



HARVARD UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS

LITTAUER CENTER, CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02138-3001

August 28, 2018

Dear Ec Concentrators,

Welcome back! We hope you had a worthwhile summer and that you're ready to dive into the fall semester. **Office hours will resume from 10am-4pm, Monday – Friday starting Thursday, August 30!**

While you are encouraged to get to know the advisor assigned to you by house, feel free to meet with any available advisor during office hours. Each of you can expect to hear from your advisors by the beginning of the semester. [Advising details](#), [course information](#), [job opportunities](#), and much more can be found on the [Economics Department's website](#).

Harvard introduces a **new schedule for class times** this year. Official class times run 75 minutes with a built in 15 minutes of travel. Goodbye, Harvard time. Keep in mind that classes can meet at any time within the official time, so keep an eye on syllabi and course websites to see if your courses meet at a different time than stated on my.harvard.

We've expanded the list of **Freshmen seminars** that count toward the concentration as electives. You will see your AAR updated accordingly if you took one of the approved courses.

As you browse the course catalogue, you may notice some new courses this year. These offerings include:

- "Using Big Data to Solve Economic and Social Problems," with Raj Chetty. Offered starting this spring, this will show how "big data" can be used to understand and solve some of the most important social and economic problems of our time.
- Ec 1746: "Financial Crisis and the Great Recession," with Karen Dynan

Sophomores: Please feel free to drop by our office hours or attend a declaration event (watch for invites in your emails in October) to get your questions answered about the concentration. The Economics Department requires a [three-step process to declare Ec](#). Make sure to visit our website to ensure you've done what you need to **declare by November 8**.

Juniors: Take an **Ec 980 Junior Seminar!** The Fall and Spring offer seminars in a diverse set of topics. It is an excellent way to get to know a faculty member and to prepare for writing a senior thesis. Apply to a [junior seminar](#) today! Still need to take an **Ec 970 Sophomore Tutorial**? Join us for the [mandatory meeting on Tuesday, September 4 at 2pm](#) in the Littauer 3rd Floor Lounge to learn how to lottery into one of the [tutorials on offer](#).

Seniors: Take the time to meet with your advisor during this semester to check your concentration requirements and to declare your track. **All students interested in writing a thesis must attend the meeting on Tuesday, September 4 at 4:30pm in the Littauer 3rd Floor Lounge to register for an [Ec 985 Thesis Seminar](#).** Thesis seminars will meet for the first time the week of September 10th.

We all wish you the best of luck with your upcoming year and hope to see you soon!

Regards,

Jeffrey A. Miron
Senior Lecturer
Director of Undergraduate Studies