

## ECO 500 - SENIOR SEMINAR - Fall 2019

Grant 400, Section a: 8:00 – 9:30 am Section b: 9:40 – 11:10 am, Tuesday/Thursday

Dave Anderson

Crouse Rm. 448

Office: 238-5282

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Office Hours:

TTh 3 p.m. – 5 p.m.

MW 8 a.m. – 10 a.m.

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**Description:** This Senior Seminar is intended to round out the Centre economics experience with opportunities to polish skills in economics, research, writing, and verbal expression. The course will depart from the passive paradigm in which an instructor chooses topics and provides information to demystify them. In this transitional course, *you* are encouraged to identify important questions, apply the tools of economics to seek answers resourcefully, and disseminate credible results. In addition to work on an original project, each student will read and discuss seminal articles in the field of economics.

**Requirements:** Grades will be based on attendance and participation, homework assignments, presentations, and exams. Attendance at all class sessions is required, with exceptions granted according to Centre College policy. Skipping class will lower your attendance/participation grade by 1 point (out of 15) each time, although failing grades will not be given based on truancy alone. You are expected to contribute to the discussions on a daily basis. The weights and grading scale are as follows:

|                                  |     |               |                    |
|----------------------------------|-----|---------------|--------------------|
| Attendance/ Active Participation | 15% | Grading Scale | 93-100 A           |
| Oxford-style tutorials (5 each)  | 10% |               | 90-93 A-           |
| Debates/Presentations (3+3+5+5)  | 16% |               | 87-90 B+           |
| Paper (5+8+11)                   | 24% |               | 83-87 B            |
| Exams (6+6+8)                    | 20% |               | 80-83 B-           |
| Homework/Other                   | 15% |               | 77-80 C+ (& so on) |

**Oxford-Style Tutorials:** 2 students and the professor meet in C448 to discuss an assigned topic. One of the students writes a 5-full-page (double spaced) paper on the topic. The other student writes a 3-full-page critique of the 5-page paper. The arguments in the paper and critique should be based on your opinions and informed by your readings of the economic literature. Think deeply about how to create incentives for people to do what is best for society. The paper must be sent to the critiquing student and the professor by midnight *the night before the night before the meeting* (so for a Tuesday meeting, send this by the end of Sunday night). The critique must be sent to the professor by midnight the night before the meeting. In the meeting, the authors will read their writing out loud, and then we'll discuss them.

**Final Exam:** Everything covered in the course is fair game for the final exam. The exam will also include questions about economic graphs and concepts that appear on the comprehensive exams. If you take 2+ full pages of notes for EVERY day of class, you may substitute your notes for taking the exam, and receive a 95 on that element of your grade. You do not need to take notes on the days of the tutorials, the research detective game, and when you are on a debate team. Leave no more than 6 blank lines per page; no graph may take up more than  $\frac{1}{3}$  page. For up to 2 excused absences, you may hand copy someone else's notes and indicate the source. It is important to write the date on the top of each page. I'll collect these late in the term.

| <b>Class</b>   | <b>Activity</b>  | <b>Location</b>            |
|--|--|----------------------------|
| September 3  | Discuss Excellence & Wages, Provocation on Trade   | Classroom                  |
| 5  | Discuss Homework & Trade, Provocation on Amazon  | Classroom                  |
| 10   | Discuss Homework & Amazon, Provocation on Income Inequality  | Classroom                  |
| 12   | Discuss Homework & Income Inequality, choose debate topics   | Classroom                  |
| 17   | <b>Before class, read</b> "A Voting Approach to Externality Problems," <i>Journal of Economic and Social Policy</i> : (2011) Vol. 14 : Iss. 1, Article 4. <a href="https://epubs.scu.edu.au/jesp/vol14/iss1/4/">https://epubs.scu.edu.au/jesp/vol14/iss1/4/</a>  | Classroom                  |
| 19 - 24  | Paper Topic Conferences. <b>Outline &amp; Planning Sheet due</b><br>Format: <a href="https://libguides.gatech.edu/c.php?g=54271&amp;p=350394">https://libguides.gatech.edu/c.php?g=54271&amp;p=350394</a>  | Crouse 448                 |
| 26   | Writing Workshop— <b>bring the first paragraph to your paper.</b>  | Classroom                  |
| October 1 - 10   | Oxford-Style Tutorials Rounds 1 and 2<br>Round 1: What is the best way to reduce the cost of health care in the United States? OR<br>What is the best way to improve the public education system in the United States?<br>Round 2: What's the best way to improve the social safety net (welfare system) in the U.S.? OR<br>What is the best way to improve U.S. trade policies? | C448                       |
| 15   | Research Detective Game—Be ready to receive an email at class time and send back as many answers as you can by the end of class.   | Anywhere                   |
| 22   | Presentation of Method—Explain the guts, graphs/math, and gains from one <u>economics journal</u> article relevant to your research and how your research will differ (8-10 minutes).  | Classroom                  |
| 24   | Presentation of Method continued   | Classroom                  |
| 29   | Debate 1 / Discussion  | Classroom                  |
| 31   | Debate 2 / Discussion  | Classroom                  |
| November 5   | Documentary & Discussion<br>Hand in first <b>2 full pages of your paper</b> , carefully <b>proofread</b>   | Classroom                  |
| 7  | Debate 3 / Discussion  | Classroom                  |
| 12   | Debate 4 / Discussion  | Classroom                  |
| 14   | Review of Economics Graphs<br>Bring one challenging graph to explain   | Classroom                  |
| 19   | Microeconomics Comprehensive Exam  | Library<br>Computer<br>Lab |
| 21   | Macroeconomics Comprehensive Exam  | Library<br>Computer<br>Lab |
| 26   | Paper Presentations, Discussion  | Classroom                  |
| 3  | Paper Presentations, Discussion  | Classroom                  |
| 5  | Paper Presentations, Discussion<br>Hand in Notebook and return to me the graded 1 <sup>st</sup> 2 pages of paper   | Classroom                  |
| Sec a: Dec. 10,<br>8:30 – 11:30am<br>Sec b: Dec. 13,<br>8:30 – 11:30am | Final Exam<br><b>Final copy of paper due</b>   | Classroom                  |

