



SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS

Suggestions for preparatory reading for undergraduate students 2023-24

There are interesting articles on current economic and policy issues to be found regularly in the Financial Times and the Economist. It can only help your understanding of the more formal analysis you will encounter on the course if you can relate this analysis to real world conditions.

There are a number of very good popular writers on economic issues. This would be very useful background reading for the course. Among others, we suggest you look at:

- Tim Harford, *The Undercover Economist*, Little, Brown and Company, 2006
- David Smith, *Free Lunch – Easily Digestible Economics*, Profile Books ISBN 1861975066
- John Kay, *The Truth about Markets – why some countries are rich and others remain poor*, Penguin ISBN 0140296727
- Paul Collier, *The Bottom Billion: Why the Poorest Countries Are Failing and What Can Be Done About it*, Oxford University Press
- George Akerlof and Robert Shiller, *Animal Spirits*, Princeton University Press: a good guide to macro and the financial crisis
- Uri Gneezy and John List, *The Why Axis: Hidden Motives and The Undiscovered Economics of Everyday Life*, PublicAffairs ISBN 161039311

Some writings of the famous American academic economist and New York Times columnist, Paul Krugman, can be found at web.mit.edu/krugman/www

Some other interesting blogs and twitter links

- chrisblattman.com - development and the economics of conflict
- rodrik.typepad.com/dani_rodriks_weblog - Dani Rodrik
- marginalrevolution.com - Tyler Cowen
- NYU's Bill Easterly [@bill_easterly](https://twitter.com/bill_easterly)
- Center for Global Development [@CGDev](https://twitter.com/CGDev)
- World Bank [@WorldBank](https://twitter.com/WorldBank)
- Shanta Devarajan [@Shanta_WB](https://twitter.com/Shanta_WB) (former Chief Economist Africa Section at the World Bank)

Podcasts

- econtalk.org
- freakonomics.com/archive
- Reith Lectures - Significant international thinkers deliver the BBC's flagship annual lecture series (includes Political Philosopher Michael Sandel speaking on Markets and Morals in the 2009 Reith Lectures)

If you wish to do some preparatory reading on more formal aspects of economics, we have set out below some textbooks that will be useful for the first-year modules in micro and macroeconomics and in the quantitative modules. **PLEASE DO NOT BUY ANY OF THESE BOOKS YET!** You may be able to pick some of them up second hand once you are here or some titles could be subject to change.

Introduction to Economics

- Perloff, J. (2014) *Microeconomics with Calculus 3e*; Pearson
- N. Gregory Mankiw and Mark P. Taylor, *Macroeconomics (5th edition)*, 2020, Cengage Learning EMEA. ISBN: 9781473768567.

Foundations of Economics

- Frank, R. and Cartwright, E. (2016), *Microeconomics and Behaviour*, 2e; McGraw-Hill
- N. Gregory Mankiw and Mark P. Taylor, *Macroeconomics (5th edition)*, 2020, Cengage Learning EMEA. ISBN: 9781473768567.

Mathematical Economics

- Sydsaeter, K., Hammond, P. J. and Strom, A. (2012) *Essential Mathematics for Economic Analysis*, 4th edition, Pearson (Previous editions of the book are also fine, as most of the section and exercise numbers are the same)

Quantitative Economics/ Quantitative Methods (for those without Maths A level)

- I. Jacques, *Mathematics for Economics and Business*, Addison-Wesley
- D. Salvatore (1982) *Statistics and Econometrics*, Schaum's Outline Series, McGraw-Hill
- *Statistics for Business and Economics* by Paul Newbold, William L. Carlson, and Betty Thorne (2010)

Econometrics

Although the notes are self-contained, additional worked examples and an idea of the mathematical level of the module can be obtained from any edition of:

- Spiegel, Schiller and Alu Srinivasan: *Schaum's Outlines in Probability and Statistics* (McGraw-Hill)