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News

Mortensen Conference

A conference honoring Professor **Dale Mortensen** will be held at the Allen Center on Friday April 15 and the morning of Saturday April 16. The program can be seen at a link from the front page of the Department's web site. So that we can plan for the numbers attending, free registration is required by Monday April 4. A handout detailing how you can register is in your mailbox.

In addition to the speakers, other leading researchers will be attendance, as will many alums of our PhD program.

Nemmers Prize

The winner of the 2010 Erwin Plein Nemmers Prize in Economics, **Elhanan Helpman** of Harvard University will be on campus from April 20 to May 16 (in room 307). The biennial honor is bestowed on an outstanding economist who has yet to win the Nobel Prize. Professor Helpman's work deals with international trade, economic growth, and the political economy of trade policy.

His Nemmers Prize lecture is on April 28 at 3:30pm at the Allen Center. See the "Events" section for more details. Professor Helpman will also be here in the Spring Quarter of 2012. During that visit we will be holding the Nemmers Prize conference.

Summer Funding

The Graduate School (TGS) provides us with a quota of summer funding slots for second through fourth year students. (Funding for the summer at the end of the first year is detailed in a student's admission offer letter. Students in years

five and above are not eligible for TGS summer funding.)

TGS has set us a budget constraint of 48 summer fellowships. We have a total of 67 students in years 2 through 4. The first priority is those students guaranteed summer funding in their offer letters (typically those given a University Fellowship in their first year). Of course some students obtain paid RAships and others work away from Evanston. Consequently, in the past few years we have (just) managed to fund all eligible students seeking summer funding.

We cannot guarantee that we will not have to ration this summer. Students, especially those admitted without a University Fellowship, can obtain certainty of funding by seeking out paid RAships from Economics or Kellogg faculty.

Irrespective of your initial funding, you have to have met the Department's usual progress goals to obtain funding. That is to say that you need to have made sufficient progress to have been eligible to be a TA in the current academic year.

The application form for summer funding should be submitted between May 1 and May 15. You will receive an e-mail on May 1 with more details and a link to the form.

New Faculty

Seema Jayachandran will join the Department as an Associate Professor in September. She works in development economics, and joins us from Stanford University.

The hiring process for Assistant Professors is still continuing, so there may be additional good news to come.

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Visitors

Pierre Dubois, **Stephan Lauerman** and **Sebastian Buhai** remain with us, the latter moving back to room 3235 for the Spring Quarter.

Visiting for the entire Spring Quarter will be macroeconomist **Thijs van Rens** from Universitat Pompeu Fabra in Spain. He will be in room 3225.

Other macroeconomists will also be visiting for shorter periods. These visitors, and with Professor van Rens, will be giving lectures to a special graduate student class. See Economics 498-1 in the "Teaching" section for details. The visitors are: **Michele Tertilt** from Stanford University for the weeks of April 18 and 25, **Juan Rubio-Ramirez** of Duke University and **Jesus Fernandez-Villaverde** of the University of Pennsylvania who will both be here for the weeks of May 9 and May 16, and **Martin Schneider** of Stanford University who will be here for the week of May 16.

Theorist **Jayant Vivek Ganguli** from Cambridge University will be from March 21 to April 22. Econometrician **Jack Porter** from the University of Wisconsin will be here for the week of April 11. The Center for the Study of Industrial Organization welcomes **Steven Berry** of Yale University for the week of May 16. Historian **Jans-Joachim Voth** from Universitat Pompeu Fabra will be here from April 26 to May 13.

In addition, Nemmers Prize Winner **Elhanan Helpman** will visit from April 20 to May 16, Department-wide seminar speaker **Christopher Sims** will be here on May 2 and 3, and Bies lecturer **David Cutler** will be here on May 19. See separate "News" or "Events" listings for more details.

Placement Report

Professor **Aviv Nevo**, Director of Graduate Placement, reports that the market for new PhDs has only partly recovered. Demand at many top academic departments and in the private sector is up, but many states schools and government

institution are hiring less than last year. Demand in Europe continues to be robust.

All but one of our students has already received at least one offer. But the market seems to moving a bit slower than usual this year and therefore many of our students have yet to make their decisions. However, some students have already decided:

Andrea Ajello - Federal Reserve Bank Board of Governors, Washington DC

Matthias Kehrig - University of Texas, Austin

Shiran Rachmilevitch - University of Haifa, Israel

Michael Roach - Middle Tennessee State University

Kota Saito - California Institute of Technology

Twan Hwee Sng - National University of Singapore (post-doc at Princeton University 2011-12)

Cristina Tealdi - IMT Institute for Advanced Studies, Lucca, Italy

Andre Trindade - Bates White, Washington DC

and one of our students from a couple of years ago, **John Parman**, who had taken a post-doctoral fellowship has accepted a tenure-track position at the **College of William and Mary**.

