

**GRADUATE STUDIES AND  
POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWS**

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**MEMORANDUM**

**ATTENTION** Senate  
**FROM** Wade Parkhouse, Chair of Senate  
Graduate Studies Committee (SGSC)  
**RE:** Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

**DATE** November 18, 2015  
**No.** GS2015.37, GS2015.38

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'W Parkhouse', written over a horizontal line.

**For information:**

Acting under delegated authority at its meeting of November 9, 2015, SGSC approved the following curriculum revisions effective **Fall 2016**:

Department of Economics

Program change: Doctor of Philosophy

Program change: Master of Arts

Course change (title, description): ECON 837, ECON 838, ECON 839

School for International Studies

Program change: Master of Arts



FACULTY OF  
ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

MEMO

Office of the Dean

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Room 6168

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**ATTENTION: Wade Parkhouse, Dean  
Graduate Studies**

FROM : Lisa Shapiro, Chair  
Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences Graduate Studies Committee

RE: FASSGSC Proposals

DATE: 5<sup>th</sup> October 2015

The Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences Graduate Committee met on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2015 and approved the following curricular program changes, as submitted by Department of Economics.

- Removal of ECON 839 as a PhD program requirement. ECON 839 may be taken as an elective. The rationale for the change is that under current requirements, PhD students do not all receive the same econometric training. The Department wants to ensure that all entering PhD students receive excellent training in the core aspects of applied and theoretical econometrics, while continuing to offer advanced topical training for those who wish to explore the field more deeply.
- Removal of ECON 837 as an MA program requirement. ECON 837 may be taken as an elective. The rationale for the change is that currently, MA students have the option of substituting ECON 837 for the required course ECON 836. Because of changes to the content of ECON 837, related to changes in the PhD program, it will no longer be appropriate for MA students to substitute ECON 836 with ECON 837.
- Change of titles and calendar descriptions of ECON 837, 838, 839. The rationale for change is to restructure, rationalize, and modernize the PhD econometrics requirement. Minor course change forms are attached.

The Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences Graduate Committee met on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2015 and approved the following curricular program changes, as submitted by the School of International Studies.



FACULTY OF  
ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

- Removal of B+ as the passing grade for IS 880-6 MA Extended Essays from the calendar description of the course. The rationale for the change is to make clear that the marking of the extended essay is on the same scale as that of other courses. Since students can receive the full range of marks in their other courses, it should be clear that students can receive the full range of marks on their Extended Essay. The minimum of a B+ as the passing grade in the description of the course has led to a confusion among students, and pressure on faculty to inflate grades for passing.

We would like the above changes to become effective Fall 2016.

Please place these on the agenda for the next SGSC meeting.

LS:bh  
enc



MEMO

ATTENTION	Lisa Shapiro, Chair, FASSGSC
FROM	Simon Woodcock, Graduate Chair, Dept. of Economics
RE	Curriculum changes
DATE	September 14, 2015

At its meeting of September 10 2015, the Department of Economics approved the following curricular program changes:

1. To make ECON 839 an elective in the PhD program instead of a requirement, i.e., change required courses in the PhD from "ECON 803, 804, 808, 809, 831, 837 and either 838 or 839" to "ECON 803, 804, 808, 809, 831, 837 and 838." Revised calendar language is attached.
2. To make ECON 837 an elective in the MA program instead of a requirement, i.e., change required courses in the MA from "ECON 802, 835, either 807 or 808, and either 836 or 837" to "ECON 802, 835, 836, and either 807 or 808." Revised calendar language is attached.
3. To change titles and calendar descriptions of ECON 837, 838, 839. Minor course change forms are attached.

Please place this proposal on the agenda of the next meeting of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences Graduate Studies Curriculum Committee

Sincerely,

Simon Woodcock  
Graduate Chair  
Dept. of Economics

## Calendar Entry Change for Economics Doctor of Philosophy Program

<p>Summary of change: Simplify and rationalise econometrics requirements in the PhD program, by changing the requirement from ECON 837 plus ECON 838 or ECON 839, to ECON 837 plus ECON 838.</p>
<p>Rationale for change: Under current requirements, PhD students do not all receive the same econometric training, and this serves some of our students poorly. We want to ensure that all entering PhD students receive excellent training in the core aspects of applied and theoretical econometrics, while continuing to offer advanced topical training for those who wish to explore the field more deeply.</p>
<p>Effective term and year: Fall 2016.</p>
<p>Will this change impact current students? If yes, what is the plan for current students? No. Changes will take effect with the 2016-17 PhD entering cohort.</p>

