Department of Economics
ECON 4905 A
Honours Capstone Seminar
Fall 2017

Instructor: Zhiqi Chen
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Office Hours: Tuesdays 3:00pm – 5:00pm

Course Description

The development of individual research projects in suitable economics topic areas with the exchange of results at each stage through in-class discussions and written and oral reports and culminating in a major research paper by each course registrant.

Precludes additional credit for ECON 4890, ECON 4900 (no longer offered), ECON 4901, and ECON 4902.

Prerequisites: ECON 3900 with a grade of C+ or higher, ECON 3920 with a grade of C+ or higher, and registration in an Honours Economics program.

Students who believe they have taken a similar background course or courses from another university must provide appropriate documentation to the Department of Economics Undergraduate Administrator, Amanda Wright.

Required Text

There is no required text.

Topics

I. Elementary Research Methods
   - How to Find a Research Topic
   - How to Conduct a Literature Survey
   - How to Write an Empirical Paper

II. Dissection of Sample Research Papers
   - Literature Surveys
   - Empirical Analyses
   - Theoretical Analyses

III. Student Presentations and Discussions

Each student will write a research paper on a topic related to microeconomics. As part of this project, each student will do two presentations to the class. The first one will be about the chosen topic, related literature and research plan. The second one will be to report research findings.
Evaluation

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<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Deadline</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Submission of Research Topic</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>Due by 11:25am on September 28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summary of Literature and Research Plan</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Due by 11:25am on October 5</td>
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<tr>
<td>First Presentation</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>(A schedule will be posted early in the term)</td>
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<tr>
<td>First Draft of Research Paper</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>Due by 11:25am on November 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Second Presentation</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>(A schedule will be posted during the term)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Paper</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>Due by 12:00pm on December 7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
<td>5%</td>
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Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor, subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by the instructor may be subject to revision. No course grades are final until approved by the Faculty Dean. Note also that course grades may be scaled upwards or downwards in a rank-preserving manner to better fit the relevant departmental distributional norm.

Course Materials

Classroom teaching and learning activities, including lectures, discussions, presentations, etc., by both instructors and students, are copy protected and remain the intellectual property of their respective authors. All course materials, including PowerPoint presentations, outlines, and other materials, are also protected by copyright and remain the intellectual property of their respective authors.

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Plagiarism

Please be aware that plagiarism is serious offence at Carleton and should be recognized and avoided. The University Senate defines plagiarism as “presenting, whether intentionally or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own.” For further information, see “Pammert on Plagiarism and Paraphrasing” at www.carleton.ca/economics/courses/writing-preliminaries.