium and game theory.

<u>Note</u>: For economics M.A. students only.
<u>Textbook</u>: Geoffrey A. Jehle and Philip J. Reny, *Advanced Microeconomic Theory*, 3ʳᵈ edition.

ECON 502 - 001 Lecture (3.0) & L1A (0.0) Discussion Group (Term 1)
Macroeconomics
Instructor: Viktoria Hnatkovska

This course introduces students to modern macroeconomic theory, with a particular focus on dynamic general equilibrium models. We will start by defining the main theoretical concepts and by exploring the basic structure underlying these models. We will then apply the framework in the study of consumption decisions, asset pricing, economic fluctuations, and growth. The study of these topics is complemented with practical applications, ranging from the United States and Canada's historical experiences to cross-country comparisons, to the 2008-09 financial crisis.

<u>Note</u>: For economics M.A. students only.
<u>Textbook</u>: TBA.

ECON 514 - 001 (3.0) (Term 2)
Information and Incentives
Instructor: Vitor Farinha Luz

This course covers topics in the theory of information and incentives. The focus is on problems in which individuals do not share common information about economically relevant events. Topics may include value of information and experimentation, adverse selection, contract theory, strategic information transmission, information aggregation, and mechanism design. Applications may include industrial organization, strategic communication, political economy, financial market, committee decisions, voting, and search and matching.

<u>Prerequisites</u>: ECON 500, 502, 526 & 527.
<u>Textbook</u>: TBA.

Econ 515A – 001 (3.0) (Term 1)
Topics in Economic Theory
Instructor: Hao Li

This course is designed for graduate students who are interested in applied microeconomic theory. The main purpose is to provide training in modeling skills through a series of lectures on diverse topics in microeconomic theory. The topics include: information disclosure, experimentation, committee decision-making, war of attrition, assortative matching, and dynamic mechanism design.

<u>Textbook</u>: TBA.

ECON 516 – 001 (3.0) (Term 1)
Special Topics in Macroeconomics
Instructor: Giovanni Gallipoli

This course aims to provide students with a set of computational and modeling skills that can be easily employed for the analysis of macroeconomic phenomena, as well as to answer microeconomic questions relating to the optimal choices of individuals, households, firms and groups. The main purpose of this course is to introduce methods which allow to map different data into computational models: such methods can be used for the quantitative evaluation of government policies, to examine historical inequality patterns, to study individual and aggregate wage dynamics, to identify individual and households' responses to shocks, to rationalize firms' growth patterns and for many other problems. At the end of the course students should be able to apply such methods in their own PhD work, if they so wish, and to pursue independent quantitative analysis using computational methods learned in class.

The course provides: (i) an in depth discussion of specific topics in Macroeconomics (this may include consumption, investment, unemployment, asset pricing, coordination problems or others, depending on specific interests of both teacher and class); (ii) an overview of general equilibrium analysis and its existing (and potential) applications to the topics listed above, with a special focus on applications which entail the use of economies where agents are heterogeneous and markets are incomplete; (iii) an overview of computational methods to numerically solve for optimal individual decisions of economic agents as well as for equilibria of the model economies discussed in class.

Students will be asked to reproduce results from one or more applied and computational papers. Collaboration among students is strongly encouraged when solving computational assignments, which often involve sharing information and dividing tasks in the spirit of co-authorship. Based on past years' experience, by the end of the course students will be able to set up, analyze and numerically compute equilibrium models with heterogeneity. In fact, many students end up making significant use of these methods for their own dissertation research (often regardless of field).

Note: This is an advanced topics course. For Ph.D. students only.
Prerequisites: ECON 600, 601, 602, 603, 626 & 627.
Textbooks: TBA.

ECON 526 - 001 Lecture (3.0) & L1A (0.0) Discussion Group (Term 1)
Mathematics for Economics
Instructor: Paul Schrimpf

The primary goal for this course is providing some analytical tools necessary for graduate work in economics. This will require reviewing basic topics in mathematics, such as real analysis, calculus, matrix algebra, and static optimization.

Note: For economics M.A. students only. There is a Math Review that must be completed prior to the start of this course. This math review will be available on the web.
Prerequisites: ECON 320, or the equivalent.
Suggested Textbook: Carl P. Simon and Laurence Blume, *Mathematics for Economists*, Norton, 1994.

ECON 527 – 001 Lecture (3.0) & L1A (0.0) Discussion Group (Term 1)
Econometric Methods of Economic Research
Instructor: Vadim Marmer

This course is an introduction to the theory and practice of econometrics. The static linear regression model is the main focus of the course although extensions to dynamic and nonlinear models and simultaneous equations are pursued as well. Estimation and testing methods discussed will include those based on ordinary least squares, generalized least squares, generalized method of moments and instrumental variables, and maximum likelihood. Small sample results will be discussed, however, the main focus will be placed on the large sample theory.

Note: For economics M.A. students only.
Textbook: Russell Davidson and James G. MacKinnon, *Econometric Theory and Methods*, Oxford University Press.

ECON 531 - 001 (3.0) (Term 2)
Economic History of Modern Europe
Instructor: Felipe Valencia Caicedo

Why are some countries rich and others poor? How far back can we trace these economic disparities and how do they persist in time? Ultimately, what are the "deep-rooted" determinants of economic growth and development in the long run? We will document the staggering differences between (and within) countries and cover some of the theories that have been proposed to explain them. We would also spend time studying various mechanisms of transmission behind historical persistence and change. As we go along, we will make emphasis on the methods used

in modern empirical research in order to give you a feel for the recent advances in the novel field of historical development. As part of the course, students will write an original (empirical) research paper on a topic of their choosing.

Prerequisites: ECON 500, 502, 526 & 527.
Textbook: TBA

ECON 541 - 001 (3.0) (Term 2)
Economic Development I
Instructor: Siwan Anderson

In this course we work through a selection of the most important and/or interesting papers currently at the frontier of development economics research. Topics include the economic behaviour of households, micro-credit, institutions, gender, health, culture, environment, field experiments and other micro-level fieldwork.

Prerequisites: ECON 500, 502, 526 & 527.
Textbook: TBA.

ECON 544 – 001 (3.0) (Term 2)
Political Economy, Institutions, and Business
Instructor: Thorsten Rogall

This course addresses the interactions between profit-maximizing firms and a vast class of non-market agents, such as governments, political, legal and regulatory institutions, and the public. The focus of the class is on both international and US environments. The class emphasizes the operative implications of non-market institutions in affecting and constraining firm strategy. Topics and cases cover analysis of economic and political institutions, economic policy, lobbying and special interest activity, regulation and antitrust, activism and media.

Prerequisites: ECON 500, 502, 526 & 527.
Textbook: TBA.

ECON 546 – 001 (3.0) (Term 2)
Monetary Theory and Policy I
Instructors: Jesse Perla

This is a macroeconomics topics course with an emphasis on practical skills for macroeconomics/monetary economics research and practice. We will cover a number of applications of macro theory to monetary economics, macro-finance, (bounded) rational expectations, and Bayesian learning/estimation. As central banks and policy makers often use "new-Keynesian" dynamic stochastic general equilibrium (DSGE) models for analysis, one of the main goals will be to understand how these models are constructed, solved, simulated, and estimated on a computer. Some familiarity with time series econometrics, dynamic general equilibrium models, and computer programming will be expected.

Prerequisites: ECON 500, 502, 526 & 527.
Textbooks: (Optional) Ljungqvist, Lars and Thomas J. Sargent, *Recursive Macroeconomic Theory,* 3rd edition, 2012.
(Optional) Walsh, Carl E., *Monetary Theory and Policy*, 3rd edition, 2010.

ECON 550 - 001 (3.0) (Term 2)
Government Finances: Expenditures
Instructor: Marit Rehavi

ECON 550 is a graduate course in public economics with a focus on the design of social programs. Topics include: local public goods, health care, poverty relief, and disability and unemployment insurance. These issues will be explored from both a theoretical and an empirical perspective.

Prerequisites: ECON 500, 502, 526 & 527.
Textbook: TBA.

ECON 551 - 001 (3.0) (Term 2)
Government Finances: Revenues
Instructor: Kevin Milligan

ECON 551 covers topics in Public Economics focused on the revenues side of the government budget. The course provides a thorough grounding in the core theoretical foundations of taxation, followed by forays into current research on applied topics. Areas covered include social choice, optimal taxation, tax incidence, labour taxation, capital taxation, and fiscal federalism. By the end of the course, students will have gained familiarity with the core of the field and be ready to read and contribute at the frontier of research in Public Economics.

