

**Economics 196**  
**Special Topics in Economic Research**

Wednesday 6-9 PM

- Instructor of record: Barry Eichengreen
- Acting instructors:
  - Vladimir Asriyan
    - [vasriyan@gmail.com](mailto:vasriyan@gmail.com)
    - Office hours: Wednesdays 2-4 p.m. , 608-5 Evans.
  - John Mondragon
    - [jnm@econ.berkeley.edu](mailto:jnm@econ.berkeley.edu)
    - Office hours: Tuesdays 2-4 p.m., 608-1 Evans
- Guest Lecturers: A Galaxy of Stars

- Professor Eichengreen's office hours:  
Wednesdays 1-3 PM, 603 Evans Hall
- Make an appointment by emailing Cheryl Applewood: [capplewood@berkeley.edu](mailto:capplewood@berkeley.edu)
- Course announcements will be sent by  
Twitter: Economics196@twitter.com

# Questions about admission

- Above our pay grade.
- Ask Christine Yasi, the Economics Department's undergraduate advisor, [cyasi@econ.berkeley.edu](mailto:cyasi@econ.berkeley.edu)

# Goal of course

- This course provides an overview of frontier research and recent policy developments.
- The course is taught jointly by Economics Department faculty and our two acting instructors.
- This fall the course discusses developments in international economics, behavioral economics, the economics of education, labor economics, and finance.

- The course consists of 42 hours of lectures, two short (12-15 page) papers, and required readings.
- All readings can be accessed on the Economics 196 course page. Google “Barry Eichengreen Economics 196.”

[http://emlab.berkeley.edu/users/webfac/eichengreen/e196\\_fa11/e196.shtml](http://emlab.berkeley.edu/users/webfac/eichengreen/e196_fa11/e196.shtml)

- Note that you will need to use a Cal-recognized computer or your Calnet ID to gain access to materials that the library has under license.

# Research papers

- Length: 12-15 double-spaced pages.
- Content: real theoretical or empirical research.
- How to find a topic: start with the topics covered in this course.
- Consult “Guidelines for writing an economics research paper” and “Data sources for empirical work” which are available on the course web site.
- Writing assistance is also available at no charge at the campus Student Learning Center:  
<http://slc.berkeley.edu/writing/index.htm>

# Course sequencing

- One lecture introduces relevant models, methods and literature.
- The next lecture, by a distinguished professor, uses those models, methods and literature to describe frontiers of research and current policy challenges.
  - Thus, after my introduction, Vladimir and John will describe the models, methods and literature relevant to my lecture next week on China in the international economy.
  - Next week I will return to lecture on China.
  - At that point you should have completed the readings on that topic.



# Also, research advisory sessions

- October 12 and November 9
- Come with your topic (based on one of our 6, or something entirely different).
- We will then form 7 “research circles” to exchange information and pool ideas and sources. Your instructors will rotate among them.
- Papers are due by 5 PM on October 26 and December 7. Consult syllabus for details.

- Barry Eichengreen: The Chinese Economy: Growth and Slowdown



- Emmanuel Saez:  
Income Inequality and  
Tax Policy



- Jesse Rothstein: The Economics of Education: Teacher Quality and Pay for Performance



- Atif Mian: The Great Recession: Causes and Consequences



- Enrico Moretti:  
Jobs



- Ulrike Malmendier:  
Managerial  
Overconfidence and  
Early Life Experience



**Your questions?**



- Over to Vladimir and John....