

ECONOMICS ELECTIVES

ECNU3NV – Environmental Economics

This module aims at giving students a broad introduction to the field of environmental economics. Students will be equipped with the economic theories and tools to gain an understanding of the theory and practice of the main economic issues and decisions pertinent to the natural environment. The module will present and discuss core economic insights into global and local environmental problems such as pollution control, sustainable development, biodiversity loss, and climate change. The impact of environmental pollution on health will also be examined, as well as the interaction between environmental policy, technology and economic growth. Finally, students will learn to apply cost-benefit and market analysis to evaluate the (cost)effectiveness of environmental policies in both national and international contexts.

The learning will be facilitated through lectures, and highly interactive seminars and lab sessions. Alongside studying a main textbook, students will engage in critically reading and assessing relevant scientific papers. This will serve as the basis for the writing of an essay, which is to be presented in class. These exercises are intended to give students confidence in discussing environmental issues from an economic perspective and to enhance transferable writing and presentations skills which are of key relevance for future careers. The overall assessment is based on coursework (essay and presentation) and a written essay-based exam.

ECNU3EE – Energy Economics

This module provides a broad introduction to Energy and Resource Economics, enabling students to apply economic reasoning to issues in energy and resource management, and equip students to understand how energy and resource markets work. The module also allows students to think about energy and resource policies, such as renewable energy policies, behavioural change and energy efficiency in a consistent and creative manner. Finally, students will develop a critical knowledge and understanding of contemporary issues in the energy industry and will discuss/debate such issues individually and as a team.

Students will be actively engaged in learning during lectures and seminars, as well as when critically assessing scientific papers provided during the module. The module assessment includes two group presentations, writing a research paper on a relevant topic of students' choice and presenting the research findings to peer students. There will also be an exam at the end of the module. This diverse range of activities will provide students with transferable skills to communicate effectively in written and verbal form.

ECNU3AX – Applied Economics I

The module deals with the workings of markets and industries, in particular, the way firms compete with each other when markets are characterised by imperfect competition. Students learn to analyse markets and the decisions that firms make within these markets, and whether the government can and should intervene with regard to these decisions. Students will understand concepts such as market power, market entry and exit, and the role of innovations shaping and being influenced by markets. Students will also be confronted with a behavioural economic element and analyse the behaviour of firms when consumers deviate from rational behaviour.

In the lectures, students learn and discuss theoretical concepts that are key to industrial organisation, and also hear about examples from the real world. The seminars focus on translating theories into the real world and students actively research a particular industry based on key IO-concepts. Students will be assessed based on a project applying IO-concepts to a specific industry (in an essay and a presentation) and an exam at the end of the semester.

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ECNU3AY – Applied Economics II

This module shows students how economics can be applied as an aid in understanding human behaviour. The applications examined are specific to the fields of public health, consumer and labour economics, with topics ranging from health and retirement, health and lifestyles, consumer decision-making, labour supply, labour market discrimination and the economics of crime. With particular attention to the evolution of economic ideas, as well as state-of-the-art economic theory and empirical analysis, the value of applied economics in shedding analytical light on these behaviours will be demonstrated. The module will concentrate on practical applications and provide students with hands-on experience of doing economic analysis using large national datasets. Training in data analysis techniques using Stata will be provided. During tutorials, students will critically analyse research papers and perform relevant data analysis using given datasets. Students will also be guided to conduct their own independent research and deliver findings in an academic paper format.

The module assessment includes coursework and an exam. The coursework involves the use of quantitative methods on given datasets using Stata and reporting and interpreting the findings in a short research paper, followed by a presentation of the research in the classroom.

ECNU3MY – Monetary Economics

The course is divided into two parts. In the first set of lectures, students learn the basic principles of monetary economics: the nature of money, theories of money demand and supply and how money affect macroeconomic models. In the second part of the course the student will be guided through the core monetary policy theory, i.e. goals of monetary policy, conventional and unconventional monetary policy, Central bank credibility, time inconsistency problem, inflation bias and the 3-equation model.

The structure of the module includes lectures and seminars. The seminars aim at improving students' understanding and knowledge of the material covered during the lectures with the use of several short essay type questions, exercises and multiple choice questions. The form of assessment of the module includes a class test (40%) and a final exam (60%). The assignment aims at assessing students' understanding around the topics discussed during the first part of the module while the main exam is rather focused on the second half of the module and the issues around monetary policy in practice.

ECNU3FE – Financial Economics

This module will introduce the major topics in financial economics, including portfolio theory and diversification, mean-variance analysis, asset-pricing models, the efficient market hypothesis, and some market anomalies. The scope of the module ranges from basic concepts, such as the financial instruments and how they are traded or the key tools used for financial analysis, to the foundations of bond- and derivative-pricing, and the development of the CAPM and APT. The theoretical and empirical implications of the latter asset-pricing models for evaluating portfolio performance will be studied in depth.

Students will be actively engaged during lectures and seminars in developing knowledge and critical understanding of the key ideas in financial economics. The assessment includes coursework and a two-hour final examination. The coursework comprises of one two-hour class test and one take-home assignment. The overall aim of the module is to provide students with transferable skills to communicate critical thinking in financial analysis effectively in written and verbal form.