FROM	TO
<p>...</p> <p><b>Degree Requirements</b></p> <p>This program allows specialization in economics, economics and business administration, or economics and a related discipline. Normally, every PhD program will include the following.</p> <p>1. Successful performance in 11 approved courses beyond the economics MA requirements listed above. Those specializing in economics must include ECON 803, 804, 808, 809, 831, 837 <del>and either 838 or 839</del>; those specializing in economics and business administration must include <del>ECON 803 and 804, or 808 and 809, 831.</del></p> <p>...</p>	<p>...</p> <p><b>Degree Requirements</b></p> <p>This program allows specialization in economics, economics and business administration, or economics and a related discipline. Normally, every PhD program will include the following.</p> <p>1. Successful performance in 11 approved courses beyond the economics MA requirements listed above. Those specializing in economics must include            ECON 803 <u>Microeconomic Theory II</u>            ECON 804 <u>Advanced Topics in Microeconomic Theory</u>            ECON 808 <u>Macroeconomic Theory</u>            ECON 809 <u>Advanced Macroeconomic Theory</u>            ECON 831 <u>Mathematical Economics</u>            ECON 837 <u>Econometrics I</u>            ECON 838 <u>Econometrics II</u>            Those specializing in economics and business administration must include            ECON 831 <u>Mathematical Economics</u>            and both of            ECON 803 <u>Microeconomic Theory II</u>            ECON 804 <u>Advanced Topics in</u></p>

	<p><u>Microeconomic Theory</u> <u>or both of</u> <u>ECON 808 Macroeconomic Theory</u> <u>ECON 809 Advanced Macroeconomic Theory</u> ...</p>
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## Calendar Entry Change for Economics Master of Arts Program

<p>Summary of change: Remove option for MA students to take ECON 837 in place of ECON 836.</p>
<p>Rationale for change: Currently, MA students have the option of substituting ECON 837 for the required course ECON 836. Because of changes to the content of ECON 837, related to changes in the PhD program, it will no longer be appropriate for MA students to substitute ECON 836 with ECON 837.</p>
<p>Effective term and year: Fall 2016.</p>
<p>Will this change impact current students? If yes, what is the plan for current students? No. Changes will take effect with the 2016-17 MA entering cohort.</p>

FROM	TO
...	...
<p><b>Degree Requirements</b></p> <p><b>Core Course Work</b> The core course work will normally consist of</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <del>ECON 802-4 Microeconomic Theory I</del></li> <li>• <del>ECON 835-4 Econometrics</del></li> </ul> <p>and one of</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <del>ECON 807-4 Macroeconomic Theory and Policy</del></li> <li>• <del>ECON 808-4 Macroeconomic Theory</del></li> </ul> <p>and one of</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <del>ECON 836-4 Applied Econometrics</del></li> <li>• <del>ECON 837-4 Econometric Theory I</del></li> </ul>	<p><b>Degree Requirements</b></p> <p><b>Core Course Work</b> The core course work will normally consist of</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ECON 802 Microeconomic Theory I</li> <li>ECON 835 Econometrics</li> <li><u>ECON 836 Applied Econometrics</u></li> </ul> <p>and one of</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ECON 807 Macroeconomic Theory and Policy</li> <li>ECON 808 Macroeconomic Theory</li> </ul>
...	...
<p><b>Co-operative Education</b> This optional program provides work experience that complements MA studies. MA students in good standing with a minimum 3.0 GPA may apply to co-op after satisfactory completion of</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <del>ECON 802-4 Microeconomic Theory I</del></li> <li>• <del>ECON 835-4 Econometrics</del></li> <li>• <del>ECON 836-4 Applied Econometrics</del></li> </ul> <p>and one of</p>	<p><b>Co-operative Education</b> This optional program provides work experience that complements MA studies. MA students in good standing with a minimum 3.0 GPA may apply to co-op after satisfactory completion of <u>their core course work</u>.</p>
...	...

• ~~ECON 807-4 Macroeconomic Theory and Policy~~  
• ~~ECON 808-4 Macroeconomic Theory or equivalent.~~

...





## Graduate Course Change

Attach a separate document if more space is required.

Course Subject/Number ECON 837	Units 4	Effective Term and Year Fall 2016
Course Title Econometric Theory I		
Rationale for Change: To restructure, rationalise, and modernise the PhD econometrics requirement.		