One of the Kellogg students on the economics market has accepted a position:

Mauricio Varela - University of Arizona

Students who intend to be on the job market next year, or are just curious about what it entails, are encouraged to attend an orientation on Tuesday May 17 (see in the "Events" section below).

TA Duties in Other Departments

The Department has a policy that any other Departments that desire to hire an Economics student as a Teaching Assistant must discuss this with us first.

This is partly to ensure that only students who are making appropriate progress in their studies are funded, and partly because the Department must ensure that our own faculty and classes receive first priority. WCAS has been very generous in providing us with TAships to support our large undergraduate

enrollments. This means that we are normally able to fund all eligible students as TAs within the Department and the MMSS Program.

The Department wants to make it very clear that it is inappropriate for graduate students to conduct private arrangements to TA for faculty in other departments. If you are approached in this way, direct the faculty member to contact our Associate Chair.

Computer Lab

This summer, as part of our routine replacement of computers in the computer lab, we will be retiring the four oldest machines. As in the past we will schedule the installation of new machines during the quiet period of late July and early August. Full details including the possible auction of the existing four-year-old machines to interested graduate students will be circulated closer to the time.

As you will be aware the server that controlled printing in the computer lab has failed. We do need to maintain some control over printing. Prior to installation of the most recent software, printing was uncontrolled and we were unable to afford to replace the computers because all of the budget was spent on printer toner. A technological solution is in the works and will probably be operational around Spring Break. Because the exact nature of the software is not entirely clear yet, you should expect to see an e-mail with detailed instructions in the next week or so.

Web Site Photos

The Department's web site will be redesigned over the next few months. One of pages has pictures of the graduate students. Most of these pictures are scanned from our original hard copy publication. You can update your picture. To do so, note that:

- photo can be color or black-and-white
- it should be a passport-style head shot
- No hats or sunglasses
- A neutral plain background (preferably light colored) is best

- Remember that this is a business web site not your Facebook page
- Ratio of width to height is 1:1.2
- Crop and reduce your picture to 125 pixels wide by 150 pixels high
- Name it Lastname.jpg (note that your last name should have the first letter only capitalized, and jpg is in lower case)
- e-mail as an attachment to Ian Savage <ipsavage@northwestern.edu>

Students Working on NSF Grants

Under new federal legislation, the National Science Foundation (NSF) has started requiring all students supported by NSF to undergo training in the responsible conduct of research. This will be accomplished by a one-time registration in ECON 519 that has two components: an online class and a "face-to-face" component. The online part asks the student to complete a 2-3 hour online class administered by a private company that Northwestern has hired. DGS Professor **Elie Tamer** will lead the face-to-face part of the class.

If you are being supported on an NSF grants for the first time, please contact Professor Tamer for instructions.

Prospectus Deadline Change

The Department has decided to push back the deadline for students to complete their prospectus in order to qualify for fourth year funding from July 31 to August 31. The deadlines for funding for other years are unchanged. While the deadline has been extended, students are still encouraged to compete their prospectus as early as possible earlier in the summer as the Fall funding period starts September 1. Early completion of the prospectus will avoid any delays in getting paid or being sent a unnecessary tuition bill. As a consequence, the Department will be unable to make funding decisions for non-job-market fifth years until after August 31.

Because Fall funding starts on September 1, the Department cannot extend the funding deadline beyond August 31. After August 31, remaining funding slots

will be allocated to non-job-market fifth year students.

Eisner and Bies Awards

The Department has establish a more formal timetable for deciding on the winners of the Eisner Fellowship (awarded annually to a graduate student who has distinguished him- or herself in *both* teaching and research) and the Bies Prizes (given to the best public policy papers presented as part of the Economics 501 seminar). A committee, chaired by DGS **Elie Tamer** will meet in late August. The period for nominations will run from June 1 to August 15, and the winners will be announced by August 31 with the formal awards given out at the Fall Buffet.

