AGEC 37500H Research Methods (The Process of Economic Research)  
FALL 2010

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Office Hours - I encourage you to schedule appointments as I have several other responsibilities and may not be in the office.

Required Text

Course Objectives
1. Provide students with an appreciation for the process of conducting economic research, and determine whether they want to move forward with an honors research project;
2. Introduce students to departmental research faculty and potential research topics;
3. Assist students develop a research plan of work for their honors projects;
4. Provide a forum for discussion of honors students’ project progress and issues.

Method of Instruction
The instruction will consist of:
1. Discussions about the method of economic research;
2. Guest speakers sharing their observations about their research program;
3. Writing and critical thinking assignments;
4. Learning how to use the MEL library resources; and
5. Project identification, plan of work, and program paperwork.

Discussions and Guest Speakers
Discussions and guest speakers will introduce students to some of the faculty in our department, their research, potential research projects, and the process of conducting economic research. These conversations will also provide an opportunity to discuss the honors program, project progress, and issues.

Assignments
As a discussion based class, reading the materials before class is critical. On the Monday before class, by email, send both instructors a reading summary for that week’s reading. The reading summary should be:
- At most 1 page, single spaced, 12 point font, 1 inch margins
- Start with a paragraph that summarizes the chapter or reading
- In one sentence, what is the most important idea?
- What are areas that are unclear to you (if any)?

Project Identification, Plan of Work, Program Paperwork
We will help you determine whether you want to complete an honors research project. If the answer to that is yes, we will help you identify an area of research, a potential research
topic, and a faculty project advisor. A key goal is for you to develop a research plan of work for your honors project and complete important honors program paperwork. These are major assignments and must be completed on by the assigned due date. **Not completing the project identification, plan of work, and program paperwork will result in an “F” grade.** However, understand that you are not committing to write a thesis in this class.

**Participation**

Effective researchers discuss their work with their peers and colleagues. The process of discovery includes a careful evaluation and assessment of one’s methods, data, assumptions, model, and more. Completing the reading summaries will position you to effectively discuss the week’s assignment. You are expected to attend class (how else can you participate). **Three absences will result in the reduction of 2 letter grades.**

**Evaluation**

You will be evaluated on your completion of assignments (i.e., completing assignments, completing assignments on time, quality of completed assignment), and your participation in the class discussions.

**Grading**

Your final course grade will be derived based on the following weighting system:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Percent of Final Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation/discussion, including attendance</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Written Assignments</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project Identification, Plan of Work, Program Paperwork</td>
<td>40%</td>
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</tbody>
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**Academic Honesty and Honor System**

University policy on academic misconduct is clear — academic dishonesty in any form is strictly prohibited. Instances of academic dishonesty will be referred to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action. Penalties are severe and may include failure on the exam, quiz, paper, or project, failure in the course, and/or expulsion from the University. The risks associated with academic dishonesty far outweigh the perceived benefits. For more information on the student conduct code and your rights and responsibilities, please visit the web page at: [www.purdue.edu/oop/univregs/pages/stu_conduct/stu_conduct.html](http://www.purdue.edu/oop/univregs/pages/stu_conduct/stu_conduct.html)

**Students with Disabilities**

If you have a disability requiring special academic accommodation, please make an appointment to speak with me within the first 3 weeks of the semester to discuss any adjustments. Please note that university policy requires all students with disabilities to be registered with Adaptive Programs in the Office of the Dean of Students before classroom accommodations can be provided.

**Campus Emergencies**

In the event of a major campus emergency, course requirements, deadlines and grading percentages are subject to changes that may be necessitated by a revised semester calendar or other circumstances beyond the instructor’s control.