Proposed Changes (Check all that apply)

Course number  
  Units\*  
  Title  
  Description  
  Prerequisite  
  Other \_\_\_\_\_

Complete only the fields to be changed

FROM	TO
Course Subject/Number	Course Subject/Number
Units	Units*
Course Title Econometric Theory I	Course Title (max 100 characters) Econometrics I
Course Short Title Econometric Theory I	Course Short Title (max 30 characters) Econometrics I
Description The theory of the general linear model and the implications of basic econometric problems such as multicollinearity, autocorrelated residuals, errors in variables and heteroscedasticity. The use of dummy and lagged variables, simultaneous equation models. The identification problem. Estimation of over-identified equations. Offered once a year.	Description Develops a foundation for econometric theory and applied econometrics. Topics may include an introduction to measure and probability theory, integration and mathematical expectations, stochastic limit theory, asymptotic theory, mathematical statistics, multiple linear regression, and an introduction to GMM and maximum likelihood estimation.
Prerequisite	Prerequisite
Other	Other

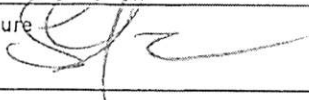
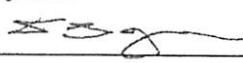
\* Program requirements may need to be revised when course units are changed. Please review the calendar and submit any relevant program revisions resulting from this course change.

REMINDER: All course changes must be identified on a cover memo and confirmed as approved when submitted to FGSC and SGSC.


**CONTACT PERSON**

Department / School / Program Dept. of Economics	Contact name Gwen Wild	Contact email glwild@sfu.ca
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**DEPARTMENTAL APPROVAL**

Department Graduate Program Committee S. Woodcock	Signature 	Date 9/14/2015
Department Chair D. Jacks	Signature 	Date 15.09.14

**FACULTY APPROVAL**

Faculty Graduate Studies Committee (FGSC) Lisa Shapiro	Signature 	Date 6 Oct 2015
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**SENATE GRADUATE STUDIES COMMITTEE APPROVAL**

Senate Graduate Studies Committee (SGSC) W Parthouse	Signature 	Date Nov 19, 2015
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**ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION (for DGS office only)**

Course Attribute: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Course Attribute Value: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Instruction Mode: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Attendance Type: \_\_\_\_\_

If different from regular units:  
 Academic Progress Units: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Financial Aid Progress Units: \_\_\_\_\_



# Graduate Course Change

Attach a separate document if more space is required.

Course Subject/Number ECON 838	Units 4	Effective Term and Year Fall 2016
Course Title Econometric Theory IIA		
Rationale for Change: To restructure, rationalise, and modernise the PhD econometrics requirement.		

**Proposed Changes (Check all that apply)**

Course number  
  Units\*  
  Title  
  Description  
  Prerequisite  
  Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Complete only the fields to be changed**

FROM	TO
Course Subject/Number	Course Subject/Number
Units	Units*
Course Title Econometric Theory IIA	Course Title (max 100 characters) Econometrics II
Course Short Title Econometric Theory IIA	Course Short Title (max 30 characters) Econometrics II
Description This course presents advanced topics in time series econometrics, with an emphasis on model building, estimation, inference and forecasts in finance and macroeconomics. Univariate and multivariate models of stationary and nonstationary time series in time and frequency domains will be studied. General topics will include specification testing, method of moments estimators, applications of maximum likelihood, simulation and bootstrap methods, and estimation and inference in nonlinear models. These will be presented in the context of ARMA models, impulse-response functions, vector autoregressions and state space models, frequency domain methods, unit roots, cointegration, models of volatility, extreme value analysis and risk management, long-memory models, structural change, hidden-markov models, high frequency finance and wavelets.	Description Develops the core tools of theoretical and applied econometrics including time series, cross sectional, and panel data methods. Topics may include limited dependent variable models, GMM, instrumental variables, ARMA models, unit roots and cointegration, fixed and random effects, incidental parameters, testing, program evaluation, nonlinear regression, semi- and nonparametric methods.
Prerequisite	Prerequisite
Other	Other

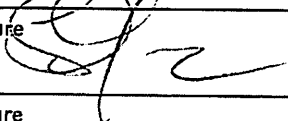

\* Program requirements may need to be revised when course units are changed. Please review the calendar and submit any relevant program revisions resulting from this course change.

**REMINDER:** All course changes must be identified on a cover memo and confirmed as approved when submitted to FGSC and SGSC.

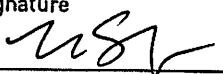
**CONTACT PERSON**

Department / School / Program Dept. of Economics	Contact name Gwen Wild	Contact email glwild@sfu.ca
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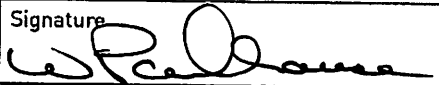
**DEPARTMENTAL APPROVAL**

Department Graduate Program Committee S. Woodcock	Signature 	Date 9/14/2015
Department Chair D. Jacks	Signature 	Date 15.09.14

**FACULTY APPROVAL**

Faculty Graduate Studies Committee (FGSC) Lisa Shapiro	Signature 	Date 6 Oct 2015
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**SENATE GRADUATE STUDIES COMMITTEE APPROVAL**

Senate Graduate Studies Committee (SGSC) W. Parbhose	Signature 	Date Nov 19, 2015
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**ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION (for DGS office only)**

Course Attribute: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Course Attribute Value: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Instruction Mode: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Attendance Type: \_\_\_\_\_

If different from regular units:  
 Academic Progress Units: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Financial Aid Progress Units: \_\_\_\_\_



## Graduate Course Change

Attach a separate document if more space is required.

