

Announcements: Econ 4180—Senior Seminar in Economics—SPRING 2018

April 19, 1:00 pm: FINAL PRESENTATIONS Schedule (10 min per presentation, ask me if you have any questions how final presentation should be structured. Please print off mini version (3-4 slides per page fine) of your presentation to give to me for my reference)

Beyond the presentations, **do not forget that final papers are due April 24 or 25** (depending on if submitting to Brashear prize), and then there will be the exit exams (micro and macro) coming on AsULearn. I've requested a 48 hour window for those from Saturday 5pm-Monday 5pm (May 5-7) for you to complete those—open book/note but you must do the exams by yourself.

For final papers, remember the formatting requirements (see syllabus), and note that **I'll allow 2 pages for Tables and/or Figures in addition to the 10 page text limit** (exclusive of References).

Also, regarding Brashear, please note that we want clean papers turned in for this. We're not looking for perfection obviously, but if your final paper has flaws in the analysis or interpretation, or poor writing throughout, then I will likely not sign off on it being submitted for to the Brashear competition. **If you are submitting to Brashear, then please** print off the faculty/mentor title/cover page from the Brashear Guidelines page <https://economics.appstate.edu/brashear-prize-economics> and get those to me with your paper by, say 3 pm on Monday so I have a chance to give paper a quick look-over before I sign and you submit.

FINAL PRESENTATION SCHEDULE

Thursday, April 26, 2018

- Justin
- Jason
- Mallory
- Kristin
- Mikayla
- Jorge

Tuesday, May 1, 2018

- Josh
- Cody
- Cole
- Stephen

March 15, 1:00 pm: Here's some important dates for you to keep in mind as we move forward into this final phase of our semester. Please keep in mind also the impact that these have on your final grade taking into account our grading scale (see syllabus).

- **April 17...Rough Draft Due** (this should look more like complete and respectable paper you might normally turn in for another class as a final paper)
- **April 24...FINAL paper due.....**I'll allow April 25 deadline if **NOT** turning in your paper for Brashear prize, but if turning in for Brashear, please turn in April 24
- **April 26, May 1....**these are **Final Presentations** days (our last two class days)
- **Finals Week....Exit Exam...**This will be online with a 48 hour window to complete sometime early in Finals week. Exam question set by department (not me).

So, you can see that we are (as of today), a little over 4 weeks from turning in a complete Rough Draft. Please use each week wisely and let me know how I can help as we are in full "project" mode. For this reason, I'm using the class times where we meet to be helpful for you on projects but if we need to meet other times, let's do so. For this coming week, consider Tuesday an official workday for you to work on your project, and I'll let you know early in the week if I have Jury duty the whole week or if we'll meet for class on Thursday.

Feb 20, 2:00 pm: Here's the schedule for Prospectus Presentations that will take place next week.

Remember, we will NOT meet for class this TH (Feb 22) as I'm encouraging you all to take advantage of the WCOB Career Day event (Walker Spring Connect.....see Feb 16, 4:00 pm Announcement with link).

Beyond this, since next week is taken up with presentations, we may not get a chance to talk about your papers more until AFTER Spring Break. While that may be true, PLEASE do not take that as a signal that we should not talk about paper issues you may be having or that you should not be working on moving your paper forward until after Spring Break. That would be a big mistake. **The paper ROUGH DRAFT (which is graded) is likely going to be due the 2nd week of April**, so you really should be in a position to start analysis of your data right after Spring Break. You can't be doing that if you are still collecting data after Spring Break, so please keep that in mind in deciding how you move on your project this week and next (i.e., you should be doing much more than just prepping your presentation for next week). Hope the pep talk helps. Feel free to hit me up with any questions or any time we need to chat about your paper project.

Tuesday February 27, 2018

- **Josh**
- **Cody**
- **Mallory**
- **Jason**
- **Justin**

Thursday, March 1, 2018

- **Mikayla**
- **Cole**
- **Jorge**
- **Kristin**

- Stephen

Feb 16, 6:00 pm: Details regarding upcoming Prospectus Presentations (10% of final grade). Everyone will have 10 minutes for his/her presentation, and we will have to be somewhat efficient with transitions between presentations (the plan is that we'll have 5 presentations each on Tuesday, February 27 and Thursday, March 1, and we'll schedule those on Tuesday next week).

I encourage you to **plan on arriving a few minutes BEFORE class on presentation day so that you can place your presentation directly on the desktop of the computer** in our classroom so that you are ready to go right when it is your turn. I would also note that it is your responsibility to ensure that whatever program you are using for your presentation will actually work on our classroom machine (PowerPoint is the obvious one, but others may work). So, you may want to find some time on a different day between now and your presentation where you can test at least a draft of your presentation slides to make sure everything will go smoothly and with no surprises for you. Any such tech issues that should have been identified before your presentation would reflect on your preparedness (and therefore grade) of the presentation.

Please let me know if you have any questions regarding the presentation. Note that there are some simple sample slides on our website, but in general you might want to limit your presentation to 4 slides of actual content (i.e., title page does not count as content). For example, one slide may be Motivation (why should we care? Slide), a second slide could be Background Literature, a third could describe the Data you'll use, and a fourth could be your planned Analysis and how it would allow you to test your hypothesis. As noted in class, these are also core components or sections of a paper and so you should be thinking about starting to put some rudimentary sections of your paper together as we go also and not wait/rush after Spring Break to do everything.

Also, please plan on **bringing me a hard copy of your slides on the day of your presentation** (I'll keep these and they'll help me remember details of your presentation when I'm making up the presentation grades). I don't need a full page per slide, **so you can print 3 slides per page (black and white is fine) and then duplex it so that up to 6 slides will be on a single sheet of paper....**I'm fine with that, and so everyone's slides can be handed to me on just one sheet of paper. Please figure out your printer issues before hand as we're getting a lot of things with printer glitches that you need to work out beforehand (part of being prepared). Thanks.

Feb 15, 4:00 pm: A couple of items. First, **let's read the following paper to discuss in class on Tuesday** (Feb 20). Remember, I consider you reading and being ready to discuss an article as part of contributing to class (requires being there also) and this all goes into the 15% "ad hoc" portion of the grade that is a bit more loose than other areas of the course grading. Here's the short piece:

Danziger, S., Levay, J., & Avnaim-Pesso, L. (2011). Extraneous factors in judicial decisions. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 108(17), 6889-6892.

Secondly, remember to turn in your Stats Analysis #2 homework on Tuesday and remember to follow the template I've given on the website. **On Tuesday, we'll also set up a schedule for**

Prospectus Presentations—10% of your course grade—for the week before Spring Break. Given this, **I'd like to cover any questions you may have about those presentations on Tuesday next week** also because we are cancelling class on TH, Feb 22 for the Walker Spring Connect event. Please go to the website below for information about this useful event, especially for you as Seniors.

Walker Spring Connect event registrations more than doubled in the past week. We hope you will continue to stress the importance of this event to your students and help us reach our goal of 1000 students in attendance. Student's may register through Friday at <https://businesscareers.appstate.edu/career-fair>. Students who do not register may still attend the event but will not have printed name tags.

Finally, I don't want to forget to give you extra details about what is expected for your Prospectus Presentation, so **I'll post another Announcement tomorrow with those details**. Come back tomorrow for a Feb 16 Announcement please!

Feb 7, 2:00 pm: Don't forget, **Annotated Bibliography is due on Tuesday, Feb 13** (and we do NOT meet for class tomorrow, Feb 8). This is worth 10% of your grade, so please ask if you are uncertain what an Annotated Bibliography is supposed to be for this class, and remember you have an example you can look at at the bottom of our class webpage. Many of you turned in preliminary bibliography lists that did not include proper or even accurate referencing of your source, and so some of you had non-trivial clean-up work to do for the referencing.

Here's what else I'm setting up for Tuesday. I'd like you to ALL read the following article before class on Tuesday:

Oates, W. E., & Schwab, R. M. (2015). The window tax: A case study in excess burden. *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 29(1), 163-80.

I will **NOT** be reading the article before then but rather will ask you all to summarize it for me for discussion. I do keep track of those who did not read assigned articles and such because part of what I expect from each of you is to contribute to what we're doing in class, whatever that may be. After article discussion, we can also revisit any issues you all had with the Stats Analysis Homework (especially the regression results interpretation).

Finally, let me set up two other Ad Hoc assignments with due dates in the coming weeks to set us up towards the end of February. Here are the two items coming up after next Tuesday:

- **Thursday (Feb 15):** 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 we will be doing the last two class days right before Spring Break)

- **Tuesday (Feb 20):** 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 (these will take place T,TH Feb 27 and March 1), and so you can see what the plan is for the next 3 weeks really. **I've also hotlinked a set of sample Prospectus Presentation Slides** on our class website (towards bottom of page)

Remember, don't be fooled, time goes by 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. **You each 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).**

Feb 2, 2:15: I have hotlinked the answer key to the Stats Analysis Homework #1. A few of you did not appear to pay attention to the answer template given for that homework. Please do so next time around because the template is there to force you to take your results and put them into a proper format that a reader would find useful and easy to digest. Anyway, please look over the answers, as a number of you had some issues with one or more items. Some were more trivial items, but others not.

Jan 30, approx. 2:51: **On Thursday this week (Feb 1) you will be turning in your Stats Analysis homework at the beginning of class** (if not before)...don't forget. After that, we will be setting up scheduling for one-on-one meetings for Monday and Tuesday, February 5th and 6th, which will replace our TH class next week (**so, we will not meet on TH, Feb 8**). Remember, the Stats Analysis homework falls under the "ad hoc" assignments portion of your grade. These are less about exact point awarded, but rather I try to get a feel for great, good, ok, problematic, or whatever as we go through the semester and they I use my best judgment to translate all that into an ad hoc assignments grade at the end of the semester.

The other Ad Hoc assignment that will be due when you come to your 1-1 meeting with me (either Monday or Tuesday, Feb 5 or 6) is an initial bibliographic list. Specifically, **please turn in a 6-10 article listing of initial bibliographic research results on each of your top two brainstormed ideas.** On a sheet paper, give **your name**, and for each listing **first clearly state the research question and follow with an appropriate bibliographic listing** (like you'd see on a Reference Page) of your **initial 6-10 sources**. Nothing else (no abstract or annotations for this one). Please note that your research question should be well articulated, and more precise than just a topic of interest. So, rather than "Police funding and crime rates" you'd

want to say something like “Does police funding help reduce crime rates in urban areas?” You can put one of your Research questions on each side of a piece of paper followed by the reference listing, so that you are only turning in one duplexed sheet of paper, for example.

Let’s plan on making this TH (Feb 1) a work day where I can circulate around the room and see what questions/concerns you may have about how to find data for your research ideas or find articles to identify the previous literature on areas relevant for your topic. **So, feel free to bring your laptop and/or questions and I’ll try to be helpful.**

I want to assign an article for you all to read and we’ll discuss it in class on Tuesday, Feb 6. The article is a good template for how a research paper can be structured. It is not the only way it can work, but I’ve always found it nice to have an example of a paper to look at as a pattern for my own papers. Here’s the article.....you can find it full-text through ASU library page with your ASU login credentials.

Regan, C. S. (2012). The price of efficiency: examining the effects of payroll efficiency on Major League Baseball attendance. *Applied Economics Letters*, 19(11), 1007-1015.

Lastly, **I want to give you a heads up, well in advance, that I’m likely to assign the Annotated Bibliography (10% of course grade) to be due on Tuesday, February 13.** So, you can start building from the good foundation of your initial preliminary bibliographic search on your research paper idea and go from there (in conjunction with any advice I give you during our one-on-one meeting Feb 5 or 6. A sample Annotated bibliography is on our class webpage to give you a sense for what I’m looking for.

Jan 18, 2:00pm: Couple of things. First, I wanted to share the schedule for 15-minute appointments next week that will replace our TH classroom time (for Jan 25, when I’ll be out of town). **The schedule is listed below.** If you were not present for class today (TH) then I just put you on the schedule wherever a slot was left. It is up to you to make yourself aware of the schedule to not miss your appointment. Plan on coming to my office (PH 3090) for the appointment and give yourself an extra few minutes to find my office if you do not already know where it is.

Secondly, I wanted to hotlink **the first Stats Analysis homework**, which **I’ll make due at the beginning of class on Thursday, February 1** (2 weeks from today). We’ll have time to do a bit of review on Tuesday, Jan 30 before that TH, but feel free to ask questions also before then. Note also that I’ve hotlinked a document for the Stats Analysis homework showing the exact format you must use for your response on each task. This will force you all to manipulate details of a graph, table whatever so that you not at the mercy of the default output (which usually is not what a reader would find nice and useful). **So, please put your answers in the format shown on the template for full credit** (and, yes, I’ve been asked by journals to put tables and/or graphs into specific form because that’s what they wanted. It helps make things standard for readers or, in my case, for my grading also).

Monday, January 22, 2018

- **9:00am-9:15am:** Mikayla Gibbes
- **9:15am-9:30am:** Stephen Walker
- **9:30am-9:45am:** Cody Holmes
- **9:45am-10:00am:** Jorge Foster

- **11:00am-11:15am:** Cole Smith
- **11:15am-11:30am:** Jason Slate

Tuesday, January 23, 2018

- **1:00pm-1:15pm:** Mallory Vannoy
- **1:15pm-1:30pm:** Josh Driggers
- **1:30pm-1:45pm:** Justin Hamilton
- **1:45pm-2:00pm:** Kristin Gabriele

Jan 16, 5:00pm: Not that I'll be putting up new announcements every day, but hopefully you'll get into the habit of checking the webpage just in case. Remember, your task for the next couple of days is to work on brainstorming 4 ideas. See my Jan 11 announcement. As noted in class, however, don't feel the need to turn these in right during class on TH, because I want to use our time for me to try and be helpful with you on your ideas (you can turn them in later that afternoon or Friday before noon). Please, when you turn something in, do NOT as a habit send me emails with attached files. I prefer you print a hard copy and turn it in personally (it avoids people skipping class to then just send me an email, and also avoids my needs to worry about scanning files attached to emails from students who may have worked on public computers or whatever).

We'll also take a few moments at the beginning of class on TH to arrange a schedule for 15 minutes meetings for each of you for Monday/Tuesday of next week to replace our TH (Jan 25 class).

Jan 11, noon: 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. I'll change the date and font color on the class webpage each time I add a new announcement

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, feel free to somehow highlight your top two ideas, and you should be able to fit 4 ideas on one side of one piece of paper (single-spaced fine). Don't forget your name on the assignment also. **These are due Friday, January 19 at noon at the latest (though I encourage you to just turn these in during TH, Jan 18, class).** I'll be looking to schedule a 15 minute meeting with each of you on Monday or Tuesday next week (i.e., Jan 22 or 23) to chat about your ideas and help identify the two most viable. In the meantime, let me know if you have any questions.