Spring Seminar Schedules

The experimental workshop schedule initiated in the Fall Quarter, will continue this Spring with a few minor modifications. On Mondays the Macroeconomics workshop will be held in AAH 3245 from noon to 1:20pm. The Monday/Wednesday afternoon PhD class in 3245 will start at 1:30pm and run until 3:20pm. The Industrial Organization workshop will then start at 3:30pm.

Events

Open Day

The annual Open Day for prospective PhD students will be held on Friday, April 8. Graduate students who would like to assist in welcoming prospective students should contract **Mercedes Thomas**, or Professor **Igal Hendel**, the Co-Director of Graduate Admissions. The day will culminate in a reception to which all the graduate students and faculty are invited. The reception will start about 5:30pm and will be held at the John Evans Alumni Center which is at the corner of Clark Street and Sheridan Road.

Mortensen Conference

A conference honoring Professor **Dale Mortensen** will be held at the Allen Center on Friday April 15 and the morning of Saturday April 16. See the "News" section for more information.

Schwartz Lecture

The annual lecture series organized by the Kellogg School of Management to honor the late Nancy Schwartz will be at 5:00pm on Wednesday, April 27 in Leverone G40. This year's lecturer is **Daron Acemoglu** of MIT. His talk is titled "Why Nations Fail."

Nemmers Lecture

Professor **Elhanan Helpman**, the winner of the Nemmers Prize will be giving a lecture titled "Income Distribution and Foreign Trade and Investment" on Thursday, April 28 at 3:30pm in the McCormick Auditorium of the Allen Center. The lecture will be followed by a reception. It is not necessary to make reservations for the lecture or reception.

Department Wide Seminar

The next distinguished visitor in our Department-wide seminar series is Professor **Christopher Sims** of Princeton University. He will be visiting and giving two talks on Monday and Tuesday May 2 and 3. Both talks will be at 3:30pm in AAH 3245. He has worked in many fields including behavioral economics and neuroeconomics..

Second & Third Year Orientation

Professor **Elie Tamer**, the Director of Graduate Studies, will be holding mandatory meetings for the second and third year students on Tuesday, May 10. He will cover important deadlines, degree requirements, and funding availability. He will also answer your questions. The meetings will be held in Andersen 3245.

Second year students should attend from 5pm to 5:30pm, and third year students from 5:30pm to 6pm.

Job Market Orientation

Students who are thinking about going on the market next year should attend an introductory meeting scheduled for 5:00pm on Tuesday, May 17 in Andersen 3245. Professor **Aviv Nevo**, the Director of Graduate Placement, will provide an orientation for those considering going on the market in the fall. However, any student in the third year and beyond who is curious about the job market process is welcome.

Bies Lecture

This will be the fourth year of the annual Susan Bies (PhD, 1972) departmental lecture on economic policy. The lecture will alternate between macro and micro-oriented lectures.

This year's speaker will be **David Cutler** from Harvard University. He will be talking about health care reform. The lecture will be in the late afternoon on Thursday May 19. The exact time and location will be notified closer to the date. The lecture will be followed by a reception.

Field Course Meeting

An orientation session for students entering their second year will be held on Monday, September 19 from 1pm to 4pm in Andersen 3245. The session will discuss the 501 requirement, funding criteria, and include presentations on each of the field course sequences that you can take in both the Economics Department and KSM. Prospective second year students who also expect to be Teaching Assistants will need to return to Evanston the previous week for mandatory training (see "Formal Announcements" section).

Teaching

Next Year's Course Schedule

We are still working on the teaching schedule for next year. The schedule of courses will be posted on our website at the start of Spring Quarter.

This Quarter's Course Descriptions

The Department has a policy to avoid excessive awarding of incomplete grades. Please see our web site for a complete statement. Report any problems to the Director of Graduate Studies.

Economics 412-2

Economic Theory and Methods

Professor Olszewski

MW 9-11

AAH 3204

The course will comprise some topics from the frontier of research in economic theory. The material will typically be more advanced than is given in, for example, *Game Theory* by Drew Fudenberg and Jean Tirole (MIT Press, 1991). The topics will be selected - jointly with students - from the following list: (1) cheap talk, herd behavior, reputational and informational cascades; (2) classic models of repeated games; (3) repeated games with private monitoring, and repeated games with continuous time; (4) reputations; (5) higher-order beliefs, implications for game theory and mechanism design; (6) search theory; and (7) strategic manipulation of empirical tests. Other topics may be added.

Evaluation will be based on several problem sets and a final exam.

