

To: Curriculum Committee / College of Arts and Sciences

We are in the process of reorganizing the econometrics field courses in our Ph.D. program. Two new courses are conversions from Economics 894 (Group Studies), and the third new course results from our attempt to renumber an existing seminar course. All affected courses are almost exclusively subscribed to by economics Ph.D. students in their second and third years.

In the last three years, our recent senior hires, Lee and de Jong, have taught two courses under Economics 894 (Group Studies), which we would like to convert into our regular graduate course offerings in the field of econometrics.

Lung-fei Lee (University Chaired Professor in Econometrics and Fellow of the Econometrics Society) is a specialist in micro-econometrics, and has lately been working in spatial econometrics that has wide applications in applied microeconomics fields. He has supervised several students with dissertation research in urban economics, labor economics, public finance, and experimental economics methods. In the last three years, Lung-fei offered E894 (Group Studies in Recent Advances in Micro Econometrics), which attracted 12-15 students in the third and fourth year of our Ph.D. program.

Hired as a tenured associate professor, currently in the process of promotion to full professor, Robert de Jong, is a specialist in time-series econometrics. Empirical aspects of macroeconomics and international economics, both of which are major fields in economics, require the extensive application of time-series analysis. His E894 (Group Studies in Advanced Time-Series Econometrics) has attracted about a dozen students in the third and fourth years of our Ph.D. program.

Since we have established our own graduate students' demand for the two courses and because we no longer have an option to repeat them as E894 (Group Study), we have proposed to convert them into two regular courses:

E843 Research Topics in Micro Econometrics (conversion from Lee's E894)

E844 Research Topics in Time Series Econometrics (conversion from de Jong's E894)

Please note that E844 introduction was approved in the December 2006 meeting of this curriculum committee, and the course offer was implemented in January 2006.

The primary audiences for the two new courses are third year and fourth year Ph.D. students who have finished the econometrics field exam or the equivalent of the second-year field courses in econometrics.

We have been offered three lecture courses, Economics 840, 842 and 940, for students who plan to take the field exam in econometrics. A perennial source of confusion with E940 is that, in course registration and in the transcript record, E940 is used both for the Departmental Seminar Series in Econometrics and for a lecture course. We would like to reserve E940 (Seminar in Econometrics) exclusively for the Departmental Seminar Series in Econometrics, and to create E841 (Advanced Econometrics I) for the lecture course version of E940. In anticipation of the new E841 title, we already changed the title of the existing E842 from "Advanced Econometrics" to "Advanced

Econometrics II". (Our request to make this title change while keeping the course content intact was approved by this curriculum committee in Autumn 2006). We wish to streamline the three field-exam courses as E840/841/842 instead of the current E840/842/940 without changing any of the three courses' content.

E840 Time Series Econometrics (no change at all: existing course)

E841 Advanced Econometrics I (new course, same as the current lecture version E940)

E842 Advanced Econometrics II (re-titled from E842 Advanced Econometrics, no content change)

E940 Seminar in Econometrics (no change, but solely to indicate the existing seminar series hereafter)

Stephen Cosslett (Fellow of the Econometrics Society) has been teaching the lecture course version of E940, and will again be teaching it as E841 in Spring 2007 if the new course number is approved. For your information, Lung-fei Lee and Robert de Jong have alternated in teaching E842 the last three years.

In summary, we would like to request your approval of two courses:

E843 Research Topics in Micro Econometrics (conversion from Lee's E894), scheduled to be offered in Autumn 2007.

E841 Advanced Econometrics I (new course, same as the current lecture version E940) scheduled to be in effect in Spring 2007.

In November last year we requested concurrence considerations to Department of Agricultural, Environmental and Development Economics, Department of Finance, and Department of Statistics. We have since obtained concurrence approvals from the AED Economics and Finance, but after a reminder request in early January, we have not heard from Statistics.

After you approved "E844 Research Topics in Time Series Econometrics (conversion from de Jong's E894)" pending concurrence from related Department, we sent in AED Econ and Finance concurrence electronically and by email in early January. E844 is currently being offered. We enclose here for the sake of completeness E804 concurrence forms approved by AED Econ and Finance.

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