Course Subject/Number	ECON 839	Units	4	Effective Term and Year	Fall 2016
Course Title	Econometric Theory IIB				
Rationale for Change:	To restructure, rationalise, and modernise the PhD econometrics requirement.				

### Proposed Changes (Check all that apply)

- Course number  
  Units\*  
  Title  
  Description  
  Prerequisite  
  Other \_\_\_\_\_

### Complete only the fields to be changed

FROM	TO
Course Subject/Number	Course Subject/Number
Units	Units*
Course Title Econometric Theory IIB	Course Title (max 100 characters) Econometrics III
Course Short Title Econometric Theory IIB	Course Short Title (max 30 characters) Econometrics III
Description Presents advanced topics in econometric theory in a microeconomic setting. Topics will include specification testing, method of moments estimators, applications of maximum likelihood, simulation and bootstrap methods, and estimation and inference in nonlinear models. These will be presented in the context of cross-sectional and panel data, including discrete choice models, limited-dependent variable models, and duration models.	Description Presents advanced topics in econometrics. Topics may include testing, program evaluation, nonlinear regression, semi- and nonparametric methods, time series, and partial identification.
Prerequisite	Prerequisite
Other	Other

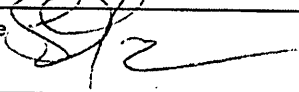

\* Program requirements may need to be revised when course units are changed. Please review the calendar and submit any relevant program revisions resulting from this course change.

REMINDER: All course changes must be identified on a cover memo and confirmed as approved when submitted to FGSC and SGSC.


**CONTACT PERSON**

Department / School / Program Dept. of Economics	Contact name Gwen Wild	Contact email glwild@sfu.ca
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**DEPARTMENTAL APPROVAL**

Department Graduate Program Committee S. Woodcock	Signature 	Date 9/14/2015
Department Chair D. Jacks	Signature 	Date 15.09.14

**FACULTY APPROVAL**

Faculty Graduate Studies Committee (FGSC) Lisa Shapiro	Signature 	Date 6 Oct 2015
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**SENATE GRADUATE STUDIES COMMITTEE APPROVAL**

Senate Graduate Studies Committee (SGSC) W Parkhouse	Signature 	Date Nov 19, 2015
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**ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION (for DGS office only)**

Course Attribute: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Course Attribute Value: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Instruction Mode: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Attendance Type: \_\_\_\_\_

If different from regular units:  
 Academic Progress Units: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Financial Aid Progress Units: \_\_\_\_\_



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TO Jane Pulkingham, Chair of FASSGSC  
FROM Christopher Gibson, Graduate Chair  
SUBJECT Program/Calendar Changes  
DATE September 24, 2015

At its meeting of September 14, 2015, the School for International Studies approved the following curricular program changes:

- Removing B+ as the passing grade for IS 880-6 MA Extended Essays

Please place this proposal on the agenda of the next meeting of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences Graduate Studies Curriculum Committee.

Chris Gibson

15-4

## Calendar Entry Change for International Studies

<p><b>Summary of change:</b></p> <p>Removing language of B+ as the passing grade for IS 880-6 MA Extended Essays.</p>
<p><b>Rationale for change:</b></p> <p>The change is to make clear that the marking of the extended essay is on the same scale of that of other courses. As it is clear students can receive the full range of marks in their other courses, it should be clear that students can receive the full range of marks on their Extended Essay. The minimum of a B+ has led to confusion among students, and pressure on faculty to inflate grades for passing. The CGPA minimum of 3.0 for the program remains in place.</p>
<p><b>Effective term and year:</b> Fall 2016</p>
<p><b>Will this change impact current students? If yes, what is the plan for current students?</b></p> <p>No.</p>

FROM	TO
<p><b>Program Requirements</b></p> <p><b>1. Extended Essays Track</b>            Students complete a minimum of 30 units, including at least 24 units of coursework and two extended essays (6 units). Each extended essay should be approximately 8,000 words. The options are writing a policy briefing (or policy briefings), a review essay (or review essays), or some other type of writing focused on synthesis and analysis, rather than original research. <del>A minimum grade of B+ is required for IS 880 for degree completion.</del></p>	<p><b>Program Requirements</b></p> <p><b>1. Extended Essays Track</b>            Students complete a minimum of 30 units, including at least 24 units of coursework and two extended essays (6 units). Each extended essay should be approximately 8,000 words. The options are writing a policy briefing (or policy briefings), a review essay (or review essays), or some other type of writing focused on synthesis and analysis, rather than original research.</p>