1. **Course description.** This course provides an overview of major theoretical contributions using microeconomic theory along with an introduction to dynamic optimization. The course is intended to give participants a sense of different fields in microeconomics – labor, health, industrial organization, international trade, economic development, urban economics, and more. In the process, students will gain an appreciation of modeling approaches.

2. **Prerequisites.** Econ 205 or equivalent. Working knowledge of multivariate calculus is necessary; some matrix algebra and a cursory overview of the first chapters of a differential equations text will be needed as well. Students are assumed to be familiar with Varian's *Microeconomic Analysis* (Ed. 3) or a comparable text: you should own a copy for reference purposes.

3. **Texts and readings.** There are no texts. Readings will be posted on Blackboard. Instead, the course consists of a vast number of required readings, which each student is expected to cover thoroughly, with an eye to content, theory, model, and econometric technique. There are many papers by Nobel Laureates on the reading list.

   During the course of the term the list will evolve.¹ It is not possible to cover more than one to two readings per class period, and so some of the papers will be cut, depending on student interest and what I deem essential and feasible.

4. **Honor code and course policies.** Failure to acknowledge assistance on an assignment, or to cite a source of information used in an assignment, or to represent the work of others as your own, constitutes a violation of the University’s honor code. Any violations may result in failure of the assignment or the course, or expulsion from the University. Any exam missed for a non-legitimate reason will be accorded the grade of 0. Any exam missed for a legitimate reason will be made up with an oral exam as soon as it can be scheduled by EcoTeach. Late work will be penalized by 1/3 grade point per day late (excluding Sundays). Presentation notes must be posted on Blackboard at least 24

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¹ I am grateful to Richard Ericsson (East Carolina University), Seth Sanders (Duke), Frank Sloan (Duke), and Ed Tower (Duke) for advice on the readings.
hours prior to the class at which the presentation will take place.

5. **Grading and assignments.** The grades will be determined as weighted averages of exams and presentations:
   - Class participation: 10%
   - In-class presentations and supporting notes (3-4 per team): 40%
   - Midterm examination: 20%
   - Final examination: 30%

To enhance the efficiency of class presentations, each team (about 3 people) of presenters is expected to prepare a handout for distribution to the entire class. The handout should contain pertinent aspects of the formal presentation to avoid having to write out lots of equations in class. Even if you are not a presenter, you are expected to have read the article in detail before class. The presenters will (a) provide detailed mathematical derivations and (b) make critical analytical comments as well as simply presenting the paper; other students should be prepared to discuss the article. At times, I will provide brief background lectures on related literature. The intention is to provoke discussion, and for the presenter to discuss new techniques, modeling approaches, data sets, and findings, as well as to discuss shortcomings.

I. **DYNAMICS**

II. **RISK & UNCERTAINTY**


III. **HEALTH**


IV. **ECONOMICS OF THE HOUSEHOLD & LABOR MARKETS**


V. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT


VI. FIRMS, INFORMATION, GOODS, & MECHANISM DESIGN


VII. PROPERTY RIGHTS & CORRUPTION


Mid-term exam March 15

VIII. URBAN & SPATIAL ECONOMICS


IX. INTERNATIONAL ECONOMICS


Azariadis, Costas and Christopher Pissarides, 2007, “Unemployment dynamics with international capital

X. **NATURAL RESOURCE & ENVIRONMENTAL ECONOMICS**


XI. **POLITICAL ECONOMY & PUBLIC ECONOMICS**


XII. **BEHAVIORAL AND NEURO-ECONOMICS**


**ANNEX:** **OTHERS THAT MIGHT BE SUBSTITUTED**


Nechyba, Thomas, 1997, “Local property and state income taxes: the role of interjurisdictional competition and collusion,”

