TIPS FOR THE ECONOMICS STUDENT

Struggling in choosing your next economics units?

Want some student insight into economics units?

Look no further because ESSA's subject overviews are at your fingertips.
INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the 2019 academic year! ESSA Monash Clayton is proud to present our inaugural Subject Overviews booklet. We hope this information can be of use to all our members when choosing your subjects this year, regardless of whether you are a new student, in your final year, or somewhere in between.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

This booklet was put together by both past and present economics students at Monash University who have taken these units and want to share their experiences. ESSA Monash Clayton hopes that this booklet will help you get a good sense of the economics major and all it has to offer – we’ve enjoyed these units and we hope you do too! We outline what topics the unit covers, when the unit is available in 2019 and tips for doing well.

DISCLAIMER

These subject overviews are the work of ESSA Monash Clayton and not of Monash University. They are not intended to replace the Monash University Handbook, which should be consulted for official information about each unit. The Handbook can be found here: http://www.monash.edu/pubs/handbooks/
To complete a major in Economics, you need to do the following four units...

**ECC1000: Principles of Microeconomics**

**Topics covered:** Basic economic concepts such as supply, demand and equilibrium; elasticity; consumer behaviour & consumer decisions; how different markets operate

**Availability in 2019:** Semester 1 & 2 (Clayton)

**How to do well:** Content becomes more difficult in the second half of the semester so try to stay on top of all the content throughout the semester, leaving plenty of time for revision

**Comments:** ECC1000 is a core unit for all Commerce students. For those determined to pursue an Economics major, it provides the key knowledge required for all further Economics units. For those who are still unsure, this unit will most likely give you an idea of whether economics is for you.

**ECC1100: Principles of Macroeconomics**

**Topics covered:** Basic macroeconomic principles such as GDP, inflation, unemployment & circular flow of income; an introduction to fiscal and monetary policy; aggregate supply and demand; current & capital accounts

**Availability in 2019:** Semester 1 & 2 (Clayton)

**How to do well:** Content combines both basic macroeconomic concepts and some extended concepts so make sure you understand the basic macro principles first. Pay close attention to the graph illustrations during lectures and tutorials, and be able to sketch and label graphs when describing any short-run and long-run impacts of macroeconomic policies.

**Comments:** ECC1100 is a great foundational unit for future macroeconomic units. The content is interesting and applicable to real life, and will help you see the world with an economics lens. Note this is compulsory for the economic major.

**ECC2000: Intermediate Microeconomics**

**Topics covered:** Consumer choice; production theory; monopoly, monopolistic competition and oligopoly; input pricing; market failure

**Availability in 2019:** Semester 1 & 2 (Clayton)

**How to do well:** Make sure you understand all the models and practice all tutorial questions. There is manageable maths involved which is significantly easier with practice.

**Comments:** ECC2000 was definitely a step up from ECC1000 but was a good taste of what future economic 2nd and 3rd units are like. It’s also a really important foundational basis, whose content carries forward into many other microeconomic units.

**ECC2010: Intermediate Macroeconomics**

**Topics covered:** Macroeconomic issues such as employment, productivity, growth, inflation, business cycles and macro policies

**Availability in 2019:** Semester 1 & 2 (Clayton)

**How to do well:** Some models are conceptually difficult to understand; read through the textbook if confused and make sure to ask your friends, tutor and lecturer for help before the exam!

**Comments:** ECC2010 is also a step up from ECC1100 but just as interesting with it’s much wider reaching and applicable macroeconomic concepts. It also promotes a framework or a way of thinking that which will stay with you throughout your study of economics.
...and three units from the following...

ECC3600: Experimental Economics

Topics covered: History and basic structure of experimental economics, different types of experimental economics topics, experimental design, individual/social/financial decision making

Availability in 2019: Semester 1 (Clayton)

How to do well: Don’t let your prescribed journal readings pile up. Pay attention not just to the results, but also to the methodology of experiments. Get familiar with evaluating methodologies, and think about how you will apply them to your experiment design assignment

Comments: ECC3600 was a brand new unit in 2018. This may not be what you would consider a conventional economics unit; however, the unit offers very practical skills. Experimental economics covers the practical application and “real world” study of economics.

ECC3660: Monetary Economics

Topics covered: Financial markets and instruments, interest rate determinants, how central banks decide on monetary policy (graphical & mathematical approaches)

Availability in 2019: Semester 1 (Clayton)

How to do well: It is important to gain a thorough understanding of the mathematical and graphical derivations of the IS, Phillips and Monetary Rule curves; as these are examinable.