Note: This is an advanced topics course. For Ph.D. students only.
Prerequisites: Econ 600, 601, 602 & 603.
Textbook: TBA.

ECON 555 - 001 (3.0) (Term 2)
International Trade
Instructor: Tomasz Swiecki

This course reviews the positive and normative aspects of international trade and economic globalization more broadly. Topics include: theories and empirical patterns of (1) international trade and (2) international organization of production (multinationals, offshoring); (3) distributional effects of trade; and (4) trade policy. The course emphasizes keeping a tight link between the theory and the data.

Prerequisites: ECON 500, 502, 526 & 527.
Textbook: TBA.

ECON 556 - 001 (3.0) (Term 2)
International Finance
Instructor: Michael Devereux

This course examines recent issues in international finance and open economy macroeconomics. Topics covered will include: (1) the interaction of international capital markets and aggregate fluctuations, (2) the consequences of alternative international asset market structures, (3) models of current account determination, (4) models of nominal and real exchange rate determination and the international monetary transmission mechanism, and (5) models of currency and debt crises.

Prerequisites: ECON 500, 502, 526 & 527.
Textbook: TBA.

ECON 560 - 001 (3.0) (Term 1)
Labour Economics
Instructor: Florian Hoffmann

This course begins with a focus on models of labour demand, using those models as a vehicle for discussing issues of identification in empirical micro. We will work with both neoclassical models and equilibrium search models. Within this context, we will examine topics including technological change, the impact of immigration on the host economy and the effects of policies such as minimum wages.

Note: This is an advanced topics course. For Ph.D. students only.
Prerequisites: ECON 600, 601, 602, 603, 626 & 627.
Textbook: TBA.
ECON 561 - 001 (3.0) (Term 2)
Topics in Industrial Relations
Instructor: TBA

This course covers core topics in labour economics organized around four broad themes: 1) labour supply; 2) labour demand, 3) wage determination and labour market discrimination, 4) labour market institutions and wage inequality. Special attention will be paid to institutions and public policies affecting labour markets, including unions, taxes and income support programs, minimum wages, education policies, anti-discrimination policies, as well as empirical methods needed for the evaluation of these policies.

Prerequisites: ECON 500, 502, 526 & 527.
Textbook: TBA.

ECON 562 – 001 (3.0) (Term 2)
Research Design and Policy Evaluation in Economics
Instructor: Joshua Gottlieb

This course will cover modern methods of causal inference in applied econometrics. Students planning to specialize in public, labor, health, or development economics - or any other area where there is an emphasis on causal inference - would be well-served by taking this course. Topics covered will include randomized controlled trials, differencing methods, instrumental variables, regression discontinuity, and treatment effects. The course is open to M.A. students who have completed Econ 527 and Ph.D. students in economics. Ph.D. students in other fields with appropriate preparation may enroll at the instructor's discretion.

Textbook: Joshua D. Angrist and Jorn-Steffen Pischke, *Mostly Harmless Econometrics*.

ECON 565 – 001 (3.0) (Term 1)
Market Structure and Business Behaviour
Instructor: Sam Hwang

We will discuss empirical papers in which economic models are estimated with a view to introducing you to a variety of structural estimation method. Last year's course syllabus which includes the list of papers to be discussed is available at https://sites.google.com/site/samilmyounghwang/reading-list-for-econ. Your grade will be based on presentations and problem sets.

Note: This is an advanced topics course. For Ph.D. students only.
Prerequisites: ECON 600, 601, 602, 603, 626 & 627.
Textbook: TBA.

ECON 566 – 001 (3.0) (Term 2)
Business Performance and Public Policy
Instructor: Thomas Ross (UBC Sauder School of Business)

Governments intervene in modern economies in a number of ways and for a number of reasons. This course will explore a select set of these interventions in an attempt to understand their purposes and effects. The major focus will be on the use of competition policy to control business behaviour. This will include analysis of the economic theory of competition policy as well as applications in policy documents and cases. Other topics considered will include: (i) theories of regulation; (ii) the control of natural monopolies; and (iii) public enterprise and privatization, and (iv) public-private partnerships.

Prerequisites: ECON 500, 502, 526 & 527.
Textbook: TBA.

