

SEMINAR IN ECONOMICS

Objectives : The primary objective of this course is to have you conduct an effective economic analysis using an appropriate economic framework and adequate evidential support, and then clearly present that analysis both orally and in writing. ECON 496 focuses on students conducting their own economic analysis, the results of which are then presented orally and in writing.

The research process : Each student develops an economic question, which is analysed using an appropriate economic framework and evidentiary support.

1. Determining a topic : In selecting a topic, it is crucial that you utilize economic theories and models that you have already studied as you will not have time to learn new theory and complete your analysis in the one-semester . You will develop a specific question to address, you will answer that question by using appropriate economic analytical frameworks and methods to produce your own analysis and results. The key point here is that your research must reflect the systematic use of economic frameworks, methods, and evidence in support of your research question.
2. Developing research question : Your next task will be to develop a feasible research question from your topic of interest. You must focus these issues at this step :
 - What economic concepts and theories can be used to analyze my question ?
What economic analytical framework will help me evaluate my question ?
 - What research have other economists done on this question, and how might it inform the analysis of my question ?
 - What evidentiary support is needed to answer my question effectively ?
3. Determining an economic framework : As you focus in on a workable research question, you will also need to determine what economic framework you will use to analyse your question. You need to determine how economists analyse, in an organised and systematic way, the type of question you are asking
4. determining appropriate support for your research question : You next need to consider what evidentiary support you will need to address your question.

Formal Proposal : The formal written proposal will state the research question you will analyze. In writing this statement, you have to address the following points :

- what specific economic questions do you seek to analyse in your research ?
- how has your reading about your topic informed your research question your research question, the analytical framework selected, and the evidence tentatively identified

As a part of the proposal, you are to include a preliminary bibliography, including the key readings for analysing your research question.

Final written paper : At the end of semester, you will bring your research project to an end. Your paper will begin with your final thesis clearly stated. You will follow this with a discussion of the analytical framework and evidentiary support used to evaluate your thesis and a report of your research findings. Your paper will conclude with an evaluation of your thesis in the light of your research results.

- The title page of the final paper is to contain the paper's title, your name, the course number, and the due date

- The next page is to contain the title and abstract of your paper
- The third page will contain the table of contents
- The following pages will contain the text of your paper
- All tables, charts, graphs, or other illustrations are to be clearly and correctly labeled. If possible, incorporate these elements into the body of your paper. If you do not know how to do this, then put each illustration on a separate page that follows the text page where the first reference to the illustration is made. Multiple charts, graphs, or other illustrations are to be alphabetically identified. Tables are to be typed and numerically identified (i.e. Table 1, Table 2, etc.).
- In the text references should be indicated by giving the author's name and the year of publication (with page references where necessary) :

...officials argued that domestic political issues were not the business of the IMF (Williamson, 1983, 45)

- A complete bibliography of all relevant sources consulted must be included at the end of the paper, following any endnotes. Please note that you are doing a bibliography and not a list of sources; consequently you will need to include all relevant sources you used in your research project even if you do not cite these sources in the body of your paper.
- References should be cited as follows:

Books

Scott, J. (1985), *Weapons of the Weak*, New Haven: Yale University Press

Articles

Baumol, W.J. (1986), "Productivity Growth, Convergence and Welfare", *American Economic Review*, 76, 1072-82

Frieden, J. (1995), "Capital Politics: Creditors and International Political Economy, In *International Political Economy*, edited by D.Lake, 282-98, New York: St Martin Press.

**Course Evaluation: 20 % course portfolio (all drafts submitted to the professor)
30 % formal oral presentation
50% final paper**

COURSE SCHEDULE, SPRING 2010

DATES	ASSIGNMENTS
Feb. 18	Course introduction
Feb. 25	Discuss questions from the syllabus; discuss potential topics
March 4	Develop research question and determine an appropriate analytical framework
March 11	Assignment 1 (due in class) Draft of research questions and initial proposal
March 18-25	No class meeting : continue research and writing
April 1	Assignment 2 :Expanded written proposal due by beginning of class
April 8	No class meeting : continue research and writing
April 15	No class meeting : continue research and writing
April 22	No class meeting : continue research and writing
April 29	No class meeting : continue research and writing
May 6	In-class :Bring hard copy of full paper to class for professor. This draft will be evaluated as a part of portfolio grade. Formal presentation of seminar:15 minutes, with 10 minutes for questions.
May 13	Continue presentations
May 20	Continue presentations
May 27	Final paper is due Continue presentations

“LATE WORK WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED”