Pre-Approved Economics Courses

**Econ W4020: The economics of uncertainty and information.**

**Instructor: Pierre-André Chiappori**

The course will introduce students to the economics of uncertainty and information. It will cover the main conceptual tools of the theory of individual decision making under uncertainty (expected utility, risk aversion, stochastic dominance), as well as some key mathematical results (diversification, Law of Large Numbers).

Next, the course will describe the principles underlying the notion of efficient risk sharing, with an emphasis on the various notions of efficiency (ex ante, ex post, interim) and the role of information. The last part of the course will be devoted to the theory of asymmetric information; it will cover moral hazard and adverse selection and stress the distinction between exclusive and nonexclusive contracts. A significant fraction of the course will be dedicated to empirical applications. Moreover, a simulation game played by the students will help illustrating the mechanisms of competition under asymmetric information.

**Microeconomics: Organizational Theory and Markets (3000-level elective).**

The purpose of this course is to analyze organizations, based on the tools of extended microeconomics. The approach adopted is to offer as wide a range as possible of the tools available to economists today to understand the workings of production and exchange in contemporary economies. The main objective of this course is to make students aware of the complexity and diversity of these workings in order to offer a relevant and coherent analysis.

**European Economics and Policies (2000-level elective).**

The theoretical approach of this course intertwines the institutional political economy of European integration and the literature on the diversity of capitalisms. It covers the history of European integration since 1950, an analysis of European monetary policy and the economic architecture of the Eurozone, the roots of the Eurozone crisis, and policy responses to the crisis. Other courses may be available, and all courses are subject to final approval by the Columbia Department of Economics.

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