ECONOMICS HONORS SEMINAR
Economics 4309

Prof. Ann Carlos
Office: Rm 121

Fall, 1991
Office Hours: 9.40-11.00am
or by appointment

Economics 4309 is a seminar and critical thinking course for economics honors majors. The course is designed to provide you with a forum in which you can discuss some current economic issues, using the theories and methods provided in prior courses. Because this is a seminar course, each student is expected to have done the required readings and to be ready to enter into the discussions. Each week two or three students will be assigned the task of leading the discussion of the relevant chapter and/or reading. In order to provide a basic structure, two books will be used. These are


Arno Klammer, *Conversations with Economists*.

Both books are available in the bookstore. In addition, some readings, applicable to the individual topics will be assigned. As we cannot cover any topic in great depth, each reading is designed to show how some economist(s) analyzed one issue relevant to the material under discussion.

Along with the critical thinking aspect of the course, economics 4309 is also designed to allow you the opportunity to get started on your honors thesis. Therefore over the course of this term, each student will be required to present his/her work-in-progress. In order to obtain maximum feedback and assistance from the other members of the group, each student will hand out a two or three page summary to the other members prior to the presentation. The exact timetable for this is laid out on the next pages.

Having laid out the rules for the course, I would also like to lay out my expectations or objectives. This course provides you with a unique opportunity. It gives you the chance to think about economics and to ask to what extent you agree or disagree with the material you have learned over the past few years. It also gives you the chance to do your own economic analysis on a topic that interests you. My hope is that you will learn that the doing of, instead of the learning of, economics can be both very satisfying and fun.
Course Outline

August, 28  Introduction: discussion of criteria for honors, advice on the selection of thesis topics and selection of dates for presentations.

Septem. 4  Research techniques, writing style, suggestions for leading discussions. Guidance on using the library for economic research from one of the Norlin reference librarians. Carson, Introduction

Septem. 11  Carson, Issue 1 - American Agriculture.

Septem. 18  Carson, Issue 7 - The Productivity Problem
            Mancur Olson, "The Productivity Slowdown, the Oil Shocks, and the Real Cycle" The Journal of Economic Perspectives, Fall 1988

Septem. 25  Carson, Issue 3 - The Acid Rain Crisis.
            Sketch of Thesis Proposal presented in class and submitted to Prof. Carlos.

October 2  Carson, Issue 4 - The Giant Corporation and Government.

October 9  Carson, Issue 8 - Income Distribution and Public Policy.
            David T. Ellwood and Jonathan Crane, "Family Change Among Black Americans: What Do We Know?", Journal of Economic Perspectives, Fall 1990.


October 23 Klammer, Part 2 - Tobin, Solow
            Part 3 - Blinder.
October 30  Klammer, Part 4 - Brunner
Part 5 - Rapping.

November 6, 13, 20, 27, and December 4, 11 - Project Reports. Revised Thesis Proposal is due in my office two weeks after the presentation or by December 20th (whichever comes first).

Attached are a list of dates from the honors office. Please make a careful note of all the dates that are relevant.

During the Spring Semester, check my door once a week for messages and make sure that by Wednesday, March 18th I have a copy of your current schedule for courses and work, your advisor’s name, and your current phone number so that an oral examination can be scheduled.
**Fall 1991**

**Graduation With Honors**

**April 26, 1991**
Application for graduation with honors and thesis prospectus, signed by thesis advisor, due for students planning departmental and/or general honors Fall 1991. Submit to Honors Program Office, Norlin M400C.

**September 9, 1991**
Meeting for all candidates for graduation with departmental and/or general honors, Fall 1991. *Time and location to be announced.*

**September 20, 1991**
Questions for General Honors Comprehensive Exam available at Honors Program Office, Norlin M400C.

**October 25, 1991**
General Honors Comprehensive Exam for Fall 1991 candidates who are attempting double honors & not writing a General Honors Thesis.

**November 4, 1991**
A copy of the Senior Thesis and Abstract for Fall 1991 candidates for departmental and/or general honors is due at the Honors Program Office, Norlin M400C, by 4:00 p.m. The candidate is also responsible for distributing copies of the thesis to members of their Thesis Defense Committee.

**November 4 - 15, 1991**
General Honors Thesis Defenses
Check with the Honors Office in advance for specific arrangements.
Departmental Thesis Defenses will be scheduled by the individual departments.

**November 15, 1991**
Recommendations from departments for Fall 1991 candidates due in the Honors Program Office, Norlin M400C, by 4:00 p.m.

**November 18, 1991**
HONORS COUNCIL MEETING
Designations will be decided at this meeting
3:00 p.m. Norlin M400G

**November 19, 1991**
Honors designations (departmental and general) will be posted at the Honors Program Office.

**December 11, 1991**
Approved final copy of the Senior Thesis and Abstract (including changes prescribed by the thesis defense committee, should there be any) for Fall 1991 candidates due in Honors Program Office.

**December 20, 1991**
HONORS CONVOCATION for those receiving Honors, Fall 1991.
Spring 1992
Graduation With Honors

October 7, 1991
Application for graduation with honors and thesis prospectus, signed by thesis advisor, due for students planning departmental and/or general honors Spring 1992. Submit to Honors Program Office, Norlin M400C.

January 30, 1992
Meeting for all candidates for graduation with departmental and/or general honors, Spring 1992. Time and location to be announced.

February 12, 1992
Questions for General Honors Comprehensive Exam available at Honors Program Office, Norlin M400C.

March 7, 1992
General Honors Comprehensive Exam for Spring 1992 candidates who are attempting double honors & not writing a General Honors Thesis.

April 1, 1992
A copy of the Senior Thesis and Abstract for Spring 1992 candidates for departmental and/or general honors is due at the Honors Program Office, Norlin M400C, by 4:00 p.m. The candidate is also responsible for distributing copies of the thesis to members of their Thesis Defense Committee.

April 1 - 16, 1992
General Honors Thesis Defenses
Check with the Honors Office in advance for specific arrangements.
Departmental Thesis Defenses will be scheduled by the individual departments.

April 16, 1992
Recommendations from departments for Spring/Summer 1992 candidates due in the Honors Program Office, Norlin M400C, by 4:00 p.m.

April 20, 1992
HONORS COUNCIL SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS (Light dinner will be served)
5:00 p.m. Norlin M400

April 21, 1992
HONORS COUNCIL MEETING
Designations will be decided at this meeting
3:00 p.m. Norlin M400G

April 22, 1992
Honors designations (departmental and general) will be posted at the Honors Program Office.

April 24, 1992
Application for graduation with honors and prospectus, signed by thesis advisor, due for students planning departmental and/or general honors Fall 1992.

May 4, 1992
Approved final copy of the Senior Thesis and Abstract (including changes prescribed by the thesis defense committee, should there be any) for Spring 1992 candidates due in Honors Program Office.

May 14, 1992