Comments: ECC3660 briefly covers knowledge from previous economics units, overlaying this with a thorough exploration of how central banks must weigh up inflation and output gaps in setting monetary policy. The subject also explores contemporary issues relating to the effectiveness of monetary policy in modern economies.

ECC3670: Economics of Developing Countries

Topics covered: Economic analysis regarding issues and policy problems faced by developing countries, including inequality, gender bias, rural-urban migration, poverty, credit constraints and population growth

Availability in 2019: Semester 1 (Clayton)

How to do well: This unit combines some micro- and macroeconomic concepts so make sure you understand the basics first. Some sources in the unit may also be a bit outdated, so it helps to do some research and to update those sources yourself outside of class time

Comments: ECC3670 is an interesting unit that is quite different from other Economics units. It would be suited for students who enjoy more policy based units, but which still encompasses economic analysis.

ECC3690: International Economics

Topics covered: Models of trade; movement of labour and capital; protectionist policies; foreign exchange

Availability in 2019: Semester 2 (Clayton)

How to do well: Keep up with current trade events and news, it’s great to see how the theory we learn in ECC3690 translates in reality and it helps solidify your learning.

Comments: ECC3690 is a great macroeconomic unit if you enjoyed the international trade portion of past units! The link with the current trade environment makes it really interesting.
ECC3710: Labour Economics

**Topics covered:** Labour market equilibrium, employer & employee decision making, effects of minimum wage laws and affirmative action measures or employee discrimination

**Availability in 2019:** Semester 1 (Clayton)

**How to do well:** Understand the diagrams and be able to draw them/apply them. The weekly assignments/homework tasks let you do so, with the tutorials supplementing that work - listen in them to ensure you can explain what you draw and demonstrate your understanding of the theories.

**Comments:** ECC3710 is an extremely interesting and practical unit. This unit uses a lot of concepts from microeconomics (equilibrium supply/demand, minimum wage as a price ceiling/floor) so it is quite approachable. It is very exciting to apply the unit content to real life situations and give opinions on policy measures regarding the labour market.

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ECC3810: Public Finance

**Topics covered:** The mixed economy, market failure, poverty and inequality, public goods, taxation, and climate policy.

**Availability in 2019:** Semester 1 (Clayton)

**How to do well:** Choosing your assignment (40%) topic wisely and ensure you can access quality, relevant data. Regularly revise earlier content as the exam spans the entire semester, and become intimate with the relevant mathematical models.

**Comments:** This is a great subject for those interested in the role of government in society. While there is more maths here than most other third-year subjects, organised students should cope with this. The assignment allows you to research essentially any topic relating to government policy, making this subject as rewarding as you choose for it to be.

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ECC3830: Industrial Organization and Regulation

**Topics covered:** Price discrimination, product differentiation, collusion, horizontal mergers, entry deterrence, vertical relations & exclusive dealing.

**Availability in 2019:** Semester 2 (Clayton)

**How to do well:** Form a study group, especially for the assignments. Revise basic differentiation and get comfortable with symbolic representations (e.g. a, b, c) rather than numbers. Do questions before the tutorial.

**Comments:** Industrial Organisation teaches you to think in a very mathematical way. Students solve real economic issues such as ‘should a merger take place?’ or ‘should Firm A try to deter entry?’ It is possible to score very highly in this subject if students work hard and routinely practice tutorial questions.

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ECC3840: Mathematical Economics

**Topics covered:** Sets, Structured Sets, (Types of) Functions, ‘Reading Maths’, Equilibria, Utility Theorems and Arrow’s Impossibility Theorem

**Availability in 2019:** Semester 2 (Clayton)

**How to do well:** Stay on top of all content, and as there are no tutes be prepared with questions for the lecturer post-lecture and/or at consults to ensure you don’t fall behind. Bring paper and pen to class as the content the lecturer writes down and shows on the document cam is often as important as the content in the slides.

**Comments:** This unit is challenging but rewarding. The first couple of weeks start slowly but the unit ramps up after then, so students must have a solid grasp of the early content and remain completely switched on in lectures at all times. The assignments aren’t too challenging but understanding what is being asked can be, so making full use of consults and finding a group to do the assignments with is strongly encouraged.
...as well as one unit from below, or from above!