ECON 567 – 001 (3.0) (Term 2)
Organization Theory and Nonmarket Allocation
Instructor: Paul Schrimpf

This course focuses on empirical methods in industrial organization. Topics covered include: production function and productivity estimation, demand for differentiated products, models of entry and market structure, and dynamic models of firm investment.

Prerequisites: ECON 500, 502, 526 & 527.
Textbook: TBA.

ECON 573 – 001 (3.0) (Term 2)
Environmental Economics
Instructor: Patrick Baylis

This is a graduate-level course in environmental economics. The course will include conceptual treatments accompanied by empirical applications on the following topics: pollution regulation, renewable and non-renewable resources, climate change, and electricity markets. It will also cover the standard applied econometric approaches in the field in order to prepare students to conduct empirical research of their own. The course is suitable for both M.A. and Ph.D. students.

Prerequisites: ECON 500, 502, 526 & 527.
Textbook: TBA.

ECON 580 - 001 (3.0) (Term 2)
Social and Economic Measurement
Instructor: W. Erwin Diewert

Index number theory (test, economic and other approaches). The (economic) theory of the Consumer Price Index and of the Producer Price Index. Biases in indexes. Quality adjustment. Aggregation over households and firms. The theory of international comparisons. Recent developments in index number theory using scanner data.

Prerequisites: ECON 500, 502, 526 & 527.
Textbook: TBA

ECON 590A – 002 (3.0) (Term 1)
Special Advanced Course: Topics in International Finance
Instructor: Michal Szkup

This is a topics course in international finance focusing on selected aspects of the field. The first part of the course will focus on the theory of sovereign debt crises and will cover both the classical papers and the recent developments. The second part of the course will cover models of informational and financial frictions and their applications to international finance. The course will be structured as a workshop where students will take an active role in presenting required reading.

Note: This is an advanced topics course. For Ph.D. students only.
Prerequisites: ECON 600, 601, 602, 603, 626 & 627.
Textbook: TBA.

ECON 590B – 001 (3.0) (Term 2)
Special Advanced Course: Business Cycles
Instructor: Paul Beaudry

These lectures will begin by a brief review and a critical assessment of the dominant theories of business cycles. We will then discuss the challenges and desirability of building a macroeconomic model where demand forces drive fluctuations without relying on sticky prices. We will present and explore the idea that news, sentiment and uncertainty may be key drivers of business cycles. We will also discuss a set of empirical observations that have motivated this alternative line of inquiry. In the process, we will discuss the merits and pitfalls of using VAR evidence for motivating business cycle research. As an organizing framework, we will show how the notion of strategic complementarities can be used for understanding business cycle fluctuations. The course will introduce the student to notions of limit cycles, sunspots and deficient demand in stochastic general equilibrium settings. The course will also discuss the different policy implications of these alternative views regarding business cycles.

Note: This is an advanced topics course. For Ph.D. students only.
Prerequisites: ECON 600, 601, 602, 603, 626 & 627.
Textbook: TBA.

ECON 594 (6.0) (Offered in 2018 Summer Session)
Applied Economics
Instructor: TBA

The purpose of this course is to provide students with experience in applied research. Attention is devoted to problems encountered in combining economic theory with econometric methods in empirical research. Each student is required to undertake an empirical research project the results of which are summarized in an extended essay.

Note: For M.A. Economics students only.

ECON 600 - 001 Lecture (3.0) & L1A Discussion Group (0.0) (Term 1)
Microeconomics I
Instructor: Michael Peters

An advanced course in microeconomic theory. Topics include decision theory, behavioral economics, subjective and higher order beliefs in games, fixed point methods in equilibrium theory, matching.

Note: For economics Ph.D. students only.
Textbook: TBA.

ECON 601 - 001 Lecture (3.0) & L1A Discussion Group (0.0) (Term 2)
Microeconomics II
Instructor: Sergei Severinov

An advanced course in microeconomic theory - focuses on game theory as an instrument for studying strategic interactions. Topics include: equilibrium concepts and refinements, incentives and mechanism design. uncertainty and information, repeated games.

Note: For economics Ph.D. students only.
Prerequisite: ECON 600.
Textbook: TBA.

