The Exam is three hours; Answer Four Questions of Fourteen

The reading list changes marginally from year to year in response to new papers and policy issues. Here is a brief outline of what was covered last year.

There are two hour lecture/discussion slots Monday and Wednesday, five to seven. Discussion of the topics is important and students are expected to attend all lectures and contribute. There are occasional guest lecturers who are expert in their policy field. Lectures presuppose that the students have spent some time on reading for the lecture. The lectures are directed towards graduate students, honours students and third year undergraduates especially interested in the overlap between policy and economic research.

Preliminary Outline of Topics

The Lasting Impact of the 1970s – setting the stage for the lecture series

- The rapid growth of the welfare state
- The large and unexpected fall in male full-time employment among the unskilled
- The move to a high unemployment economy

Australia and the Rise of China

- Living standards, terms of trade and foreign ownership: reflections on the Australian mining boom – Gregory, Gregory and Sheehan
- Real GDP, real domestic income, and terms-of-trade changes – Kohli
- How do labour markets adjust to Chinese imports – Hanson and Autor (two papers)

The Changing nature of macro labour markets – inequality and all that

- Trends in US Wage Inequality – Autor, Katz
- Skill Based Technology Change and Rising Wage Inequality – Card
- Dark Corners in a Bright Economy – Gregory
- What does Human Capital do? – Acemoglu, Autor

Education and Rates of Return

- The Australian Student Loan system - Chapman
- International Evidence on Gender Gap in Education over the Past Six Decades – Parro

Equal Pay and the wages of women
• A Tale of Two Countries – Gregory
• The Quiet Revolution - Goldin
• Macro Responses to Equal Pay Decisions – Gregory and Duncan

Lone Parents

• Some Implications of Multiple Income Support Spells among Lone Mothers with Dependent Children – Gregory
• Welfare Dependency and the Dynamics of Female Lone Parent Spells – Gregory
• Work and Welfare for the Modern Women – Gregory
• Canadian Self Sufficiency Project (Making Work Pay – Long Term Welfare – Michalopoulos)
• Importance of Lifetime Jobs in the US Economy – Hall
• The Impact of Young Motherhood on Education, Employment and Marriage – Bradbury

Policy Interventions for the Unemployed

• Impact of the Mutual Obligation Initiative on the Exit Behaviour of Unemployment Benefit Recipients – Richardson
• Is there a threat effect of labour market programmes? – Geerdsen
• Bonuses to Workers and Employers to reduce Unemployment – Woodbury, Spiegelman
• Working Credit - Wilkinson and Leigh

Random experiments

• Who benefits from KIPP – Angrist
• The Myth of Charter Schools – Ravitch
• Evaluation of New York Charter Schools - Freyer
• Evaluation of Public School Reforms in Texas - Dobie and Freyer

Income Management and the Welfare of Indigenous Peoples

• To be arranged

Immigration

• Borjas/Chiswick debate
• Borjas/Card debate
• New trends in Australian immigration - Gregory