Objective of the course

In this course we present an introduction to economic problems and, more importantly, economic reasoning. Our first objective is to illustrate the questions economists aim to answer. We show how economics deals with issues of diverse nature, like:

- What explains the reduction in criminality occurred in the last two decades?
- Which is the influence of parents on children outcomes?
- How is the production of a society distributed? Why do some get more than others?
- Why do some people succeed far more than others?
- Why are most hockey players born in January?
- Why does unemployment occur? Is it avoidable?

Our second objective is to describe the methods economists use to answer these widely diverse questions.

Structure of the class

Students and instructors meet weekly to discuss the contents of the class. Before each meeting, students should read the assigned material, in order to organize the discussion around it.

Materials

This course will focus on the following book: