

Department of Economics

H.Dip.Econ.Sc. Stream A

Course Descriptions

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.

EC393 Methodology of Economics

As a foundation for this course, the major contributions to contemporary philosophy of science are reviewed. The application of these philosophies of science are then examined and critically evaluated. Arising from this, the scientific status of economics and the basis of its claim to knowledge are analysed through an examination of the writing of economists and economic methodologists, including Robbins, Friedman, Samuelson, Koopmans, Hicks, Kaldor, Hahn, McCloskey, Lawson, Mirowski, and Maki. Based on these writings the major theoretical positions in economics are identified and critically examined.

EC409 Irish Economy

The course aims to give an account of the major policy issues facing the Irish economy, interpreting them in the light of economic theory and empirical evidence. The emphasis is not on 'facts and figures' but on trying to organize our understanding of a complex reality using the simplifying tools in economic analysis.

EC415 Research Paper I

The research papers focus on developing the student's ability to understand economic reasoning, to select a research topic and discover what has been written on this topic already, to access and analyse economic data and to write and present a research project.

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.