Economics 414-3

Economics of Information

Professor Pavan

MW 1:30-3:30

AAH 3204

The course has two parts. The first part covers advanced topics in information economics and in particular in the theory of mechanism design: envelope theorems for stochastic dynamic problems, ratcheting,

renegotiation-proofness, type-dependent participation constraints, bandit auctions, dynamic pivot mechanism, and competing principals.

The second part examines models of coordination under incomplete information: global games, equilibrium selection, higher order uncertainty, beauty contests, social value of information and coordination.

Evaluation is based on two problems sets and a final take-home exam.

Economics 415-2

Advanced Microeconomics

Professor Ely

TTh 1:30-3:30

AAH 3204

The course will survey recent research in behavioral economics. Topics will include: non-standard time preference, memory constraints, other-regarding preferences, self-control problems, and others. Some emphasis will be placed on evolutionary foundations.

Readings will be decided on and distributed in class. Students will be required to make one in-class presentation and to write a paper.

Economics 416-2

Advanced Macroeconomics

Professor Matsuyama

TTh 11-1

AAH 3245

The focus of the course is mostly on macroeconomic growth and development. It can be taken independently of 416-1. Topics will be chosen, partly based on the interest of students, among the following: (1) endogenous technological change: innovation, R&D, and technology adoption; (2) models with nonhomothetic preferences: structural change, demand composition, North-South trade; (3) imperfect credit market; aggregate implications (development traps and macro volatility), inequality across households and nations, effects on international capital flows and trade, modeling liquidity demand and supply, financial crises, and bubbles (causes and consequences)

Readings include lecture slides, journal articles and working papers, as well as selected chapters from Daron Acemoglu *Introduction to Modern Economic Growth* (Princeton University Press, 2008); Holmstrom and Tirole *Inside and Outside Liquidity* (MIT Press, 2011), and Aghion and Durlauf (eds.) *Handbook of Economic Growth* (Elsevier North-Holland, 2006). (No need to buy these books, as the relevant chapters will be made available.)

Depending on the class size, evaluation is based on a class attendance and participation, and a class presentation (for a small class, no more than six registered students) or a take-home exam (for a larger class). A research proposal is occasionally allowed instead of the class presentation and/or take-home exam.

Economics 440-3

Economics of the Labor Market

Professor Mortensen

MW 5-7pm

AAH 3245

The goal of the course is to integrate the theory and empirical literatures on wage dispersion and unemployment determination and to use the results to study the effects of labor market policies on both. Models of labor turnover, job flows, unemployment duration and incidence, job creation and destruction, and cross firm productivity dispersion are developed and studied. The empirical focal points of interest are high unemployment in Europe, wage dispersion in the US, and the restructuring process in both. These topics are all studied within the context of a general search and matching labor market equilibrium framework. Empirical content will emphasize studies based on worker unemployment and job duration data and matched worker-employer panel data.

The course is designed for students of labor and macroeconomics. The course requires a knowledge of dynamic optimization techniques and stochastic process theory at the level of Stokey and Lucas *Recursive Methods in Economic Dynamics* (Harvard University Press, 1989).

The course grade will be based on problem sets and a term paper. The principal texts are C.A. Pissarides *Equilibrium Unemployment Theory* (MIT Press, 2000, 2nd edition) and D.T. Mortensen *Wage Dispersion: Why are similar people paid differently?* (MIT Press, 2003).

Economics 450-3

Industrial Organization and Prices

Professors Hendel and Whinston

MW 1:30-3:30

AAH 3245

The first part of the course will cover papers in several areas: 1) empirics of contracts, and 2) estimation of dynamic IO models. The former will cover empirical attempts at testing contract theories, including hidden information as well as incentive models. The latter covers dynamic estimation methods and their application to IO.

The second part of the course will cover issues related to antitrust (e.g., merger policy and vertical contracting issues), and depending upon time, may also cover issues related to intellectual property, network effects, and/or strategic precommitment.

Economics 481-3

Econometrics

Professor Tamer

Course cancelled.

Economics 498-1

Advanced Topics

Professor Doepke (coordinator)

TTh 9-11

AAH 3204

This is an advanced topics course in macroeconomics and will be taught by visitors to the Department of Economics. Each visitor will lecture for one or two weeks. Topics will vary by lecturer, and will generally cover issues close to the current research interests of each presenter. The lecturers are Michele Tertilt, Stanford University/Mannheim University

(economics of the family and macro-development), Juan Rubio-Ramirez, Duke University (DSGE modeling, computational economics, and econometrics), Jesus Fernandez-Villaverde, University of Pennsylvania (DSGE modeling, computational economics, and econometrics), Martin Schneider, Stanford University (monetary economics and financial economics), and Thijs van Rens CREI (macro-labor).

Evaluation will be through a term paper to be written on a topic covered by one of the lecturers. Readings will be announced by the individual lecturers.

Because of the nature of instruction, class will not meet every week. Please contact Professor Doepke, who will act as coordinator, for a schedule. Students need to enroll in the course for letter grade. However, it cannot be combined with any other class to form a sequence in macroeconomics.

Finance 486

Seminar in Corporate Finance

Professors Fishman and Krishnamurthy

TTh 1:30-3:30

AAH 4214

The general topics include corporate financing and investment decisions, optimal financial contracting, financial intermediation, and law and finance. In the context of these topics, the course will examine the implications of incentive problems, asymmetric information, taxes, and product market competition. The course will devote special attention to the topic of financial intermediation and financial crises. The course requirements will include problem sets, referee reports, and a final exam.

Finance 520-0

Seminar in Finance

Professors Andersen and Eberly

TTh 3:30-5

AAH 4214

The first part (Professor Andersen) focuses on pricing options on equity and foreign exchange when the underlying price process is subject to stochastic

volatility and jumps. It discusses how to obtain closed-form solutions via restrictions on the price dynamics or preferences as well as Monte Carlo methods. The class then explore a recent class of derivatives representing pure plays on volatility, e.g., the market for variance swaps, also related to the highly publicized VIX index, released by the CBOE. Finally, it examines the so-called variance risk premium and its manifestation in general asset pricing, including the equity risk premium. There will be group homeworks and a referee report or longer paper for this part of the course.

The second half of the course (Professor Eberly) introduces corporate finance and asset pricing models with capital. This section addresses optimal investment with various types of capital frictions, such as adjustment costs and irreversible investment, under uncertainty, and includes real options models. Equilibrium (for macroeconomics and asset pricing) topics include production-based asset pricing, multi-sector models, capital liquidity and reallocation, and equilibrium approaches to real options, including empirical applications and testing.

Finance 530

Empirical Asset Pricing

Professor Bandyopadhyay

Th 6:30– 9:30pm

Room TBA

This course is an introduction to the models and techniques required to do empirical research in asset pricing. The aim is to survey the empirical facts observed in the capital markets and to familiarize students with the classic economic ideas of portfolio choice and pricing of securities to model them. The course has a broad coverage and a long reading list. Topics include (but not limited to): (1) multifactor models for understanding the cross-sectional pattern of average equity returns, such as value-growth and momentum effects, (2) time variation in asset returns and return predictability, (3) stochastic nature of volatility and volatility risk premium, (4) term structure of riskfree interest rates and

bond risk premia, and (5) effects of market imperfections, such as, illiquidity, transaction costs, and short-sell restrictions. The course emphasizes studying the classic literature and a set of working papers that characterize observed movements in security prices as well examining various statistical tests to determine whether markets are efficient (that is, to what extent the models conform to data).

Course grade will be based on writing referee reports on several working papers, class presentation of a paper, and on problem sets. There will be optional tutorial sessions on MATLAB, which will help in doing some of the problem sets where students will reproduce the work of a paper with up-to-date data.

MECS 449-2

Economics of Organization

Professor Li

Th 9-12

LEV 619

This course discusses classic papers and some recent research in organizational economics. The purpose of covering these papers is to help the student build up their toolbox as an applied researcher and also to bring the student to the frontier of research. Topics include: contract theory, tournaments, dynamic and relational contracts, learning, career concern, matching and assignment, hierarchies, asymmetric information and training.

Students can take this course without having taken MECS 449-1. Evaluation will be based 50% on a term paper and 50% on paper write-ups. Readings are from journal articles.

MECS 449-3

Information in Markets and Organizations

Professor Ottaviani

Organizational meeting: Thursday 1-3, March 31 in 619 Leverone.

The course covers recent developments in research on how dispersed information is aggregated in markets and organizations. Special emphasis will be placed on the strategic incentives for information

intermediaries, the development of prediction markets to improve corporate and public decision-making, and the rationale for government policies intended at mandating information disclosure and protecting consumers. Each topic will be illustrated through examples from different fields, including industrial organization, financial economics, public economics, the economics of contracts and incentives, law and economics, organization economics, and the emerging field of macroeconomics with dispersed information.

