ECON 2A: A Survey of Economics - Summer 2024

Instructor: Chen Chen
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Location: TBA. The ZOOM link will be provided on LATTE.

Course description: This course offers an introductory overview of both microeconomics and macroeconomics, providing a basic understanding of how economics operates both in theory and empirically. It is designed for students interested in acquiring fundamental economic tools applicable in diverse scenarios, such as managerial decision-making and the formulation of public policies. Through this course, students will gain an intuitive grasp of economic principles, and models and explore their applications in the real world. Additionally, it serves as a foundation for students who wish to pursue advanced studies in economics, equipping them with essential theoretical concepts and economic terminology for future academic success.

My background is more in applied microeconomics, and I intend to introduce some empirical studies in various economic fields into our class (but you are not required to conduct such research), such as development economics.

The course outline is still in the process of being finalized, but if you require additional information, please feel free to reach out to me.

Prerequisites: Familiarity with high school algebra will be sufficient for success in this course. Knowledge of calculus and statistics will enrich your understanding of the material but not necessary.

Readings: Textbook: Stevenson, B., & Wolfers, J. (2023). Principles of Economics (2nd ed.). Macmillan Higher Education. https://macmillan.vitalsource.com/books/9781319419769 The first edition is also appropriate. The book is on reserve at Brandeis Library.

Expectation and Evaluation: Attendance is highly encouraged. Students are expected to be in class on time and complete all assignments on time as well. Effective class participation requires that students read any assigned readings and you are encouraged to ask questions, share relevant insights, and contribute to all class discussions and activities.

Grades will be based on the Participation (10%), Problem Sets (30%), midterm (25%, in-class, on the third week), and final exams (35%, in the last class). This might be subject to change and more details will be provided soon.

I always respond to emails, please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Academic honesty: You are be responsible for checking the Latte page and notification frequently. You are expected to be honest in all of your academic work. Please consult Brandeis University Rights and Responsibilities for all policies and procedures related to academic integrity. Allegations of alleged academic dishonesty will be forwarded to the Director of Academic Integrity. Sanctions for academic dishonesty can include failing grades and/or suspension from the university. Citation and research assistance can be found in LTS-Library guides.

Do not generate new content with prompt-based AI tools like ChatGPT or CodePilot without permission from instructors unless specifically allowed by the assignment. (For example, Grammarly as a language aid to improve your expression is OK. But having AI write your presentation material constitutes plagiarism.)If the source of the work or your effort is unclear, the instructor reserves the right to request an oral explanation of answers.