L11 Econ 2391 Economics as Cultural Systems

Many contemporary approaches to economics downplay or bracket the importance of culture in the workings of economic systems. In this class we will focus on approaches to distribution and exchange in which culture and social institutions figure prominently, if not pre-eminently. We will sample a diverse array of economies, from gift exchange to the ceremonial destruction of wealth, from Melanesia to Wall Street, in order to evaluate some of the assumptions that undergird market capitalism. These assumptions include the perception of market actors exclusively as calculative, maximizing individuals. Topics to be covered include the Industrial Revolution; utilitarianism; economic anthropology; the formal vs. substantivist debates; ethnography of finance, and Marxist sociology. Same as L48 Anthro 3391
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: LCD, SSC Arch: SSC Art: SSC BU: ETH EN: S

L11 Econ 296 Undergraduate TA

In this course, an advanced undergraduate can assist a faculty member in the teaching of an undergraduate Economics class. Students can enroll after their selection by a supervising faculty member, which occurs after an application (on the department website) is submitted and reviewed, perhaps in conjunction with an interview with the supervising faculty member. Students can enroll in only one section per semester. Students will be expected, at a minimum, to attend lectures and hold office hours. Specific grading duties will be determined by the supervising faculty member, in accord with Arts & Sciences policies. The typical number of units earned is 2, with the possibility of a maximum of 3, per semester. This course can be repeated for P/F credit. Prerequisite: instructor permission. Credit variable, maximum 3 units.

L11 Econ 326 American Economic History

Basic theoretical concepts applied to analyze the changing structure and performance of the American economy from colonial times to the present. Prerequisites: Econ 1011 and 1021.
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: SSC Arch: SSC Art: SSC BU: BA EN: S

L11 Econ 328 History of Economic Analysis

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to some of the theories and doctrines that constitute the main paradigms from which economists and policy makers approach the world. Rather than focusing on the whole history of economic thinking, we will focus on practical issues, including questions such as the following: What determines the wage of labor? Why is monopoly considered a bad thing? At what level does an interest rate become usury? We will consider how these questions have been framed and answered at different points in time and in different cultures. Important components of this course are participation in in-class discussion and essays submitted on the practical issues discussed throughout the semester. Prerequisites: Econ 1011 and Econ 1021.
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: SSC
L11 Econ 3311 Financial Markets and Analysis
This course is a rigorous introduction to financial markets, financial institutions, and their purpose and functions in the economy. In financial markets, trade is essentially "money now" for "money in the future." As such, financial decisions must often take into account future events, whether those be related to individual stocks, portfolios, or the market as a whole. This course explores the topics related to the level and structure of interest rates and of stock prices, portfolio choice, basic investment theory, and arbitrage pricing theory, among others. Prerequisites: Econ 1011 and Econ 1021.
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: SSC Arch: SSC Art: SSC EN: S

L11 Econ 335 Money and Banking
Money and the monetary system; money creation by the banking system; central bank functions; monetary theory and economic policy. Prerequisites: Econ 1011 and Econ 1021.
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: SSC Arch: SSC Art: SSC EN: S

L11 Econ 348 Economic Realities of the American Dream
Exploration of the realities of economic life in the United States and how they correspond to the American Dream. Interdisciplinary perspectives from economics, sociology and other areas of social inquiry. Emphasis on the consistency between empirical data and different concepts of the American Dream. Specific topics include sources of economic growth and changing living standards, unemployment, impact of globalization on U.S. citizens, economic mobility, poverty and inequality, and social justice. Prerequisites: Econ 1011 and Econ 1021, or consent of the instructors.
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: SSC Arch: SSC Art: SSC EN: S

L11 Econ 3501 Political Economy
The course introduces students to the field of political economy. The approach is to apply the economic theory and concepts to political actors and behavior. Students are expected to learn: how economic and political forces may shape the incentives and constraint of political actors (e.g., voters and policy makers); the role of institutions in shaping both political behavior and policy outcomes. Prerequisite: Econ 1011.
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: SSC Arch: SSC Art: SSC BU: BA EN: S

