Announcements: Econ 4180—Senior Seminar in Economics—SPRING 2016

April 26, 12:10 pm:

Alright, final papers have been turned in, and here’s where we’re at for the final days of the semester. I’ll try to have your final papers graded and turn them back to you by Tuesday next week (last day of class). If I don’t have your final paper by 12:30 (in a few minutes), it will be considered late since there were due in class today.

Final presentations (you’re all on the schedule, whether or not you were in class today, so be ready to do at your scheduled time slot). As before, I expect you to be in attendance on the day you are NOT presenting as well, as a courtesy to your classmates.

- Thursday, April 28:
  - Lorenzo
  - Katelyn
  - Kasie
  - Kameron
  - Travis
- Tuesday, May 3:
  - Erik
  - Russell
  - Garrett
  - Steven
  - Pete
  - Jorge

Finally, regarding the Exit Exam, here’s how it works. You’ll each be added to an AsULearn course for the Micro and Macro assessment exams. I’ll email you when our department chair has added you in the coming days. However, though you’ll be added to the AsULearn course earlier, you will see that the assignment becomes available only during a 48 hour time window that I’m setting. The time window should be Saturday, May 7, 5:00pm until Monday, May 9, 5:00pm. So, you can not worry about doing it on the weekend and you would still have the entire Monday workday to do this. You are allowed to use materials for the assessment, but you are to do them alone and without the help of others during that 48 hour window. It is a set of Micro and a set of Macro questions. There are generally principles level questions and you are allowed to use materials, but nevertheless you may wish to brush up on anything you know is quite rusty in your knowledge base on Micro or Macro. Hope that helps. Obviously, final course grades cannot be worked on by me until after the assessment window closes and our department chair must then email me your scores.

April 19, 1:00 pm: Ok, so I handed back rough drafts with grades and LOTS of comments today. If you did not pickup your rough draft, it is in a box outside my door. Come get it ASAP because final drafts are due one week from today, at 11:00 am (start of class time!).
Also, if you were not in class today, you missed scheduling your required chat session with me either tomorrow or TH. These 15 minutes session replace our class meeting on TH this week (April 21), and give us a chance to discuss any questions or issues you have about your paper or the comments I made. EMAIL ME ASAP to schedule a time slot on TH (Wed all booked up) if you have not done so...times left are start times of 11, 11:15, and 11:30 am TH. Please be advised that the grade on your rough draft is NOT the grade you will get on your final paper if you do nothing (you would have a worse grade on the final paper). Adequate revisions responding to my comments are a necessary condition just to maintain a similar grade (and possibly improve it). A final paper grade can, however, be lower than the Rough Draft grade and so I hope to not see any of that.

So, we’ll meet back on Tuesday, April 26, turn in final papers, and then we’ll set a schedule for final presentations to take place on Thursday, April 28 and Tuesday, May 3, which are our final two days of class. An announcement will be forthcoming regarding the setup of your Exit Exam on AsULearn and when during Finals week you have to take the exit exam.

March 15, 1:30 pm: Thursday we will keep working on our papers, but I’d also like us to discuss the following research paper (keep our minds active with research stuff).


Also, please note that Katelyn will give her prospectus presentation next Tuesday, March 22, so please be here to support that as well.

Aside from that, I want to also give you all the run down on major dates for the rest of our semester.

I also expect engagement in usual class activities, and not just showing up on those dates, and of course I’ll post more announcements as needed and we may still read/discuss other interesting papers. I realize that, overall, our class meetings are more loose at this point in the semester since you’re really working on your research papers (and I’ve worked this schedule below to accommodate me being out of town for research from April 6-13). But, unless you know class is cancelled, you should plan to be there. Other than a final check-point on preliminary data analysis in a couple of weeks, you’ll see that the other key dates involve the full paper and/or final presentation as we approach the end of the semester. There is an Exit Exam that will be made available Finals Week also (more on that as it approaches, but it’s not something I or anyone teaches to. Rather, it is the standard Exit Exam we give all our Seniors to check outgoing competency levels. We decided as a department to make it count for 10% of grade in Senior Seminar class).

- **March 31 (Thursday)**—Data acquisition and preliminary results (ad hoc assignment where by this day at the latest, you will have each met with me to verify progress). Nothing to be turned in, but I want to actually have you show me (on computer or paper) your preliminary data analysis results
- **April 14 (Thursday)**—Rough draft of paper due. Note this is for grade (see syllabus) and should be what you consider a reasonably complete draft. Ideally, this draft would look like what you might otherwise turn in for a final paper, except that I’ll give comments and you will then edit it
into the final paper. The rough draft can be 15 pages (as opposed to 10 pages for the final draft), exclusive of Tables, Figure, Title page, References.

- **April 28 (tentative)**—**Final papers due in class** (not end of day, but in class). This is tentative as our department has yet to determine the due date for the Brashear prize entries. Our paper will be due the day before to help accommodate student entries (though not required or related to your grade in my class at all).

- **TH,T April 28, May 3**—**Final paper presentations**. Another 10 minute polished Power Point presentation of your final paper.

- F**inals week**—**Exit exam will be made available on AsULearn** so that you can have until at least the first half of final exam week to complete this. This is a standardized exam we give to all exiting Economics majors. I’ll ask our department chair about details on this later (your performance does count for 10% of your grade as you can see on syllabus)

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**Feb 23, 12:30 pm:** Thursday will be another in-class work-on-project day. Please bring materials to move forward and work (laptop if needed) on projects, presentations, etc. Happy to help also with specific statistics questions and interpretation of regression results if you need. Some of you are still a bit shaky on this, which we want to sort out before turning in research papers, of course.

So, here’s the Prospectus Presentation schedule in the order we’ll have presentations. Do everyone a favor and have your presentation loaded onto the desktop BEFORE class so transitions between presentations are quick and smooth (and as I suggested today, I encourage everyone to load at least a draft of their presentation onto the classroom computer before presentation day to see if you have any formatting issues with your presentation on our class technology. That’s on you to sort out before presentation day). See previous message for specific details on the presentation, otherwise, the idea is to put forth a nice presentation that shows off your ability to do a presentation but also the content of what you have laid out for project at this point (think paper sections for what main topics for each individual slide would be, as we discussed in class today for those of you who were here. (exchanging presentation days and/or time slots is fine with me as long as it is mutually agreed upon and you inform me before class with some notice.

- **Tuesday, March 1, 2016**
  - Travis
  - Garrett
  - Kasie
  - Steven
  - Pete
  - Jorge

- **Thursday, March 3, 2016**
  - Eric
  - Lorenzo
  - Russell
Feb 18, 2:00 pm: So, we turned in Stats Analysis Homework #2 today, although I do not have one from each of you. Unless I know what is going on and we communicate, please realize that these ad hoc assignments do matter for a small portion of your grade. I fear that some of you are being a bit loose with these items. Remember, there is a purpose to each also, and they are intended to help keep you on track. Your intermediate goal at this point, which is partly facilitated by having a prospectus presentation to prepare for, is to have your planned analysis figured out before Spring Break, and hopefully at least a healthy start on actually collecting your data (i.e., pulling it off the Internet and getting it into a spreadsheet suitable for regression). If you plan to do a survey, you should have gone in to your ASU Qualtrics account, enable sharing privileges for me, and hopefully designed the survey and its questions before the break. I can give a short Qualtrics tutorial on Tuesday next week for those who would like one.

So, on Tuesday next week (Feb 23), we’ll be setting up a schedule for the prospectus presentations on T,TH March 1,3. You’ll each have a 10 minute time slot for a polished PowerPoint (6 slide maximum) presentation. There is an example of a short 4 slide version of a made up one on the website that you can click and look at. Be thinking about this graded presentation, and I guarantee that you want to practice your presentation BEFORE your actual presentation day. It will show if you are not comfortable and in control of your presentation, and this only comes about with practice. I grade on time management, quality as well as content of the presentation, and your presence and command of your presentation. I’m happy to answer any questions you may have on this, so just ask before that day comes for your presentation.

After talking about prospectus presentation schedule and Q&A, I’d like us to also discuss the following research article on Tuesday (which you can grab full text online, just go through ASU library page):


Feb 9, 3:00 pm: I think the previous Feb 4 email summarizes the next 10 days or so nicely, so please reread that for items to be turned in. For our actual class time on Tuesday, Feb 16, we’ll plan on discussing the following article:

Don’t just free ride and expect others to handle the discussion. My alternative is to put one of you in charge of the article to lead discussion and do that for such article reading, so we’ll try this the easy way first. This way we cover some interesting articles as we go through the rest of the semester on you are working on your papers, and you will also get comfortable for how articles are written and see examples of such in these papers I’ll select.

In addition to this, we can talk about what the prospectus presentation should be looking like and also cover any burning questions on the stats analysis homework.

We did an experiment today, you may recall, so here’s the results. This experiment involved two well-known 2-person strategic games, the penalty kick game (your first 10 rounds) and the Battle of the sexes game (last 10 rounds). The first game was setup to have no pure strategy Nash Equilibrium (for those of you who took game theory), but there is a mixed strategy equilibrium where Row player plays TOP 25% of the time (BOTTOM 75% of the time), and Column player chooses LEFT 75% of the time. For Battle of the sexes, there are two pure strategy Nash equilibria: (TOP,RIGHT) and (BOTTOM,LEFT). Additionally, there is a mixed strategy equilibrium where both TOP and LEFT should be played more frequently (80% or so if I recall...need to do the math though).

Feb 4, 3:30 pm: Let me itemize what’s going on for the next few days. I’ll give details, so this announcement is a bit long, but please read it all. If you are not sure of something...ask before turning it in. This goes out two weeks from now, and I may add a journal article to read during the time, but these below are the major things to keep you progressing and on track.

- **Monday (Feb 8)** scheduling meetings with you all (15 min slots) to chat progress on projects. See the schedule below this bulleted list and email me to sign up for a slot if you have not already done so.

- **Tuesday (Feb 9):** Annotated Bibliographies due. I’ve hotlinked a sample Annotated Bibliography format on our webpage (down below the “HELP!.....” paragraph. Please follow that. It is like the format I suggested for the preliminary bibliography in the Jan 29 announcement, but frankly most of you did not follow that format. I’m going to start clamping down a bit on details, just FYI, since this all matters (in my view) in terms of how your paper will ultimately look, so please follow the details requested for the Annotated Bibliography (follow
the details requested on any of our assignments, actually), and no more handwritten anything getting turned in please. Say whatever you want, but if any portion of a graded item turned in is handwritten, it just signals to me that it was not planned out enough in advance to check over and make sure all relevant information was in the document before turning it in. We’ll use class time on Tuesday also to run through a experiment.

- **Thursday (Feb 11)**...Remember, no class. I’m out of town Feb 10-15.
- **Tuesday (Feb 16)**: Let’s have you turn in a “Data Plan/Progress” document. Here’s the details:
  - This Data Plan/Progress document should include your research statement (or preliminary paper title, if you want to call it that) at the top, and should be no longer than one side of one sheet of paper. **I’m just looking for a 250 words or less** statement on where you are at in terms of identifying and hopefully obtaining data. After your statement, feel free to include any other helpful details on the data side of where you are at. (note, some of this can be incorporated into your Prospectus Presentation, which will be the week of March 1,3)
- **Thursday (Feb 18)**: Stats Analysis Homework #2 will be due. It is now hotlinked on the website (along with answers template document). It is basically a re-boot of something like the task 4 and 5 from the first Stats Analysis homework, which caused many of you significant hardship. Let me know if you are having questions. Remember, the idea is to take care of any rusty stats analysis basics because you don’t want these issues showing up in your research paper analysis.

So, that’s all for now, but notice that this takes us up until one week before Prospectus Presentations, and so you can see what the plan is for the next 4 weeks really. Don’t be fooled, it goes more quickly than you may think so please don’t let any week slip by without moving forward in a significant way on your paper project. Should be transitioning to the data stuff at this point since you should have done the bulk of the lit searching (though that can continue a bit still).

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**Feb 2, 1:30 pm:** Ok, so just a reminder that preliminary bibliography is due on TH, Feb 4. **The bigger annotated bibliography is due Tuesday, Feb 9.** Though not yet assigned, be aware that I’ll likely be asking for a data plan/progress document of some sort after that, and probably a second (shorter) stats analysis homework to handle any final issues hopefully. And finally, after these items come due, please realize that we’d be in mid-Feb by then and the week before Spring Break (T,TH, March 1 and 3) will be dedicated towards Prospectus Presentations. So as you can see, there really is something to be working on each week, even though some of you may be viewing this course as more loose and unstructured. This is true in some sense, but if progress is not being made every week on your paper projects, then it quickly catches up to you.

Enough said on that. As for TH, let’s discuss the following paper in class:


Here’s the catch on this one for discussion. **I will NOT read the article prior to our discussion** (sure, I’ve read it before, but need a refresher to recall what they do in the paper). So, your
task is to basically explain to me what happened in this article. It’s on you to therefore read and understand to the level necessary to explain it to someone else. I can verify accuracy afterwards. Let me know if you have any questions. Just in looking over the structure of the article, this one is surely a good model for you to use in terms of how to write a paper with empirical analysis (this paper is just a bit longer than you will be writing for your papers. We’ll round out our time TH with a class experiment as well as filling out signup times for next Monday/Tuesday to one-on-one chat about project progress.

Finally, we won’t “discuss” this article, but this very short piece (a 15 minute read) may offer some helpful tips as you think of writing your paper.


Jan 29, 11:45 am: Following up on class yesterday, there’s two things I’m going to assign. One is an ad hoc assignment of a preliminary bibliography. The other is the bigger annotated bibliography (which is 10% of your final course grade). Also, I feel I need to encourage you all to regularly attend our class time, unless we’ve cancelled it for one-on-one meetings or something. I do try to make the time useful and it is considered part of your participation and engagement in our class. Also, don’t forget the stats analysis homework due on Tuesday (see previous announcement).

Let’s have you all turn in a “preliminary bibliography” (without the annotations) by TH, Feb 4 next week. I’d like at least 6 references on your #1 idea from the brainstormed ideas list (i.e., the idea you’re moving forward with. Please provide the following on what you turn in (as a typed document, always) for completeness:

- **Your Name** (surprisingly, some forget to put their own name on what they turn in)
- **Clear statement of your research question or hypothesis statement** (NOTE: this is more specific than just telling me you’re interested in a particular topic area. It requires you to articulate exactly what you plan to examine or analyze in your paper)
- **At least 6 or more references you’ve found in searching through background literature on your research question.**
  - For these, give me the proper citation (as if you were listing this on your paper Reference Page)
  - Give me the abstract (copy/paste from web source is easiest).....if no abstract, then you give me a brief summary
  - Reference list should be majority filled with journal articles, not books or popular press stuff.
  - Go through all your copy/pasted references when done to make sure what you turn in is clean, and in a common font and size (i.e., should not look like it was different things all glued together in one document)
That’s it, and we’ll call that an “ad hoc” assignment. This way I get to see your literature search direction before you turn in the bigger graded annotated bibliography. I’m going to make the **ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY** due on **Tuesday, Feb 9** (one week from Tuesday).

**Jan 21, 1:00 pm:** So, thanks to all who gave me their brainstormed ideas today. Unfortunately, I do NOT have a brainstormed idea document from each of you (it was a required “ad hoc” assignment). I also do not have all of you on the schedule for 1-1 meetings Monday or Tuesday (also required). Please email me ASAP so we can set this up if you do not have an appointment scheduled and/or if I don’t have your Brainstormed Ideas. It is important that we start off well and get into brainstorming and refining your ideas to land on a paper topic soon.

Also, the Veconlab experiment we did today was an experiment on “coordination games” The idea is that one’s payoff in such games is dictated by the minimum payoff of other individuals. The second treatment was intended to see if more options made coordination more difficult (in your data, it did NOT, but there was no real money on the line either). Anyway, just a peek at game theory and an online experiment platform which is free to any interested research or student to use.

Also, I hotlinked the Stats Analysis Homework #1 document on the webpage, as well as a template for your answer that I’d like you to follow when preparing your answers. **We’ll make this due to be turned in (hard copy) at the beginning of class on Tuesday, Feb 2.** This will give us time to review any stats concepts in class next TH, Jan 28.

Finally, here’s the reference to an article that I’d like you to read and we will discuss in class next TH. This is part of staying engaged (and part of what I consider our ad hoc assignments this semester, even though you’re not turning in something). The article is:


You can get the full text free through our library (so, if you’re off campus, go through ASU library page and use your ASU credentials to access full-text like I showed you the other day).

**So, to sum up**

- Discuss Brainstormed ideas during your appt time Monday/Tuesday next week
- Stats Analysis Homework #1 assigned. Due Feb 2. Use answer template as guide
- Read Frey et al (2011) article to discuss in class on TH, Jan 28.

**Jan 20, 4:15 pm:** Pay attention to ASU closures for tomorrow. If ASU has not cancelled class, then we will still meet. If ASU cancels our class, then I will post a new announcement regarding turning in Brainstormed ideas, and doing an web-based experiment for class (which we can still do even if classes are cancelled). Also, remember that our one-on-one meetings next Monday/Tuesday are **required** of each of you. Several of you were not in class on Tuesday, and I’ve not heard from you. The tone we start out with for our class does matter for you individually in terms of your engagement in class. I hope you will each take this seriously.
Jan 19, 1:30pm: So, a couple things. First, don’t forget that I’ll have you turn in your brainstormed ideas (see Jan 12 announcement) at the beginning of class on TH. We’ll likely spend the rest of the day on an in-class experiment. Now for Tuesday, remember that we WILL NOT MEET ON Jan 26 (Tuesday). Rather, I am scheduling a set of 20 minute meetings, and each of you is required to meet with me during one of the time slots listed below. Only 7 of you were in class today, and so those 7 have booked all the time slots I had available for meeting on Tuesday. What’s left are times on Monday. So, first come first serve for those of you who have not yet signed up. Just email me your preference, and I’ll take them based on first email gets first pick. Here’s the schedule as of right now. Monday times will likely start to fill up before I update this announcement with full list, but here you can at least see what the time slots are for Monday.

- Monday, Jan. 25
  - 9:00-9:20 am
  - 9:20-9:40 am Kasie J.
  - 9:40-10:00 am
  - 10:00-10:20 am
  - 10:20-10:40 am

- Tuesday, Jan. 26 (FULL......no slots left)
  - 10:00-10:20 am Erik S.
  - 10:20-10:40 am Kameron K.
  - 10:40-11:00 am Lorenzo H.
  - 11:00-11:20 am Travis P.
  - 11:20-11:40 am Jorge F.
  - 11:40-noon Russell A.
  - Noon-12:20 am Garrett S.

Jan 12, 5:00pm: This is a test of the announcement system. This is only a test. In the event of a real announcement.....blah blah blah. So anyway, this is how announcement will work. I’ll just keep putting the most recent announcement on top and pushing the others down but we’ll keep the whole thread of announcements on here all semester as we build it.

For right now, let’s get started.......The first (ad-hoc) assignment to turn in is a list of four brainstormed ideas from each of you. Just a few lines per idea is sufficient, but the idea is that you think through and share with me 4 ideas where you have a research hypothesis (which means a topic area first, obviously) and thoughts on how you’d get data to evaluate that hypothesis. Please type these up to be neat and easy for me to sort through. These are due Thursday, Jan 21 at the beginning of class. I’ll be looking to schedule a 20 minute meeting with each of you the Monday or Tuesday the following week (i.e., Jan 25 or 26, after you’ve turned these in) to chat about your ideas and help identify the two most viable. In the meantime, let me know if you have any questions, and I’ll see you Thursday.