Economics 499   Mondays and Wednesdays 12:00 - 1:15 PM, Broome Library 2330

Instructor: Miguel Delgado Helleseter

Office: Sage Hall 2053

Office hours: 10:00-11:30 PM, Wednesdays, and by appointment

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Course description: This course offers an in-depth analysis of an economic issue utilizing the theoretical and empirical tools developed in the required major courses. Culminates with a senior paper and a formal presentation.

Prerequisite: Economics 310, 311, 488, and at least half of economics major (or economics major option) required upper-division courses.

Credit Hour: As of July 1, 2011 federal law (Title 34, Code of Federal Regulations, sections 600.2 and 600.4) requires all accredited institutions to comply with the federal definition of the credit hour. For all CSU degree programs and courses bearing academic credit, the "credit hour" is defined as "the amount of work represented in intended learning outcomes and verified by evidence of student achievement that is an institutionally established equivalency that reasonably approximates not less than:

1. One hour of classroom or direct faculty instruction and a minimum of two hours of out-of-class student work each week for approximately fifteen weeks for one semester or trimester hour of credit, or ten to twelve weeks for one quarter hour of credit, or the equivalent amount of work over a different amount of time; or

2. At least an equivalent amount of work as required in paragraph (1) of this definition for other academic activities as established by the institution, including laboratory work, internships, practice, studio work, and other academic work leading to the award of credit hours."

Program learning goals:

1. Critical thinking.

2. Oral communication.

3. Written communication.

4. Collaboration.

5. Conduct (ethics).

6. Competency in discipline

Course learning objectives: Upon completion of this course, you will be able to (associated program learning goals in parentheses):

- Define an issue using economic concepts, tools and methods. (1,5)

- Analyze the issue using economic concepts, tools and methods. (1,2,3,4)

- Present analyses orally and in writing to their peers and to a larger audience. (5)

Grading: The grades you earn will reflect the quality of your final output—the paper and presentation. To keep you moving toward your goal, there will be deadlines for components throughout the semester. Failing to turn in these components may reduce your grade, but ultimately, you either give me a good paper and a solid presentation, or you do not. The grade breakdown between paper and presentation is as follows:

Paper 75%
Presentation 25%

Topics: You will come up with the topic for your capstone. Here are the two ways I recommend coming up with a topic:

1. You have always wanted to know how Y and X are related. It is a burning question, and you cannot rest until you know. After you confirm that others have written about Y's relationship with X, and that you personally can get some Y and X data, you attack!

2. You know broadly that you're interested in a topic, but you don't have a specific question in mind. You read through a few economics articles on the topic, and find one you think is really cool. You then (a) get the same data those authors used, plus any new data since the paper was published, (b) replicate their analyses with the "original" and "extended" data, and (c) review the literature since the publication of the original article.

Important dates:

First meeting .... January 27$^{\text{th}}$
Idea for a topic .... February 3$^{\text{rd}}$
Actual data .... February 17$^{\text{th}}$
All pieces, unassembled .... March 16$^{\text{th}}$
Rough draft, paper .... April 20$^{\text{th}}$
Rough draft, presentation slides .... May 4$^{\text{th}}$
Presentation .... May 11$^{\text{th}}$ or May 13$^{\text{th}}$
Final paper .... May 18$^{\text{th}}$

Idea for a topic By the end of the second week of class, have a sketch of two topics that might interest you. You should have read at least one paper on each topic, and have looked around for some data (or thought of a way to collect your own, fresh data) that would address your topic. Write me one paragraph on each topic, explaining what relationship you're examining, what data you will use, and what regressions you will run. I'll give you some quick feedback on this document, and let you know which idea I think is "better" (i.e., more likely to be a successful capstone).

Actual data By roughly the fourth week of class, give me a data set, or if collecting your own data, have a plan to have your data collected over the next four weeks. The data set may not be neat and pretty yet, but you should have a start. With the data, please give me the list of regressions you intend to run, and why the variables you have included are necessary.

All the pieces, unassembled By roughly the eighth week of class, give me an annotated bibliography of the literature you're citing into[*], a clean and pretty dataset (and, if assembled from many sources, the code and "raw" pieces you used to assemble it), an r-script or notebook of your initial regressions and descriptive statistics.

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[*]An annotated bibliography is a list of articles using a consistent citation format (APA, Chicago, other formatting), where each citation includes a paragraph describing the paper's main question, the methods it employs to answer the question, and the paper's findings. This serves as the material from which you will craft your lit review, and also motivates your new regression or regressions.

Rough draft, paper By roughly the twelfth week of class, please turn in a rough draft of your paper. It should have all sections written, all tables or figures in the back, and a bibliography.

Rough draft, presentation slides By the fourteenth week of class, please give me a draft deck of slides for your presentation. Your presentation will be roughly 15 minutes, so plan on no more than 17 slides (including a title slide). Your deck should incorporate edits I give you on your paper. **If you do not submit a draft of the presentation slides by May 4$^{\text{th}}$, you will not be able to present your paper, thereby forfeiting the presentation points**.

Presentation You will present your research to faculty on either May 11$^{\text{th}}$ or May 13$^{\text{th}}$.

Final paper You will submit a final paper on May 18$^{\text{th}}$ by 9 PM via email.

Academic honesty: By enrolling at CSU Channel Islands, students are responsible for upholding the University's policies and the Student Conduct Code. Academic integrity and scholarship are values of the institution that ensure respect for the academic reputation of the University, students, faculty, and staff. Cheating, plagiarism, unauthorized collaboration with another student, knowingly furnishing false information to the University, buying, selling or stealing any material for an examination, or substituting for another person may be considered violations of the Student Conduct Code (located at `http://www.csuci.edu/campuslife/student-conduct/academic-dishonesty.htm`). **If a student is found responsible for committing an act of academic dishonesty in this course, the student may receive academic penalties including a failing grade on an assignment or in the course, and a disciplinary referral will be made and submitted to the Student Conduct & Community Responsibility office**. For additional information, please see the faculty Academic Senate Policy on Academic Dishonesty, also in the CI Catalog. Please ask about my expectations regarding academic dishonesty in this course if they are unclear.

Disability accomodations: If you are a student with a disability requesting reasonable accommodations in this course, please visit Disability Accommodations and Support Services (DASS) located on the second floor of Arroyo Hall, or call 805-437-3331. All requests for reasonable accommodations require registration with DASS in advance of need. You can apply for DASS services here. Faculty, students and DASS will work together regarding classroom accommodations. You are encouraged to discuss approved accommodations with your faculty.

Disclaimer: This syllabus is subject to changes. Any changes will be made in lecture and/or Canvas with at least one week of notice, except under extraordinary circumstances.