Course Description
This seminar will develop your abilities to do independent research using the concepts and tools of economic analysis. Your principal assignment is to undertake a research project and to develop and present a senior thesis. We expect that the papers will be well written and organized, supported by appropriate data and evidence, and reveal a command of economic tools and concepts that you have acquired in the course of your economics major. Evaluation is based primarily on the quality of your economic analysis. Several related assignments will help you develop your thesis and write your paper.

This research project presents a unique opportunity. Since you will be spending numerous hours reading, thinking, and writing about this topic, we strongly recommend choosing a topic that you care about. What you get out of this course can be more than just a grade. By the end of the semester you will develop considerable expertise in your topic and you will have written an extensive research report. The effort you put into your research project may generate "real world" returns. Your paper will demonstrate your research, analytical, and writing skills to a potential graduate school or employer. It can be a springboard to graduate school or it can be a ticket to a job after graduation. If your paper reflects your best effort, then it will provide a valuable and accurate signal of your abilities. It should be a source of pride and accomplishment for you.

Basis for Course Evaluation
Your final thesis constitutes the bulk of your grade. The abstracts, theory presentations, comments on colleagues’ work, first draft and other assignments are designed to enhance the final product. Your drafts are not graded, but the effort you put into them is highly correlated with the quality of the feedback we can provide and the strength of your final thesis. Poor drafts will be handed back without comment to be redone and resubmitted. To pass the course these assignments must be submitted in a timely manner and reflect a solid effort. However, due dates are somewhat flexible. If you cannot complete an assignment on time, then you must make acceptable alternative arrangements with us substantially in advance of the due date. Late assignments without prior arrangements will be penalized. The weights for the final grade are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Style/Content Assignment</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Abstracts</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Initial Presentation</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Paper</td>
<td>60%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Presentation</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assessment Exam</td>
<td>10%</td>
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Students Requiring Accommodation
Please contact us early in the semester if you have a documented requirement for accommodation to obtain equal access to this class or to any assignment. If you have any questions about this, we hope you will also feel free to raise them. I am quite willing to work with students to find the best way to achieve accommodation.
Office Hours and Communications

Below are our contact info and office hours. Office hours may be a good time to set up individual appointments, however we will expect to meet with you at other times, as well. In particular, the regular class time will be a good time to schedule appointments when we are not meeting as a group. Email is typically the best way to arrange appointments.

Nathan Sivers-Boyce:
Email – nboyce@willamette.edu
My Class Hours – MWF 9:10-10:10, 10:20-11:20
                         TTH 12:50-2:20, 2:30 – 4:00
Office Hours – MWF 2:00-3:00pm & TTH 10 – 11am. You are also welcome to drop by my office at other times. However, I anticipate having a busy schedule this semester, so, I might be kind of hard to find. If you would like to see me outside of office hours, your best bet will probably be to send me an email to make an appointment.
Office Phone – x6916
Home Phone – (503) 246-0718. Please do not call me at home after 8 pm (or you may wake Aidan and Max up, and believe me, nobody wants that).

Don Negri:
Email – dnegri@willamette.edu
My Class Hours – MWF 8-9:00 & 12:40-1:40
                         TuTh 12:50 to 4:00
Office Hours – Monday & Wednesday 2:00 to 3:30, Thursday 10:30 to 11:30 and by appointment
Office Phone – X6326
Home Phone – (503) 364-3441

Schedule:
The schedule below is intended only to indicate “due dates” and times that we meet as a class. It should go without saying that you are expected to meet frequently with your thesis advisor to discuss your individual research progress or challenges.

Bolded dates represent class meetings. Italicized dates represent due dates. All sessions meet in Smullin 314, 2:30-4:00 pm.

September
Tu., 2nd  Introduction, Informal Discussion of Thesis Topics and Expectation
Th., 4th  Style and Content Assignment/Discussion
Th., 11th  First Set of 4 Abstracts Due (by email)
Th., 18th  Second Set of 4 Abstracts Due (by email)
Th., 25th  Third set of Abstracts Due (by email)
Tu., 30th  Initial Presentations

October
Th., 2nd  1) Initial Presentations; 2) Fourth set of Abstracts Due (by email)
Tu., 7th  Initial Presentations
Th., 9th  Initial Presentations
Th., 16th  1) Draft #1 due (by email); 2) Alice Rivlin talk
Tu., 21st  In-class assessment exam
November

Tu., 18th Draft #2 due (by email);
Tu., 25th Peer review due (comments to your advisor and the author)

December

Tu., 9th Final Presentations
Th., 11th Final Presentations
Fr., 12th Final Draft Due
Sat., 20th Final Presentations

Note: We have scheduled 4 days for Initial Presentations and 3 for Final Presentations of Results, but we probably will not need all of the scheduled presentation time. So, look for that schedule to change. Presentations should run 15 minutes with 5 minutes of questions and discussion to follow.