L11 Econ 352 Health Economics
Analysis of consumer demand for health care, medical technology, and the role of health insurance. Emphasis placed on behavior of the physician (whether he acts as an agent for the consumer or on his own behalf); on the use of paramedics, preventive care, outpatient care, and the general market organization of the health industry. The major concern will be the rising cost of health care and appropriate public policy responses. Prerequisite: Econ 1011.
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: SSC Arch: SSC Art: SSC BU: BA EN: S

L11 Econ 3761 International Economics
This course provides an analysis of the international economy, the economic theories that help explain it, and important current issues of international economic policy. The course covers both trade and monetary issues. Prerequisites: Econ 1011 and Econ 1021.
Same as L97 GS (IAS) 376
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: SSC Arch: SSC Art: SSC BU: IS EN: S

L11 Econ 380 Labor and the Economy
Economic analysis of labor markets. Theory and policy applications of labor supply and labor demand; explanations of wage and income differentials; migration and immigration; discrimination; labor unions; unemployment. Prerequisite: Econ 1011.
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: SSC Arch: SSC Art: SSC EN: S

L11 Econ 4011 Intermediate Microeconomic Theory
Analytic theory of consumer and producer behavior under perfect and imperfect competition. Coverage of demand theory (indifference curves and utility functions) and preferences under uncertainty, including expected utility and risk aversion. Development of general equilibrium under pure exchange including the concepts of competitive equilibrium and Pareto efficiency. Discussion of the role of time as it pertains to interest rates, discounting and net present value. Analysis of standard monopoly and simple oligopoly problems. Development of noncooperative game theory, including strategic and extensive-form equilibria and Nash and sub-game perfect equilibria. Thorough training in intermediate theory requires both Econ 4011 and Econ 4021. Prerequisites: Econ 1011, Math 132 and concurrent enrollment in, or prior completion of, either Math 233 or Econ 493 (Mathematical Economics).
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: SSC Arch: SSC Art: SSC EN: S

L11 Econ 4021 Intermediate Macroeconomic Theory
National income and labor market measurement, Business cycle facts and consideration of alternative explanations for business cycle phenomena. Development of Solow growth model, along with theories of endogenous growth and an examination of reasons for differences in growth rates across counties. General equilibrium description of firms and consumers in labor and product markets. Implementation of monetary and fiscal policy, and exploration of the impact of policy changes on the macroeconomy. Prerequisites: Econ 1021 and Econ 4011.
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: SSC Arch: SSC Art: SSC EN: S

L11 Econ 404 Behavioral Economics and Experimental Economics
Behavioral economics is an effort to incorporate ideas from psychology into economic models of behavior. We will focus on popular experimental anomalies, including the Allais and Rabin paradoxes, ultimatum bargaining, the centipede and public goods contribution games. We will examine the extent to which these are consistent with standard economic theory and how they may contradict it. The primary focus will be a critical examination of psychological theories of nonstandard preferences including loss aversion, probability weighting, reciprocity, fairness and present bias. Theories of incorrect beliefs and systematic biases such as money illusion and procrastination will be covered. Applications to the current economic crisis will also be discussed. The class will include an introduction to experimental methods in economics, including hands-on experience in the MISSEL laboratory. A sound grounding in economic theory is essential to the course. You must have successfully completed Econ 4011, and should be acquainted with basic optimization theory, expected utility theory, risk aversion, discounting and basic game theory including dominance, Nash equilibrium and subgame perfection.
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: SSC Arch: SSC Art: SSC EN: S
L11 Econ 407 Market Design
The objective of this course is to study how to design mechanisms to allocate scarce resources and how to create successful marketplaces. We will primarily consider two topics: (1) two-sided matching markets, such as the National Resident Matching Program and the Kidney Exchange for transplants, and (2) auctions used by Google, Facebook, etc. Time permitting, a third topic will be the problem of designing and regulating market “platforms,” such as the e-commerce markets run by eBay, Amazon, and Craigslist, and applications marketplaces run by Apple, Google, etc., as well as the electronic financial trading platforms run by the NYSE. Prerequisite: Econ 4011. Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: SSC Arch: SSC EN: S

L11 Econ 410 Macroeconomics of Inequality
In this course, we study the forces of inequality across countries, regions, and individuals within a country. We will define and measure inequality using standard measures of economic well-being, such as income, wealth, and consumption of market goods, and we will also consider broader measures such as health outcomes. Historical cross-country data, microdata, and specific case studies will be used to evaluate theories of the sources of inequality. Key variables to be evaluated include physical capital investment, education and human capital investment, technological progress, robotization, international trade, and financial markets, among others. Prerequisites: Econ 4011 and Econ 4021. Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: SSC Arch: SSC EN: S

L11 Econ 411 Optimization and Economic Theory
An introduction to mathematical optimization and its applications within economics. The course is designed for, and should be taken by, all undergraduates considering graduate study in economics, but all interested students are welcome. Prerequisites: Econ 4011 and Math 309 or permission of the instructor. Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: SSC Arch: SSC EN: S

L11 Econ 413 Introduction to Econometrics
Course provides a basic working knowledge of econometrics. Topics include: translation of economic theory into statistical models, statistical foundations of econometrics, preregression analysis bivariate and multiple regression techniques, hypothesis testing, multicollinearity, specification error, autocorrelation, errors in variables, identification, and simultaneous estimation. The three writing assignments and the final paper will provide students an opportunity to formulate an economic model, estimate the model with appropriate data, and interpret the results. This experience will help students understand how econometrics relates to other upper-level economics courses which focus on theoretical models for how the world operates. Econometrics provides a method of testing the validity of these economic models, and the term paper will improve students’ writing skills, giving them a chance to write clearly and concisely about technical material. Prerequisites: Econ 4011 and Math 2200 or equivalent. Please Note: Requests for online registration will be wait listed, and students will be enrolled according to economics major/minor status and student level (e.g., priority to Level 8 economics majors). Students should also select the “A” subsection. Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: SSC WI Arch: SSC Art: SSC EN: S

L11 Econ 414 Entrepreneurial Finance
Analysis of problems in capital markets for firm financing and institutional structures that address these problems. Investigation of asymmetric information between firms and potential investors and correlated moral hazard and adverse selection problems that raise the cost of funds and constrain firm growth. Empirical tests for the presence of financing constraints on firms. A substantial portion of the course explores the role of venture capital, especially in the high-tech sector of the United States economy where venture capital is important for commercializing cutting-edge science. Prerequisite: Econ 4011. Econ 413 is recommended. Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: SSC Arch: SSC Art: SSC EN: S

L11 Econ 415 Understanding the Financial Crisis
The global financial crisis of 2007-2009 was the most severe since the Great Depression. The goal of the course is to provide tools to analyze key elements of this crisis. We will move from a corporate finance perspective — to understand the behavior of firms and financial institutions — to a macroeconomic perspective — to make this behavior in aggregate outcomes and policy responses. Topics covered include: the U.S. crisis in historical and international perspective; corporate finance of firms and banks in closed and open economy; monetary and fiscal policy intervention; the open economy dimension of the financial crisis; the European Sovereign Debt crisis. Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: SSC Arch: SSC Art: FAAM, SSC EN: S
L11 Econ 432 Economics of Public Policy
This course will cover the logic underlying the economics and politics of public policies concerning issues such as international trade, monetary policy, fiscal policy, market reforms, pollution control, economic inequality and the welfare state more generally. The general question we will address, using specific cases, is that of the role of markets and government in an economy. The course relies heavily on the concepts and methods of microeconomics and macroeconomics. There are many theories of how economic policies work and considerable debate as to what can be done and what should be done. We will examine the facts (past and present) and then examine the theories and their explanatory power. We will also organize the class into research groups that will address specific economic policies issues. Prerequisite: Econ 4011. Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: SSC EN: S

L11 Econ 435 Open Economy Macroeconomics
This course begins with a review of international trade theory, of the balance of payment accounts, and their relationship to international borrowing and lending. We then study the asset approach to exchange rates determination, exchange rate behavior in the short and in the long run, and the relationship of exchange rates with prices and output. The course also explores monetary and fiscal policy under both fixed and floating exchange rates, macroeconomic policy coordination and optimum currency areas, international debt problems of developing countries, and their relation to stabilization program. Prerequisite: Econ 4021. Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: SSC Art: SSC BU: IS EN: S

L11 Econ 437 The Economics of Financial Intermediation
The structure and the role of banks have changed tremendously. The historically-traditional activity of granting loans and collecting deposits has evolved into a much richer and more complex set of financial contracts. The separation between financial asset trading activity and traditional commercial bank activity that was typical of the financial system in the period after the World War II also disappeared. Coincident with the evolution of financial institutions was the development of the asymmetric information model. The role of banks in the economy can be explained with the tools developed in these models of the economics of information, as a microeconomic theory of banking does not exist when information is symmetric and markets are complete. The economics of information literature is also used to explain the evolution of financial institutions and markets, and to understand the consequences of that evolution for economic outcomes (such as economic development and financial crises) and for monetary policy choices (such as central bank interventions, regulations and changes in the payments system). Prerequisite: Econ 4011; Econ 4021 recommended, but not required. Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: SSC EN: S

L11 Econ 444 Innovation and Intellectual Property: Theory and Practice
Innovation — figuring out better and cheaper ways of satisfying human desires — is the key to improving our well-being. It is not patient saving and accumulation that makes us so much better off than we used to be: capital accumulation is only the conduit through which the innovation juices flow. The question is: What drives it? How come some societies are apparently much more innovative than others? How come we have the impression that most useful inventions took place in the past three centuries? Are there policies that help fostering innovation and others that hurt? The course tries to address these questions. Economists have many theories of innovation, some better than others. We look at the theories, we examine the facts (past and present), then we go back to the theories and reconsider their explanatory power. With this background, we approach the debate about intellectual property, what it is and what it is not good for, whose interests it serves, and whose well-being it thwarts. Prerequisite: Econ 4011. Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: SSC Arch: SSC Art: SSC EN: S

L11 Econ 445 Public Finance
The study of fundamental forms of market failure that provide the economic rationale for government action. The first third of the class examines market failure when an economy contains externalities and public goods and the general nature of public policies that address these issues. The second third addresses particular public policies, with a focus on their intended and unintended consequences and their costs. The final third addresses taxation. Topics include the measurement and evaluation of tax burdens, the federal personal income tax, tax evasion and proposals for fundamental tax reform. Prerequisite: Econ 4011. Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: SSC Art: SSC

L11 Econ 448W Current Macroeconomic Issues
Review and extension of macroeconomic models from Econ 4021 from a comparative perspective and use of these models to analyze current macroeconomic and policy issues. Topics include recession and recovery; long-term growth; saving and social security; investment; and monetary policy. Multiple writing assignments that emphasize critical analysis of theoretical perspectives and readings applied to current macroeconomic topics. Assignments are revised to improve logical structure, clarity and style. Enrollment limited to 15 students with priority given to senior economics majors. Prerequisite: Econ 4021. Please note: Requests for online registration are wait-listed. Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: SSC, WI Arch: SSC Art: SSC EN: S

L11 Econ 451 Environmental Policy
Course examines the relationship between environmental economics and environmental policy. The course focuses on air pollution, water pollution and hazardous wastes, with some attention given to biodiversity and global climate change. The course examines critically two prescriptions that economics usually endorses: (1) “balancing” of benefits against costs (e.g., benefit-cost analysis) and the use of risk analysis in evaluating policy alternatives; and (2) use of market incentives (e.g., prices, taxes or charges) or “property rights” instead of traditional command-and-control regulations to implement environmental policy. Prerequisite: Econ 1011. Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: SSC Arch: SSC Art: SSC BU: BA, ETH EN: S