This course is targeted not only to students who would like to pursue research on information issues in these fields of applied microeconomic theory, but also to students who are interested in doing empirical research in applied microeconomics.

The format is a mix of lectures and student presentations. There will be assignments to write critical reports on research papers.

MECS 460-3

Foundations of Management Economics

Professor Herold

T 1:30-3:30

LEV 586

This course is complementary to Economics 410-3 with a small amount of overlap. It covers conflict and cooperation among rational decision makers in economic, political and social systems. Topics include games in extensive and normal forms, rationalizability, Nash equilibrium and refinements, Bayesian games, learning in games, evolutionary game theory, and bargaining solutions.

Evaluation will be by several problem sets and a final exam. Selected readings will be announced in class. Useful textbooks for reference are Roger Myerson *Game Theory – Analysis of Conflict* (Harvard University Press, 1997), or Osborne and Rubinstein *A Course in Game Theory* (MIT Press, 1994), or Fudenberg and Tirole *Game Theory* (MIT Press, 1991)

MECS 462

Decision Theory

Professor Hu

Th 2-5

LVR 586

This course on decision theory focuses on axiomatic theories of individual decision making under risk and uncertainty. The course briefly explores utility theory under certainty and the notion of preferences and their representation, then progresses to the classic theories of decision under risk and uncertainty: von Neumann and Morgenstern, Anscombe and Aumann, and Savage. This lasts roughly half the course and constitutes a basic grounding in the subject. From there the course explores topics that expand on the classical work and are nearer to the current research frontier. These topics may include Allais Paradox, Prospect Theory and Machina's approach; Ellsberg's paradox, uncertainty aversion, and Gilboa and Schmeidler representations; dynamics - Bayesian updating, consistency, preferences over the timing of the resolution of risk/uncertainty; and notions of belief and probability in decision making.

MECS 465

Contract Theory

Professor Sandroni

W 5-8pm

LEV 586

The course will rely on student presentations of papers and discussions of ideas. The objective is to facilitate the transition from student to researcher. The topics will be related to contract theory in a very broad sense and may depend on students interest. In some cases, research topics that are not directly related to contracts will be accepted if proposed by students. In the first classes, some basic readings will be covered.

MECS 466

Social Choice and Voting Models

Professor Egorov

M 1:30-4:30

LEV 561

The course focuses on collective decision-making. It starts with classical results from social choice theory, and then looks at strategic behavior in voting models, and in particular committee voting and agenda-selection and legislative bargaining. Towards the end of the quarter, these models will be applied to various issues such as information aggregation in voting, choosing voters, and models of dynamic political economy with voting.

Students are expected to attend and participate in class discussion. There will be a few homework assignments. By the end of the quarter, students are expected to write a paper which either explores an original idea, or has a critical review of several related papers.

The textbook is Austen-Smith and Banks *Positive Political Theory* (University of Michigan Press, 2000 and 2005).

MECS 485

Empirical Issues in Strategy

Professor Watanabe (coordinator)

W 9-12

LEV 619

This course explores empirical methods used in industrial organization, strategy, and related fields, and ten faculty members of the Department of Management and Strategy will co-teach the course. The course exposes students to a wide variety of empirical techniques and emphasizes how the researcher can choose from a rich set of econometric methods to address interesting research questions. This course should help students to (1) understand empirical research in business economics and (2) perceive and comprehend numerous empirical avenues that can be used in one's own research.

Evaluation is by a referee report and a 10 page research proposal. Reading list of related papers is provided for each week.

Marketing 530-3

Topics in Quantitative Marketing and Economics

Professor Nevo

T 9-11

LEV 488

This course will review major contributions and recent developments in quantitative marketing and economics. It will cover some classical papers, as well as more recent working papers. The discussion will cover a wide range of applied topics and methods and aimed at advanced, second and third year, students interested in the intersection of Marketing and Economics. A principal purpose is to generate research ideas and get students started on dissertation work.

Operations 470

Operations Economics

Professor Shin

Th 1-4

LEV 536

It is a seminar course. Students are expected to read papers and present them throughout the class. The course covers papers in the application of contract theory and information sharing in supply chain management. The course starts by briefly covering papers in supply chain contracting (e.g., revenue sharing contracts, buy-back contracts, sales rebates, and resale price maintenance contracts). It then covers the incentive issues in information sharing in a supply chain: do firms in a supply chain have an incentive to share their private information with their partners in a supply chain (i) ex-ante, (ii) ex-post under truth-telling assumption, and (iii) ex-post without truth-telling assumption (cheap-talk model). Finally, it covers a few empirical papers that explore information sharing in a supply chain.

Economics 501 Seminar

Third Year Students

The seminar will meet on Mondays and Wednesdays during the Spring Quarter at 11am in the Lecture Room (Andersen 3245). There will be one presentation and

the seminar will last for fifty minutes including the question-and-answer period. Full practical details for the seminar are posted on our web site.

The schedule for the Spring Quarter was distributed in last September's newsletter. Pareto-improving exchanges are permissible, but should be coordinated with Professor Pavan.

Second Year Students

Second year students should start to work on their first 501 paper which must be submitted for faculty approval by July 31. This paper will then be presented in the Fall. The second paper will be presented next Spring.

The presentation order for 501 papers has always been determined by a random number generator, and is conducted independently for the Fall and Spring. Here is the order for next year. The actual assignment to people to dates and times will be announced in the September *Graduate Connection*:

Fall Quarter

Cohen, Ofer
Lemus, Jorge
Hovenkamp, Erik
Prada Sarmiento, Juan
Petruzzello, Esteban
Luco Echeverria, Fernando
Pisano, Luigi
Marshall, Guillermo
Temnyalov, Emil
Molony, Robert
Li Bergolis, Matteo
Zaraga, Ludovico
Mermelstein, Benjamin
Gilson, Eric
Sinha, Shruti
Lau, Christopher
Zarezadeh, Jaber
Howe, Brent
Hoffmann, Bridget
Wray, Anthony
Zare, Meysam
Safronov, Mikhail

Spring Quarter

Li Bergolis, Matteo
Zarezadeh, Jaber
Lau, Christopher
Marshall, Guillermo

Cohen, Ofer
Lemus, Jorge
Prada Sarmiento, Juan
Pisano, Luigi
Sinha, Shruti
Wray, Anthony
Howe, Brent
Zaraga, Ludovico
Safronov, Mikhail
Gilson, Eric
Luco Echeverria, Fernando
Zare, Meysam
Temnyalov, Emil
Hoffmann, Bridget
Mermelstein, Benjamin
Molony, Robert
Hovenkamp, Erik
Petruzzello, Esteban

Second year students may wish to attend some of this spring's seminars in order to get some idea of expectations for 501 papers.

2011-12 Quarter Dates

Fall: **Tues** Sept 20 - Fri Dec 9
Winter: **Tues** Jan 2 - Fri March 16
Spring: **Mon** March 26 - Fri June 8

Formal Announcements

Funding Guidelines

The Department has formal rules for the allocation of funding for students in years two through six. This document is posted on our web site. Please read this document as *the Department strictly enforces these funding criteria*.

In general the cut off date for meeting the requirements for funding is July 31. However, the cutoff date for the prospectus is August 31. In summary, funding requirements are:

Second Year: Passed two or more prelims at the June sitting and have met the language requirement to be a TA. (Details on rules for those who pass zero or one prelim in June are posted on the web site.)

Third Year: Completed all prelims, and submitted an approved 501 paper.

Fourth Year: Dissertation prospectus by August 31 (includes completing course work and two 501 papers)

Fifth and Sixth Year: Committee chair certifies that you will be on the job market. (Funding is a combination of University Fellowships and TAships.)

Preliminary Examinations

The Department has rules on the number of times that students are allowed to take prelim examinations, and the conditions for such retaking. These affect whether some second and third year students will be allowed to continue in the program. The rules are posted on our web site. Please make sure that you are familiar with them.

One important implication is that each time the examinations are offered counts as an "attempt" irrespective of whether you attend. All first year students should make sure they are available to attend the September sitting, should that be necessary.

Dates for future prelim examinations have been set. The ordering of the three examinations will rotate each year. For the coming summer, the dates are:

Spring 2011 Sitting

Wed June 15	Macroeconomics
Wed June 22	Econometrics
Wed June 29	Microeconomics

All examinations will be held 1PM - 4PM.

Fall 2011 Sitting

Tues Aug 30	Macroeconomics
Wed Aug 31	Econometrics
Thur Sept 1	Microeconomics

All examinations will be held 1PM - 4PM. Note that these dates are *before* Labor Day

Dissertation Prospectus

Third year students should have been thinking about preparing for their dissertation prospectus, which marks the end of the taught course part of their studies, and the formation of a dissertation committee. Please familiarize yourself with the administrative procedures for the thesis prospectus, which are posted on our

web page in the section on goals for second and third year students.

TA Periods in Residence

Each quarter that you are a TA, you are expected to be in Evanston on weekdays from the first day of classes until the Monday after examinations end (which is the day that grades are filed). Absences during this period require permission of the instructor. In the past people have left early and arrived back late, in some cases without informing the instructor. The Department will not tolerate this. You must arrange your vacation airline flights so as to be able to fulfill your duties. Failure to do so will be grounds for rescinding your TAship. For the remainder of this year the dates for which you must be in attendance are:

Winter: until Mon March 20

Spring: Mon March 28 - Mon June 13

Attention Next Year's TAs

If you expect to be a TA next fall you need to be aware of the following arrangements:

TA Preference Forms The forms that allow TAs to indicate their preferences for classes will be placed in your mailbox in the main office about September 7. They will also be available on-line for anyone who is away from Evanston. Completed forms have to be returned by September 14. Unfortunately, the allocation can only be announced late on Friday, September 16 because we do not know enrollment in 201 and 202 until enrollment closes that afternoon. Classes start the following Tuesday.

New TA Training The University runs a full-day training session for new TAs. It will be held on Thursday, September 15 from 9:00am to 5:30pm, which is during the week before classes start. The Department regards your attendance as mandatory. If you believe that you will be serving as a TA for the first time next year, please arrange your schedules so that you are available in Evanston on that date.

Next Holiday Season All TAs will have to be in Evanston until Monday lunchtime on December 12 to complete grading duties. If you are making holiday travel arrangements, please ensure that you remain in Evanston until this date. In addition you will need to be back in Evanston by Monday night, January 2 for the start of winter classes.

Office Allocations

The Department is short of space for graduate student carrels. We only have 58 carrel spaces, and we have almost 100 post-first-year students wanting space. The problem has become worse because the number of students wanting space has increased in the past decade from the low to mid 70s. The Department has requested more than 80 carrels in any potential new building, but such a solution is many years away.

Last Spring the Graduate Studies Committee suggested a change from our previous policy. Starting with this academic year, students have been allocated to a room rather than to a specific carrel. The students allocated to that room then coordinate among themselves to determine who wished to use the room at what times of day and coordinate sharing of individual carrels. Clearly individual students are better informed in making such a determination than the Department management. The Graduate Studies Committee is open to comments on how this has worked out this year, and possible alternative allocation mechanisms.

Irrespective of the allocation system used, the space allocation for next year will be announced just prior to Labor Day, and people move in and out between then and the start of classes.

If you are leaving us this summer, please return your keys to the Graduate Secretary when you depart, and leave us a forwarding address.

Graduate School Deadlines

Note that the Graduate School is now awarding degrees four times a year and not just twice a year. You can now graduate in

June (and attend the commencement ceremonies) and in August.

April 15 for submitting the *Application for a Degree* to permit you to participate in the June Commencement ceremony and receive your diploma.

May 20 for submission of completed dissertation and all supporting materials to the Graduate School to receive a Ph.D. degree in June.

May 27 for submitting Master's Candidate Certification for students expecting a Master's degree in June.

July 1 for submitting the *Application for a Degree* to graduate in August.

July 29 for submission of completed dissertation and all supporting materials to the Graduate School to receive a Ph.D. degree in August.

August 5 for submitting Master's Candidate Certification for students expecting a Master's degree in August.

Commencement Arrangements

The University has made some major changes in Commencement arrangements. The main commencement will now be held on Friday morning at 10:30am on June 17 at Ryan Field. Late in April students expecting to graduate in June will receive information regarding ordering academic costume and information about Commencement, including ticket information.

The Graduate School also organizes a "hooding ceremony." This has now been moved to the late afternoon on the Thursday (3pm-5pm on June 16) in Cahn Auditorium. At this event, your Ph.D. advisor will present you with your degree. If you are expecting to graduate this June, now is the time to ensure that your advisor is available and willing to attend. If he or she is unavailable then you should ask for one of your other committee members to substitute.

Funding Opportunities

Funding Web Page

There is a web page listing non-departmental sources of funding that you can connect to from the page giving information for current graduate students. There is also information on how to obtain funds for research expenses and attending conferences. The maximum one-time research grant is \$3,000, and there is funding for one conference a year that covers up to a maximum of \$700. Full details of the application procedures and links to application forms are on the funding web page.

Notes

Next Graduate Connection

Volume 17, number 1 will be published after Labor Day in the week of Sept. 5.
