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Student support and feedback: By appointment

We are living through very strange times. We have to make our best attempt to make things work so that we can continue to function and learn. In this context, a course syllabus needs to inform you not only about what you will learn but also about how you will learn.

Brief description of course:

To give students an understanding of the power and limitations of the theoretical constructs used to interpret human behaviour in economics, as brought to bear on observed consumption behaviour; to enable them to critically evaluate policies targeted at individuals, both in terms of their theoretical basis and of their practical importance, and to recognise the importance of measurement in the design and evaluation of policy and the challenges it poses. We will build upon the core material learned in the first two years of the BSc (Econ) Economics degree programme to further study problems pertinent to our understanding of individual choices, to their measurement, and to the design and evaluation of policy.

Suitable For: Final year Economics (L100 / L101 / L102) students. Students from other degree programmes can also take the module if they meet the prerequisite requirements.

Prerequisites: Students should be comfortable with the material taught in ECON0013: Microeconomics and ECON0019: Quantitative Methods and Econometrics. Any of POLS0008, POLS0010, POLS0013 or POLS0012 are also appropriate.

Assumed knowledge: Students choosing the module should be comfortable with the material taught in ECON0013 and ECON0019.

Overall view of the term:

Each Wednesday, you will get access to the material for the following week as well as the tasks (usually a weekly quiz and a discussion forum activity) to be completed before the live session on Tuesdays. In addition, both I and your teaching assistant will have regular student support and feedback hours where you can drop in to discuss any issues around this module. Please find below a brief rundown of all these activities; details of all of these are on the ECON0115 Moodle page.

Preparation for weekly live sessions: From Wednesday to Tuesday, each week. Each Wednesday, the material for that week will be posted on moodle, along with activities such as quizzes and discussion forum posts. You will need to complete these before the live sessions on Tuesdays.

Live sessions with Valérie Lechene: Tuesday, 12:00 to 14:00. In these interactive sessions, we will have an overview of the topic for the week and go through questions and answers to various aspects of

the topic. These discussions will assume that you have completed the tasks above and have a good grasp over the materials for the week.

Live tutorial sessions: TBC

In these interactive sessions, you will work in groups and with your tutor to apply your learning on the topic for the session and to give and receive feedback on your work so far.

Study groups: I am not sure how we can organise for you to meet remotely with peers to study together, but it is essential to do so. We will discuss this at the beginning of term.

Summative Assessment:

There are three elements included in the final assessment for this module.

- 10% Quizzes (best 5 count)
- 20% Essay (1200 words)
- 70% Open book examination in main exam period.

Formative Assessment:

- There will be four tutorials, each with an assignment due.
- Attendance and participation in each of the four tutorials is required.

Formative coursework marks do not count towards the final mark in this module. ***But please note that in case of inadequate performance in coursework or absence from classes the course lecturer may recommend to the Departmental Tutor that he consider barring a student from the final assessments.***

You will be awarded a mark of 0% or Grade F in any examination, or other summative assessment component (essay, multiple choice questions, projects, etc.) where you: (1) are absent from the summative assessment component or, (2) do not attempt the summative assessment component or, (3) attempt so little of the summative assessment component that it cannot be assessed. Please check the UCL Academic Manual ([Section 3.11](#)) for information on the consequences of not submitting or engaging with any of your assessment components.

If you are a re-sitting student or taking deferred assessment the academic regulations for 2017/18 apply to you. In this case if you do not complete or take an assessment component that is worth more than 20% of the total assessment you will be considered incomplete. This means that you can not pass the module. If this is your first attempt you may be entitled to LSA in the component. Please discuss with the Departmental Tutor (f.witte@ucl.ac.uk) if you are unsure of the consequences for you.

If you have extenuating circumstances that affect your ability to engage with any of the module assessment components please apply for alternative arrangements to the Economics Department as soon as possible. See details in [Section 6](#) of the Academic Manual and send your request to economics.ug@ucl.ac.uk.

If you have a disability or long-term medical condition, you may be entitled to adjustments for assessments. Please see [Section 5](#) of the Academic Manual for information on how to apply for adjustments. If part of your assessment includes an in-class quiz and you feel that you are unable to complete it in the time allocated please contact the Departmental Tutor, Dr Frank Witte (f.witte@ucl.ac.uk) and the UG Admin team (economics.ug@ucl.ac.uk). Do not contact the course lecturer about this.

Readings:

Please consult the moodle page of the 2019/20 version of the course.

Journal articles are all available through the [UCL Library website](#).

Lecture 1/ Week 1: Income pooling

- Introductions and expectations
- The question of Income pooling
- The budget constraint
- Data

Lecture 2 / Week 2: Income pooling

- Evidence about income pooling using observational data
- Evidence about income pooling using quasi experimental data
- Engel curves
- Data and evidence about income pooling using data from the first generation of experiments

Lecture 3 / Week 3: Income pooling; The unitary model of choice

- Data and evidence about income pooling using data from second generation
- Conclusion on Income pooling
- What are households and what do they do; What are models and what use are they?

Lecture 4 / Week 4: Household choice and the unitary model

- The unitary model
- Justification of the unitary model
- Taking the unitary model to the data

Lecture 5 / Week 5: Unitary model

- Preference heterogeneity and distribution factors

Lecture 6 / Week 6: Non unitary models: The gains from marriage; Will marriage take place?

- Introduction
- Public goods
- Specialisation

- Imperfect credit markets

Lecture 7 / Week 7: Non unitary models:

- Risk sharing
- Children
- Do we need marriage?
- Individual and household preferences
- Household production
- Decision making

Lecture 8 / Week 8: Non unitary models: The collective model

- The collective model

Lecture 9 / Week 9: Measurement of individual poverty using the collective model

- Why is it difficult to measure individual poverty?
- A simple collective model of household decision making

Lecture 10 / Week 10: Measurement of individual poverty using the collective model

- Measuring resource shares
- Missing women in India