



**Department of Economics**  
National University of Ireland, Galway

## **B.A. Undergraduate Course Descriptions**

### **SECOND YEAR**

#### **Semester 1**

##### ***EC215 Microeconomics***

This is an intermediate microeconomics course dealing with the theory and application of microeconomics. Topics covered include consumer behaviour, utility theory, applications of consumer theory, production and costs, market structure, theories of pricing, game theory, general equilibrium theory, externalities and public goods, economics of information and welfare economics. We review the neo-classical and non neo-classical theories of consumer behaviour and their implications for the government's policies, where the latter are assumed to have as their objective the welfare of its citizens.

##### ***EC229 Quantitative Methods in Economics***

This course is divided into two sections - statistics and introduction to mathematical economics. The statistics section aims to teach students how to present and interpret numerical information. Students will learn some fundamental statistical methods used in economics. Topics will include descriptive statistics, confidence intervals and hypothesis testing. The introduction to mathematical economics provides an introduction to the most important mathematical techniques used in economic theory, as a complement to students' core work in micro and macroeconomic theory, and as a foundation for further study in the discipline.

##### ***EC207 Irish Economic History***

This course examines the major economic and social developments in 19th century Ireland together with major developments in the post-independent Irish economy. The course will end with Ireland's entry into the European Community in 1973. Developments post-1973 are the subject of the Irish Economy course in the final year. The course covers issues of trade, industrialization, agriculture, planning, macroeconomic policy and social policy.

##### ***EC225 Economics of the Welfare State***

The welfare state refers to public mechanisms of support (in cash, in kind, or through public services) against a catalogue of standard social risks: old-age, death of a supporting spouse, invalidity, sickness, maternity, and unemployment. This course has

three aims. The first is to develop analytical and comparative frameworks for understanding the nature and evolution of the welfare state. Secondly, the course will analyse a number of specific components of the welfare state. Finally, we will discuss the current literature on recent developments in the welfare state.

## **Semester 2**

### ***EC217 Macroeconomics***

This is an intermediate macroeconomics course dealing with the theory and practice of macroeconomics. It builds on the concepts and principles covered in 1<sup>st</sup> Year Economics. The objective of the course is to understand the core principles of macroeconomic theory and to learn how these basic principles can be applied to various policy issues, both domestically and in an international setting.

### ***EC233 Research Methods in Economics***

The main uses of the statistical techniques studied on this course are to a) look at common ways of organising messy social and economic data, both in a visual way and using summary statistics that catch the main features of the data and b) to look at to what extent, and under what conditions, we can generalise from typical sample summary statistics to features of the population as a whole. Along the way we will look briefly at such issues as questionnaire design, random sampling, sampling theory, probability theory, different probability distributions, hypothesis-testing using parametric and nonparametric tests, and examining relationships between variables.

### ***EC226 Cost Benefit Analysis***

Cost-benefit analysis is the most commonly employed method for the evaluation of public sector projects or programmes such as investment in roads, labour market training, regulation of the private economy, and environmental programmes. This course will provide a comprehensive introduction to this method. The topics covered in the course will include analytical welfare economics, social objectives and the allocation of resources, quantitative methods, project appraisal and analysis, valuing time and the saving of life, valuing environmental change, and a series of case studies based on the use of this technique in Ireland and other countries.

### ***EC218 Mathematical Economics***

Applications of mathematical methods in constructing and analyzing economic models, with an emphasis on methods of constrained optimisation. Topics may include comparative static analysis, economic dynamics and game-theoretic methods in economics.

### ***EC219 Comparative Economic Thought***

The course examines differing schools of thought in modern economics through a comparative framework. The historical development of each of the schools is covered.