

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS
SENIOR SEMINAR
FALL 2008

Dr. Tina Das (Or simply Das)

Off: KOBC 132

Ph: 278 5941 (Off) or 446 6704 (Ho)

Email: dastina@elon.edu

AIM: TDasClark

Eco 371-A

F 1:40-2:50

KOBC 237

Off Hrs: Walk in anytime any day I am usually in the *Koury Building* (10 to 3 everyday)!

Do not take this class if you are NOT a SENIOR ECON MAJOR!

I. Course Description

In this class, seniors are expected to become actively engaged in the discipline of economics, whereby students understand the discipline of economics as a 'whole', having learned it in 'parts' throughout the different classes taken over the years. This will be accomplished by examining the theoretical foundations of economic knowledge and writing, and through the process of research and writing they will be exposed to the economist-way of thinking. The culmination of this experience is a **SENIOR THESIS** in the Spring Semester. In the meantime students are expected to contribute to the intellectual climate by attending economic seminars, referring papers for the IPE, engaging with their peers, revisiting concepts and economic theory, learning and researching their ideas with their thesis advisors and participating in Economic department related activities such as the Econ club and ODE.

II. Course Goal

- Review the fundamentals of economics and learn how to do research and write a **coherent argument**.
 - Frame a research question while working with secondary sources.
 - Supports the answer with systematic evidence analysis.
 - Understand the basic format for the presentation of research.
 - Develop proficiency in economic research and writing.
- Present the results of the research in a **cogent oral presentation**.

III. Required Textbook

Doing Economics, S. Greenlaw, Houghton Mifflin Company, 1st Ed
Guideline for doing research – your THESIS advisor!

IV. Course Requirements

Ist Half of Semester:

Journal - Weekly annotated bibliography - You will bring a write up of 2-3 articles each week and will be randomly picked to discuss/present in class - Initially you will begin by researching papers broadly in the area that interests you, till you start narrowing it down to what your paper is all about!

You will also follow Greenlaw's book as to how to find, research and write up - Though this *will not be graded*, it is strongly recommended that you do it each week – I will be randomly asking you!

IPE Referee Report – Dr. Deloach will assign you a paper and tell you what he expects you to do with it! <http://www.elon.edu/e-web/students/ipe/default.xhtml>

Written Proposed research project – should include your initial claim and proposed methodology with a title – it should be ready for the **499 REGISTRATION FORM** which you will need to fill out during pre-registration for the **SPRING of 2008!**

2nd Half of the Semester:

ETS Exam – study micro, macro stats and international – all basic!

Continue with *Weekly Journal of Literature or Bibliography discussion*, Greenlaw's book reading – By now definitely focused on your topic and research question! At the end you must have a detailed literature review of your topic and be able to see what exactly YOUR EXTENSION or CONTRIBUTION IS before you present it in front of faculty! Be able to identify the UNDERLYING ECONOMIC THEORY for your paper – the **WHY?**

Oral Proposal in front of entire ECON FACULTY (Power Point) – should include the following format – 5 to 10 mins max presentation with 10 mins max questioning from faculty!

- Initial claim or hypothesis
- Reason or Theoretical backdrop for hypothesis
- Highlight the major papers (Literature) in your area
- Point out clearly where your contribution is
- *Proposed Methodology* of how you are going to go about empirically (or otherwise) proving (or disproving) your claim in Spring

V. Participation:

You are expected to **attend all classes and the following presentations.**

SEPT 25th Robert Tamura (Univ of Clemson).....4-5 pm (Location TBD)

OCT 21st Richard Green (Univ of Southern California).....

NOV 13th Oliver Lorz (Univ of Aachen, Germany).....4-5 pm (Location TBD)

Excused absences and unforeseen emergencies will be given consideration. However, any **unexcused absences will result in a grade penalty at the end of the semester. No make up or extensions on the assignments will be allowed or accepted**, unless you have spoken with me prior to the deadline.

VI. Grading

Your **Fall** course grade will be based on the following weighting scheme:

In class presentation of research	10%
Written proposal + forms signed	20%
Oral Proposal	25%
ETS	25%
IPE Referee Report	10%
Q&A in class and Participation outside	10%

The grading scale is:

96-100%	A	74-76%	C
90-95%	A-	70-73%	C-

87-89%	B+	67-69%	D+
84-86%	B	64-66%	D
80-83%	B-	60-63%	D-
77-79%	C+	Below 60	F

*The weights may change, if I see necessary, but I will inform you and discuss the changes with you in advance and may even need your input. *If there are any questions, regarding your grades, how you are doing, etc. please feel free to contact me in person and we can discuss them – don't leave everything till the last minute! I am willing to give feedback anytime...* just contact me via email or phone...or IM!

VII. Tentative Course Outline

Sept 5 th	Introduction/Syllabus/Ch 2, Ch 12 (pp231-250)
Sept 12 th	Oral presentation format – Tonya Riney Ch 12 (pp250-258)
Sept 19 th	Library Search – Lit Search (Ch 3)
Sept 26 th	Using Economic Theory (Ch 7)
Oct 3 rd	IPE Referee report (Ch 6)
Oct 10 th	Present in class your rough proposal
Oct 17 th	Written Proposal Research project <i><u>(Confirm Thesis Advisor; complete 499 Form which is used at Prereg)</u></i>
FALL BREAK	
Oct 24 th	Discussion empirics Ch 8, 9, 11
Oct 31 st	ETS EXAM (Room assignment TBA)
Nov 7 th	Work on data in class for your topic
Nov 14 th	Contd
Nov 21 st	Meet with your thesis advisors....to talk about Oral presentation!
THANKSGIVING BREAK	
Dec 4 th	Oral presentation (Room assignment and time TBA)
Dec 5 th	Oral presentation (Class time +)

Some GUIDELINES

Your proposal (oral and written) needs to address the following:

1. What's your research question/hypothesis and why is this question worth pursuing?
2. Literature Review - what have economists done that relates to this topic?
3. What is the theoretically underpinning or model surrounding your question?
4. If it is an empirical question, then what data and methodology are you planning to use? If it is not an empirical analysis what kind of "data" or methodology will you be looking at or possibly exploring?
5. Bibliography

If you are intending to extend a paper that was originally written in a previous course, or independent study, you **MUST** do the following:

1. submit a copy of the original work with your written proposal.
2. specifically address exactly how you intend to extend the analysis. This extension cannot be trivial (such as applying the same theory to a more up-to-date data set). This requires you to argue **WHY** this extension is necessary/interesting.