L11 Econ 452 Industrial Organization
Theoretical and empirical analysis of the presence and value of competitive forces in the United States economy. Theories of industrial organization and development of criteria for performance of noncompetitive industries. Prerequisite: Econ 4011. Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: SSC Arch: SSC Art: SSC EN: S
L11 Econ 460 Urban Economics
Economic function of the city and the role of the city in a national economy. Local decision-making; financing of local government expenditures. An analysis of selected urban problems, such as causes and effects of housing market segmentation; decay and abandonment; landlord-tenant relations; crime; and urban transport systems. Prerequisite: Econ 4011. Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: SSC Arch; SSC Art; SSC EN: S

L11 Econ 467 Game Theory
This course covers advanced applications of Game Theory in economics. Topics include expected utility, strategic-form and extensive-form games with perfect information, Bayesian games, infinitely repeated games, dominance, Nash equilibrium and its refinements. We apply these tools to study strategic situations in industrial organization, auctions, bargaining, voting, and signaling games. Prerequisites: Econ 4011 and Math 2200. Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: SSC Arch; SSC Art; SSC EN: S

L11 Econ 471 Development Economics
This course investigates issues related to the development of the economics of third-world countries. Topics include economic growth, poverty, corruption, and human capital accumulation, with an emphasis on education and health-related policies. The course provides an in-depth understanding of the role of the state and the impact of specific public policies designed to encourage development. Empirical examples are drawn from Asia, Latin America, and the African subcontinent. Prerequisites: Econ 4011 and Econ 413. Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: SSC Arch; SSC Art; SSC EN: S

L11 Econ 470 Urban Economics
Economic function of the city and the role of the city in a national economy. Local decision-making; financing of local government expenditures. An analysis of selected urban problems, such as causes and effects of housing market segmentation; decay and abandonment; landlord-tenant relations; crime; and urban transport systems. Prerequisite: Econ 4011. Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: SSC Arch; SSC Art; SSC EN: S

L11 Econ 474 The Poverty of Nations
This course focuses on the failures of economic development and the extreme and persistent poverty we find in South Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa and other parts of the developing world, including major urban centers. What exactly is poverty? Who are the poor? How many of them are there? Why are they poor? What individual or collective actions can they (or we) take to improve their lot? Prerequisites: Econ 4011 and Econ 4021 or permission of instructor. Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: SSC EN: S

L11 Econ 472 Topics in Growth and Development
This course highlights important empirical facts concerning growth and development in various countries at different development stages. Fundamental growth theory is then provided for explaining these facts systematically and for evaluating the consequences of commonly adopted development policies. Topics vary, but may include population; human capital and labor market development; R&D and innovation; finance and growth; modernization and industrial transformation; world income disparities and poverty problems; institutions and political economy issues; environmental and social factors; and international trade and economic integration. Prerequisites: Econ 4011 and Econ 4021. Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: SSC Arch; SSC Art: SSC EN: S

L11 Econ 473 Economics of Education
The course involves analysis of the economic and social determinants and consequences of education. Because each person's education is an investment in human capital that allows the individual to contribute to society in a productive way, education becomes a crucial determinant of an economy's ability to achieve high growth with high wages, low unemployment and strong social cohesion. This course addresses three essential topics from the wide-ranging field of the economics of education. The first is demand-side oriented and includes: (1) the measurement of the returns to education in the labor market (human capital theory; the central idea of education as human capital investment); and (2) a characterization of the education production function, which relates the various inputs affecting a student's learning (schools, families, peers, neighborhoods, etc.) to measure outputs including labor market success, graduation rates and standardized test scores. The second important topic involves political economy and the supply side: the financing and provision of education. The third part of the course is devoted to the links between education and economic development, including cross-country differences in schooling, returns to schooling and per-capita income. Prerequisites: Econ 4011, Econ 4021 and Econ 413. Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: SSC Arch; SSC Art; SSC EN: S

L11 Econ 474 The Poverty of Nations
This course focuses on the failures of economic development and the extreme and persistent poverty we find in South Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa and other parts of the developing world, including major urban centers. What exactly is poverty? Who are the poor? How many of them are there? Why are they poor? What individual or collective actions can they (or we) take to improve their lot? Prerequisites: Econ 4011 and Econ 4021 or permission of instructor. Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: SSC EN: S

