

Economics
National University of Ireland, Galway

Third Year Economics Course Descriptions

Semester 1

EC425 Topics in Microeconomic Theory

This module provides an introduction to the central concepts of non-cooperative game theory and social choice theory.

On completion of this course, students should be able to have a basic understanding of important concepts such as Nash equilibrium, normal form and extensive form games, dynamic games, subgame perfect equilibrium, repeated games, Arrow's impossibility theorem, Sen's impossibility theorem, the Gibbard-Satterthwaite theorem, strategic voting, strategy-proof mechanisms and demand-revealing processes.

EC422 Applied Econometrics

The aim of this course is to give students a practical introduction to some of the main methods used by Economists to quantify relationships between economic variables. Using appropriate software and real data sets, theory learned in the classroom is quickly put into a practical context. Towards the end of the course students build their own Econometric model.

EC345 Health Economics

This course covers the following topics: health care as an economic commodity; agency in health care; the demand for health; economic evaluation of health care programmes; output measurement for resource allocation; hospitals, technology and the supply of health care; equity in health care; and the financing of health care.

EC427 Ireland, Europe and the Global Economy

This course draws upon economic theory and empirics to consider Ireland's evolving role in the global economy, insofar as this constitutes an essential part of the context within which government, enterprises and citizens operate, and their behaviour understood and evaluated. Central themes in the course are the nature and extent of the integration of product and factor markets, the operation of domestic and supra-national institutions in managing that integration and their conduct of economic policy. Particular themes may include a survey of contemporary developments in the Ireland and the global economy, the applied economics of economic growth and innovation, the economics of human capital and labour markets, fiscal policy institutions and strategies, capital mobility and the design of macroeconomic policy within the European Union. The course places particular emphasis on a comparative and historical situating of Ireland's economic experience within Europe, and within the European Union especially.

EC369 Money and Banking

This course sets out to develop your understanding of international banking and monetary institutions and the world's financial architecture. Using the basic economics of banking, the course explores a variety of current issues, including: the role of the new Irish Financial Services Regulatory Authority (IFSRA); how banking and currency crises have occurred around the world since the 1990s; the role of the International Monetary Fund (IMF); and why the European Central Bank (ECB) is considering a change in its monetary policy.

Semester 2

EC325 History of Economic Thought

The course will provide a comprehensive introduction to the history of economic thought. This section begins with an introduction to the history of thought in the ancient and medieval worlds and proceeds through mercantilist thought, the Physiocrats, Smith, Ricardo, Marx, the marginal revolution, theories of monopoly, capital, and Thorstein Veblen to John Maynard Keynes. The relationship of changes in thought to changes in the real economy and paradigm shifts are emphasized.

EC424 Topics in Macroeconomic Theory

This course explores the theoretical foundations of Open Economy Macroeconomics. In the first part of the class topics may include exchange rates and their relation to countries' trade flows interest rates and money supplies. An integrated model illustrates the importance of expectations formation for determination of equilibrium in the FOREX market, while other concepts explore the purchasing power parity theory of exchange rates and the importance of price levels and inflation for long run real exchange rates. The class will examine how the real exchange rate relates to demand for countries output, and discusses how fiscal and monetary policy, and permanent macroeconomic changes, may influence the current account balance. In the second part of the class, topics may include more detailed discussion of the impacts of domestic and international policy: we first review the history of large economy's macroeconomic policies and international agreements designed to stabilize currencies; next the domestic and internationally transmitted effects of policy in a floating exchange rate setting; and the theory optimal currency areas, and finally we discuss the EU experience and emerging issues.

EC382 International Economics

The course is a combination of theory, empirical tests of theories, the policy implications of theories and contemporary debates on the trade aspect of globalisation. The standard neo-classical theories of trade are examined and the textbook is supplemented with articles that examine some of the empirical issues relating to trade, its causes and effects. The implications of market distortions for the gains or otherwise from trade liberalization are also considered. The actuality of current international trade policies are explored, with some emphasis on the reasons for its generally mercantilist orientation. The course also addresses the issue of factor mobility (in particular capital mobility and foreign direct investment) and its implications for the home and host countries. Finally the current

debate over globalisation and development is examined with a critique of the arguments of both sides.

EC386 Public Economics

The aim of this module is to introduce students to the role that public sector plays in influencing resource allocation in a market economy. We will focus on the set of normative rules to guide public sector decision-making using tools of modern welfare economics. On the other hand, we will also show that public economies involve the positive study of how the activities of government (for example, taxation, transfers, expenditures) influence resource allocation, relative forces and welfare in the economy.

EC362 Economics of Financial Markets This course introduces students to the key concepts and current issues in financial economics. To reflect the diversity of the financial services sector, this course covers all the important financial markets: stock; bond; foreign exchange; and derivatives. Particular emphasis is placed on linking the financial theory to the major global economic and business stories of recent years, for example, the rise and fall of world stock prices; the volatility of the euro-dollar exchange rate; and how billions of euros were lost in derivatives-related trading.

EC388 Environmental & Natural Resource Economics This course looks at the relationship between economic activity and the natural environment. It deals with such topics as the exploitation of natural resources, environmental pollution and the natural environment as a source of enjoyment. It also discusses the notion of sustainable development, i.e. development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

EC357 Development Economics

This course introduces the student to the major theories of economic development. The central concern is the analysis of factors contributing to economic development in general, but in particular in low-income countries, primarily located in Africa, Asia and Latin America. The complex economic interrelationships in the process of economic development are analysed, including the inter-sectoral and spatial dimensions, along with the impact of these economic processes on the larger social and political domains.