ECON 602 - 001 Lecture (3.0) & L1A Discussion Group (0.0) (Term 1)
Macroeconomics I
Instructors: Paul Beaudry & Henry Siu

This course introduces students to modern macroeconomic theory, with a particular focus on dynamic general equilibrium models. We will start by defining the main theoretical concepts and by exploring the basic structure underlying these models. We will then apply the framework in the study of consumption and investment decisions, economic fluctuations, and growth. The study of these topics is complemented with practical applications that involve the use of numerical methods.

Note: For economics Ph.D. students only.
Textbook: TBA.

ECON 603 - 001 Lecture (3.0) & L1A Discussion Group (0.0) (Term 2)
Macroeconomics II
Instructors: Giovanni Gallipoli

The course is organized around a set of topics, including aggregation in macroeconomics, optimal taxation, consumption and insurance, unemployment, search and money, heterogeneity in macroeconomics. There are two objectives to the course: (1) familiarize students with topics which are commonly studied in the macroeconomic literature; (2) provide some basic techniques used in the analysis of such topics.

Note: For economics Ph.D. students only.
Prerequisite: ECON 602.
Textbook: TBA.

ECON 626 - 001 Lecture (3.0) & L1A Discussion Group (0.0) (Term 1)
Econometric Theory I
Instructor: Kevin Song

This course introduces statistical foundations and econometric methodologies that are useful in empirical researches in economics. The topics covered in the course include measure-theoretic probability theory, analysis of linear regression models, basic concepts of asymptotic analysis, maximum likelihood estimation, and causal inference in various models.

Note: For economics Ph.D. students only.
Textbook: TBA.

ECON 627 - 001 Lecture (3.0) & L1A Discussion Group (0.0) (Term 2)
Econometric Theory II
Instructor: Vadim Marmer

A continuation of Econ 626, this course consists of two parts. In the first part, we begin by discussing identification and generalized method of moments (GMM) estimation of linear models with endogeneity, including simultaneous equations models. The course then proceeds to the theory of extremum estimators, which covers nonlinear econometric models including nonlinear GMM. The second part of the course covers topics in time series econometrics including stationarity and ergodicity, mixing and linear processes, heteroskedasticity and autocorrelation consistent variance estimation.

Note: For economics Ph.D. students only.
Prerequisite: ECON 626.
Textbook: TBA.

ECON 628 - 003 (3.0) (Term 1)
Topics in Applied Econometrics I
Instructors: Hiro Kasahara

This is a course in applied econometrics for Ph.D. students who are interested in empirical microeconomics. The goals of this course include (i) to familiarize yourself with econometric techniques that are useful for applied work, (ii) to build a bridge between economics and econometrics, and (iii) to provide you with hands-on experience of coding in Matlab and Stata.

Note: For economics PhD students only.
Prerequisite: ECON 600, 601, 602, 603, 626 & 627.
Textbook: TBA.

ECON 629C – 001 (3.0) (Term 2)
Topics in Applied Econometrics II
Instructor: Kevin Song

This course is aimed toward second-year PhD students in economics and covers advanced topics in nonparametric econometrics. We will discuss nonparametric density estimation by kernel methods, kernel and series estimation of nonparametric regression, bandwidth selection by cross-validation, and several semi-parametric models such as partially linear and single index models. There will be practical exercises (with R), however, the main emphasis of the course will be on statistical (large sample) properties of the discussed estimators. The course will also cover several topics in applied nonparametric econometrics including nonparametric quantile regression, estimation of treatment effects, regression discontinuity designs, and nonparametric estimation of structural auction models.

Note: This is an advanced topics course. For Ph.D. students only.
Prerequisites: ECON 600, 601, 602, 603, 626, 627 & 628.
Textbook: Qi Li and Jeffrey S. Racine, *Nonparametric Econometrics: Theory and Practice*, 2007, Princeton University Press.

ECON 640 - 001 (3.0) (Terms 1 and 2)
Ph.D. Research Seminar
Instructor: Giovanni Gallipoli

A seminar course to assist students in identifying a viable research topic for a Ph.D. dissertation. Students who have passed the comprehensive examinations must be registered in Econ 640 until a dissertation prospectus has been successfully presented. In each year in which the student is enrolled in 640, a research or survey paper must be submitted for approval to two faculty members, one of which is the faculty member in charge of 640. Attendance is mandatory for post-comp Ph.D. students.

Note: For economics Ph.D. students only.