

University of Redlands Department of Economics
ECON-465-01: Senior Seminar in Economics
Spring 2020
Mondays and Wednesdays 2:30-3:50PM; Duke 201

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Office Hours: Tuesdays – 2:30 to 3:30; Wednesdays – 11:00 to noon; or by appointment

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Course Description

Welcome to the Senior Seminar in Economics! This course will be the culmination of your time at the University and pursuit of a degree in economics through the development of a major research project. It is an opportunity to pursue deep work in areas within the field that interest you, as you generate a research question and hypotheses and develop an appropriate methodology to investigate the question and test your hypotheses. To that end, you will work on a number of intermediate assignments and drafts. You will also be working under the instructor’s supervision and in consultation with other faculty in the economics department. By the end of the semester, you will be an expert in your capstone’s topic!

Course Objectives

By the end of this course, you should have:

- Increased and deepened your knowledge of the research process in economics, strengthening your research skills
- Increased and deepened your knowledge of a body of economics research in a field of your choosing
- Strengthened your oral and written communication skills

Required Texts

Booth, W. C., Colomb, G. G., Williams, J. M., Bizup, J., & Fitzgerald, W. T. (2016). *The Craft of Research* (4th ed.). Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press.

McCloskey, D. N. (2019). *Economical Writing* (3rd ed.). Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press.

Class Schedule

Mon., Jan. 6	Introduction to the Senior Seminar
Wed., Jan 8	Approaching the Economics Capstone; meetings and schedules Presentations by me and Prof. Cline on our research and process
Wed., Jan. 15	Presentations by Profs. Isenberg and Shunda about their research and process
Feb. 5	Library Research workshop (meet in LIB 309A)
Feb. 17 & 19	Mid-semester presentations (5-7 minutes + Q&A)
March 25 & 30; April 1, 6, & 8	Final Presentations (20 minutes + Q&A)

Individual Meeting Schedule and Assignments

Developing a senior capstone requires closely working with your faculty mentors and senior seminar instructor (me). Therefore, you will be required to meet with me once every other week throughout the semester for about 30 minutes. The content and length of our meetings will vary a little throughout the semester, but you should submit the required work in advance of our meeting (note the schedule below). Each time we sit down, you should be prepared to talk about the work you have completed since our previous meeting, any questions you have or problems you have encountered with the project, and you should be prepared to take note of feedback that I have for you.

You will sign up for a meeting time the first week of classes that will occur either on “A Weeks” or “B Weeks.” Dates for these are the following:

A Weeks – Jan. 13; Jan. 27; Feb. 10; Mar. 2; Mar. 16; Mar. 30

B Weeks – Jan. 20; Feb. 3; Feb. 17; Mar. 9; Mar. 23; April 6

Unless there is a documented emergency, you **must** attend all 6 meetings with me throughout the semester. I will not reschedule meetings, and missing them without an excuse will result in a grade penalty. Additionally, you should keep in mind that I will be scheduling meetings with people back-to-back. You should be on time for your meeting to ensure that we have the full 30 minutes to discuss your work. If you need additional time to speak to me about the project, you can visit me during office hours, or, during weeks where we do not meet as a group, you may come by my office on Mondays and Wednesdays during our normal class period (2:30-3:50) to talk. And, of course, you may reach me by email with other questions you have.

Please keep careful track of your meeting dates and due dates for assignments. I will not necessarily be able to read late work before we meet, given the number of projects I am overseeing. Additionally, work turned in late will not receive credit.

Meeting Number	Assignment Due
1	Initial research ideas for discussion, including an initial question; due the day before we meet
2	Developed research statement with annotated bibliography; due the day before we meet; send to me and Janelle Julagay (janelle_julagay@redlands.edu).
3	Developed research outline, including proposed methodology; initial literature review; due 2 days before we meet
4	Revised literature review; methodology and results draft; due 3 days before we meet
***	Share a draft of your capstone with a peer for review no later than a week before meeting 5 with me
5	Full first draft of capstone for me + peer review report; due 4 days before we meet
6	Second draft of capstone + revision memo; due 4 days before we meet
***	Final draft of capstone due for EVERYONE on Monday, April 13 by 11:59PM.

Grading

Assignment	Percent of Grade
Final draft of paper + revision memo	40%
First draft of capstone + peer review memo	15%
Initial assignments (research ideas, statement, outline)	10%
Second draft of capstone + revision memo	10%
Final presentation	10%
Revised literature review, methodology, and results draft	5%
Midterm presentation	5%
Meeting and class attendance	5%

Letter Grade	0-4 Scale	Percentage
A	4	95-100
A-	3.7	90-94
B+	3.3	85-89
B	3	80-84
B-	2.7	75-79
C+	2.3	70-74
C	2	65-69
C-	1.7	60-64
D+	1.3	55-59
D	1	50-54
F	0	0-50

Class Policies

Attendance: In order to get the most out of the course, it is imperative for you to attend every class meeting, especially given the fact that we will not meet as a group most weeks. You must also attend class on days when you do not present your work. Failing to do so will result in a grade penalty.

Academic Honesty: Unless explicitly specified, all work you turn in for this course should be yours alone. When using ideas other than your own in your work, I expect you to include proper citations. If you have any questions about expectations or policies in this area, you may both refer to the University Catalog (p. 17-24) and share any concerns you have regarding your own or anyone else's behavior. **If a violation of academic honesty is found to have occurred, it will result in a loss of credit for the course.**

The University Catalog is available in its entirety here: <http://www.redlands.edu/study/registrar-office/course-catalogs/>

Laptops & Electronic Gadgets: Please refrain from using any electronic device in class when faculty or students are presenting their work. If you are using these devices, I may ask you to stop, and you will receive a grade penalty.

Disability support: If you have a disability that qualifies for accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, you should contact Academic Success &

Disability Services (ASDS). ASDS is located on the ground floor of the Armacost Library across from Human Resources and down the hall from the Jones Computer Center; their phone is 909-748-8069. The primary contact person is Amy Wilms, and the website is: <http://www.redlands.edu/student-life/academic-success-and-disability-services/disability-services/>

Discrimination and sexual assault: The University of Redlands is committed to providing a safe learning environment for all students that is free of all forms of discrimination, sexual misconduct, and sexual harassment, including sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. If you (or someone you know) has experienced or experiences any of these incidents, know that you are not alone. The University of Redlands has staff members trained to support you in navigating campus life, accessing health and counseling services, providing academic and housing accommodations, no contact orders, and more. Please be aware all University of Redlands faculty members are “responsible employees,” which means that if you tell me about a situation involving sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, or stalking, I must share that information with the Title IX Coordinator. Although I have to make that notification, you will control how your case will be handled, including whether or not you wish to pursue a formal complaint. Our goal is to make sure you are aware of the range of options available to you and have access to the resources you need.

To report an incident, you can:

- Report online at: www.redlands.edu/titleix --> Report
- Contact the Title IX Office at 909-748-8916
 - Title IX Coordinator, Pat Caudle, pat_caudle@redlands.edu or 909-748-8171
 - Deputy Title IX Coordinator, Erica Moorer, erica_moorer@redlands.edu or 909-748-8916

If you wish to speak to someone confidentially (meaning not filing with the Title IX Office), you can contact any of the following on-campus resources:

- Counseling Service (<http://www.redlands.edu/student-life/health-and-psychological-services/counseling-center/>, 909-748-8108)
- Crisis Line: 909-748-8960
- Chaplain’s Office (<http://www.redlands.edu/student-life/campus-diversity-and-inclusion/religious-diversity/>, 909-748-8368)