L11 Econ 477 Topics in Financial Economics: Asset Pricing
The objective of the course is to develop the basic economic models that can be used to study the valuation of different financial assets and to discuss how to confront the theory with the evidence from financial markets. The course will develop the basic model of investment under uncertainty and discuss portfolio choices in static and dynamic settings as well as market equilibria and the impact of news on the forecast-ability of excess returns. The course will describe valuation in incomplete asset markets (e.g., arbitrage pricing theory) and the extension to the valuation of firms and real estate assets. Prerequisites: Econ 4011, Econ 4021 and Econ 413. Credit 3 units.

L11 Econ 480 Labor Economics
Economic analysis of labor markets. Theory and evidence on supply of and demand for labor, explanation of wage and income differentials; impact of education on human skills and productivity. Prerequisites: Econ 401 and 413. Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: SSC Arch; SSC Art; SSC EN: S

L11 Econ 483 Computational Macroeconomics
This course provides a more in depth look into quantitative methods used in contemporary macroeconomic analysis. We will cover numerical methods used in dynamic optimization. In practice, we will apply these methods to solve two major models used in macroeconomic analysis, using both Excel and Matlab. The Neoclassical Growth Model and its variants are used to
study aggregate trends and aggregate effects of government policy. The lifecycle model is used to examine questions involving decision-making over the lifecycle. We will learn how to use empirical observations for the purpose of calibrating model parameters and how to conduct policy evaluation in the context of calibrated models. Our policy evaluation will focus on fiscal policy (taxes) and social security issues. Prerequisites: 4011 and 4021.
Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: SSC EN: S

L11 Econ 490 Independent Work
Prerequisites: senior standing and permission of the supervising faculty member. Consult Academic Coordinator for further details. Note: This course does not count toward the major or minor in economics.
Credit variable, maximum 6 units.

L11 Econ 493 Mathematical Economics
The objective of this course is to develop the mathematical tools necessary for the study of intermediate micro- and macro-economic theory and the advanced electives in economics. The principal focus will be the calculus of multivariate functions (including total and partial differentiation), unconstrained and constrained optimization of multivariate functions, and implicit and inverse function rules. Time permitting, additional topics will be introduced. Economics majors and minors must take either this course or Math 233 prior to or concurrently with Econ 4011. Students who have taken or are taking Math 233 are encouraged to take this course as well. Students taking this course and not Math 233 must take Econ 493 for a letter grade; pass/fail and audit are grade options only for students who have previously completed Math 233. All grade option choices must be finalized by Friday, September 7, 2019. The last day to add or drop the course (with a "D") is Friday, September 7, 2019. There is no option to withdraw (i.e., take a "W") from this course, except in the case of illness or emergency. Students cannot use WebStac to add or drop this course after the first session; they should contact dottie@wustl.edu for scheduling issues. The final exam will occur on the last day of class, per the course syllabus. Prerequisites: Econ 1011, Econ 1021 and Math 132.
Credit 1 unit. A&S IQ: SSC Arch: SSC Art: SSC EN: S

L11 Econ 496 Teaching Practicum in Economics
Opportunity for undergraduates to assist in course instruction, tutoring and preparation of problems, readings and exam materials under supervision of faculty. Note: This course does not count toward the major or minor in economics.
Credit variable, maximum 3 units. EN: S

L11 Econ 497 Research in Economics
Opportunity to work as part of a research project under faculty supervision. Note: This course does not count toward the major or minor in economics. May be repeated for credit.
Credit variable, maximum 3 units. A&S IQ: SSC Art: SSC EN: S

Credit 3 units. A&S IQ: SSC EN: S

L11 Econ 499 Study for Honors
Independent reading and research under faculty direction leading to a Senior Honors Thesis. This is the second part of the two-course sequence for seniors writing an honors thesis, and it is taken in the spring semester of the senior year. This course may not be used to satisfy major requirements. Prerequisite: invitation into the "Honors in Economics with Thesis" track of the department's Honors Program.
Credit 3 units.