ECC2300: Current issues in macroeconomic policy
Topics covered: The GFC – its causes, how it spread and the Fed’s response, Deflation and Liquidity Trap, why Interest Rates are so low, why GDP is below trend, why growth has slowed down
Availability in 2019: Semester 2 (Clayton)
How to do well: Stay on top of content earlier as later topics follow on from earlier ones, do the weekly homework questions thoroughly before class, not just because it’s part of the assessment but because they’ll really help with the in-class quizzes, and start thinking early about an essay topic.
Comments: ECC2300 is a well-taught and engaging unit, with a clear focus on connecting economic theory to recent, real-world events. For those who wished there were more practical applications given for the theory in first and second year macro, this unit is for you.

ECC2360: Environmental economics
Topics covered: Market Failure, Cost-benefit Analysis, Coase Theorem. Environmental goods and different methods of valuation, Relationship between the environment and economic development
Availability in 2019: Semester 2 (Clayton)
How to do well: Be active in the weekly group discussions since the ideas discussed can be useful for the more theory-based assignments. For exam preparation, the weekly provided questions are good practice despite being initially daunting.
Comments: This unit expands on the concepts that are taught in earlier units (ECC1000) and explores them in relation to the environment with a mix of theory and application. The theory is interesting and thought-provoking as there is no definitive answer due to the many unquantifiable aspects of the environment. This unit is challenging at first but once understood is intuitive.

ECC2600: Behavioural economics
Topics covered: Rationality, Self-Deception, Probability Judgment, Expected Utility Theory, Motivation Effect, Fairness and Justice, Social Dilemmas
Availability in 2019: Semester 2 (Clayton)
How to do well: Participate in lecture discussions to get the most out of lectures, do homework questions ahead of tutes (even though they aren’t assessed) as this will help you to get the most out of tutes, and start the readings early so that you’re well prepared for the essays as they come.
Comments: For those who want to see how psychology feeds into economic decision-making, and/or who want an economics unit devoid of mathematics, this unit is for you. It’s a really fascinating look into rationality, and especially decision-making, and why people so often make sub-optimal choices.

ECC2800: Prosperity, poverty and sustainability in a globalised world
Topics covered: Traditional and non-traditional economic models surrounding the economics of prosperity, poverty and sustainability in the context of globalisation and history
Availability in 2019: Semester 1 (Clayton)
How to do well: Staying engaged with the unit through contributing to online forums, readings and classes. This class is highly conceptual and focuses on understanding instead of memorization.
Comments: A new perspective on economics for students who want to question and explore non-traditional, emerging economic models.
ECC3640: Economics of climate change

**Topics covered:** Costs of climate change, economics of stabilisation, economics of climate change mitigation, international agreements, climate and energy policy, economics of adaptation

**Availability in 2019:** Semester 2 (Clayton)

**How to do well:** Develop a solid understanding of all topics, particularly in preparation for potential short-answer and essay questions in the exam. That means being able to draw/interpret graphs and explain various issues, concepts and policy instruments in detail.

**Comments:** This is an interesting and accessible unit that looks widely at the role of economics in talking about and responding to climate change. The assessment requirements are manageable, and flexibility is offered in selecting a research essay topic.

ECC3800: History of economic thought

**Topics covered:** Adam Smith, David Ricardo, Thomas Robert Malthus, Karl Marx, John Maynard Keynes, Joseph Schumpeter and many more.

**Availability in 2019:** Semester 2 (Clayton)

**How to do well:** Participate actively in lecture and tutorial discussions, start writing the essay early to ensure you have enough time for a thorough analysis and comparison of two economists' theories, and prepare well for the in-class debate.

**Comments:** In most economic units students are asked to learn and apply economic theory, without ever learning about the philosophers behind this theory. This unit teaches you about the economists behind the theories and is a fascinating look at how their lives and times influenced their thinking. The chance to debate their theories with a focus on the modern world is great as well.

ETC2410: Introductory econometrics

**Topics covered:** The OLS regression and related topics such as model interpretation, modification and selection, binary variables, heteroskedasticity, autocorrelation, dynamic models and asymptotics

**Availability in 2019:** Semester 1 & 2 (Clayton)

**How to do well:** Concepts build on content from past weeks so routinely reviewing previous content is encouraged. Getting your hands dirty with the required software (EViews) through homework and assignments is highly beneficial as well.

**Comments:** ETC2410 is a huge step-up from ETC1000. Though moderately difficult, this unit is very rewarding and essential for empirical analyses in economics and other commercial fields. It is also a pre-requisite for the Economics Honours which is a gateway for a wide variety of highly regarded careers.

“Students wishing to undertake an honours year must complete at least four level 3 ECC units, in addition to the major requirements. For more information on honours, visit http://users.monash.edu.au/~sangus/cgi-bin/mointeach.cgi/MonashU/HonoursEconomics”

Students wishing to complete a minor in Economics must complete any four undergraduate units with the prefix ECC or ECX offered at the Clayton campus, with at least two units at level 2 or 3

Students undertaking a Bachelor of Economics or a Bachelor of Commerce Specialist and specialising in economics and economic policy must complete the units on page 3 along with ECC3690, ETC1000 and ETC2410, as well as three other units from pages 4 and 5 and two other units from pages 6-8 (excluding ECC2400) and/or ETC3410, and four other units from those offered by the Faculty of Business and Economics at Clayton and not already completed”
*** Please note: No ESSA Monash Clayton committee members had completed the following three units recently and thus a heavily cut version of the handbook entries for each of these three units is presented here. Please note that, as is the case for the other units, this information is not a substitute for the full 2019 Handbook entry for these units.***

**ECC2400: Current issues in applied microeconomics**

**Topics covered:** Policy issues related to the microeconomics of firms, welfare state, transitional economies, society and the public sector

**Availability in 2019:** Semester 1 (Clayton)

**How to do well:** Focus on the way economists apply economic theories and concepts to analyse various issues, evaluate theories and inform policies. Actively participate in lectures and tutorials to consolidate your understanding of the current debates on policy-relevant issues. Ensure you are able to evaluate the contributions and limitations of economic analysis for understanding and informing policy options.

**Comments:** This unit builds upon the content of ECC1000 and expands them in relation to policy-relevant issues in everyday life. For those who are interested in the scientific nature of economics and its policy relevance, this unit is for you.

**ECC2450: Sports economics**

**Topics covered:** Demand for sport, the pricing and economic impact of sports events, government subsidies in sport, case studies of professional team sports leagues in Australia, North America and Europe

**Availability in 2019:** Semester 1 (Clayton)

**How to do well:** Understand the characteristics of sports markets and the policy conclusions that follow, as well as the key features of sports markets in Australia and overseas. Be able to analyse the role economic incentives play in determining the behaviour of different stakeholders in the sports markets, and develop appropriate policies to address economic problems in the sports industry.

**Comments:** This is an interesting unit as it connects economic theories to the professional sports industry. It is fascinating to examine the globalisation in professional sports and its future directions from an economic point of view.

**ECC2610: Game theory and strategic thinking**

**Topics covered:** Introduction to game theory; using game theory to understand, predict & regulate strategic interaction among individuals, firms, governments & nations who have conflicting interests

**Availability in 2019:** Semester 2 (Clayton)

**How to do well:** Stay on top of the content as later topics follow on from earlier ones. For the assignments, you need to be able to identify real situations where game theory can be enlightening, put them into game theoretical formalism, then manipulate the formalism via game theory to reveal insights.

**Comments:** This unit looks into real-world applications of game theory in economics & business and how it can be used to understand different social phenomena.
STAY CONNECTED . . .

SEMESTER 1

TRIVIA NIGHT 7 MARCH

INTRODUCTION TO R: DATA SCIENCE WORKSHOP 18 MARCH

CAREERS PANEL 21 MARCH

BUDGET VIEWING PARTY 2 APRIL

OGM WEEK 6

WOMEN IN ECONOMICS BREAKFAST WEEK 8/9 TBA

REVISE WITH ESSA SEMINARS WEEK 11/12
- ECC1000
- ECC1100
- ETC1000
- ETC2410
W I T H E S S A

SEMESTER 2

CLUBS DAY
SHORT SUPPLY BBQ
ECO DEBATE
CONVERSATION WITH ECONOMISTS
Q&A PANEL
AGM
YEAR IN REVIEW
REVISE WITH ESSA SEMINARS
- ECC1000
- ECC1100
- ETC1000
- ETC2410
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BAIN & COMPANY

Affiliate

BCG BOSTON CONSULTING GROUP

ESSA Monash Clayton would like to thank the Department of Economics for their help in publishing this booklet, whilst still noting that this document does not replace the Monash Handbook, which should be consulted for official information about the aforementioned units.