ECONOMICS HONORS SEMINAR

Economics 4309

Prof. Ann Carlos

Office: Rm 121
Office Hours: TR 9.30-11.0am
or by appointment

Economics 4309 is a required 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 learnt 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. The course will also entail frequent writing assignments through which you can improve on your ability to present economic argument. 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 26  Introduction: discussion of criteria for honors, advice on the selection of thesis topics and selection of dates for presentations.

Septem 2  Research techniques, writing style, suggestions for leading discussions. Guidance on using the library for economic research from one of the Norlin reference librarians.

Septem 9  Carson, Introduction
Library visit

Septem 16  Carson, Issue 1 - American Agriculture.


Septem 23  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 30  Carson, Issue 5 - Government Regulation of Business

Sketch of Thesis Proposal presented in class and submitted to Prof. Carlos.

October 7  Carson, Issue 4 - The Giant Corporation and Government.


Octob 12  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 14  Klammer, Part 1 - Lucas, Sargent, Townsend.
October 21  Klammer, Part 2 - Tobin, Solow
          Part 3 - Blinder.
October 28  Klammer, Part 4 - Brunner
          Part 5 - Rapping.

November 4, 11, 18, 25, and December 2, 9 - 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.
Application Packet
for
Graduation with Honors

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

Name: ___________________________ Student #: ____________
Major: ___________________________ Circle: Ms. Mr. Mrs. Miss
Local Address: ____________________________
Local Phone: ________________
Names & Addresses of Parents (for mailing purposes):
Cумulative GPA: ____________
Major GPA: ____________
I plan to graduate: ________________ (semester, year)
I intend to graduate with: ___ departmental honors
___ general honors
___ both

I have read the requirements for graduation with honors at the
University of Colorado.

signature ____________________________ date ___________________
## II. REQUIREMENTS

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fill out this column if you are pursuing <strong>GENERAL HONORS</strong>:</th>
<th>Fill out this column if you are pursuing <strong>DEPARTMENTAL HONORS</strong>:</th>
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<tr>
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<td><strong>1 - Completed Departmental Honors Requirements</strong></td>
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<td><strong>2 - Department Representative</strong></td>
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<td>I have met with my departmental honors representative. Professor</td>
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<td><strong>2 - Committee Members</strong></td>
<td><strong>3 - Thesis Advisor</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>(Please indicate faculty members for your thesis committee. This committee should include one honors director and one member of the Honors Council, and is subject to approval by the Honors Director.)</td>
<td>Thesis Advisor's name: [____________________]</td>
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**III. PROSPECTUS & ADVISOR SIGNATURE**

When summarizing your thesis project answer one or more of the following questions:
What is the problem you are investigating? What is the hypothesis you are testing? What is the focus of your study? What is your goal in this study?

The basic characteristic of a satisfactory thesis is that it be consistent with the standards of good scholarship as recognized by your discipline. It should give evidence of a sophisticated grasp of a problem, an effective approach to the problem, and, of course, clarity of expression. It should contain some new data, an original viewpoint, a new synthesis, the application of a new technique, or the use of a new method of analysis. In general, the thesis should follow the analytical traditions of western scholarship with a sufficiently narrow focus such that a particular topic can be explored in depth.
Proposed Title of Thesis:

Brief Summary of Thesis:

Schedule:
1992-1993
Graduation With Honors
at
The University of Colorado

1. You may earn departmental honors, general honors, or both (cum laude, magna cum laude, summa cum laude). The final decision regarding the granting of honors degrees is made by the Honors Council. The Honors Council is made up of faculty members appointed by the Associate Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences. The awarded honors designations are noted in the graduation program and on the diploma.

Candidates for honors must so indicate their intention by submitting an application and prospectus to the Honors Program Office, Norlin M400C. before the announced deadline. See attached list of deadline dates.

2. Requirements for Departmental Honors

A. Completion of all departmental honors requirements including the GRE (in some departments). See the Honors Representative in your department.

B. A thesis which indicates your ability to do original work (see Departmental Honors Representative for details). One copy of the completed thesis together with an abstract in lay terms, not to exceed 250 words, must be submitted to the Honors Program Office before the announced deadline.

C. Oral Defense of Thesis and Examination
   This committee must consist of at least 3 members of the faculty. One member must be from outside the student's major department or Program; one member must be on the Honors Council. See attached list of Honors Council members.

3. Requirements for General Honors

A. As of January 1991, students who are candidates for General Honors must have and maintain a 3.5 cumulative grade point average.

B. Completion of at least 12 hours of honors courses with a grade of 'A' or 'B'. This coursework must include a Senior Seminar, and one course each in the humanities, the natural sciences, and the social sciences.

C. An original thesis developed in consultation with a thesis committee (see Honors Program for specific details). Copies of the thesis together with an abstract written in "lay" terms not to exceed 250 words must be distributed to each member of the thesis committee and to the Honors Program Office before the announced deadline.

D. An hour-length oral thesis defense attended by three faculty members requested by the student and accepted by the Honors Director or Associate Directors. The thesis or comprehensive exam prepared for General Honors will be read by the Directors of the Honors Program and by the defense committee. The committee must include either the Director or an Associate Director of the Honors Program.
E. It is strongly recommended that students who are working for graduation with General Honors take one to three hours of independent study (usually arranged through the Honors Program) with their faculty advisor the semester prior to the submission of the thesis. The independent study work through Honors does not replace any of the 12 hours of required coursework in Honors.

4. A thesis prospectus, approved and signed by the thesis advisor, must be submitted to the Honors Program Office by the middle of the semester preceding the one in which the student will graduate. The prospectus should identify the thesis which will be investigated, and should include a description of research procedures and a preliminary bibliography. General Honors theses should take an interdisciplinary approach.

5. Students who are writing a thesis for departmental honors may also elect to become candidates for General Honors. In this case, they have the option of writing a second thesis or taking a comprehensive honors exam. A student who chooses the exam option cannot earn General Honors unless the student is also awarded departmental honors. nor can such a student earn a level of General Honors which is higher than the level approved for departmental honors.

The exam is based on a reading list and questions from three areas: humanities, natural sciences, and social sciences. The student may pick up the possible questions at least six weeks in advance of the exam, at which s/he will be asked to write an essay on the two area which are not in his or her major field of study.

6. Honors candidates are urged to look into the possibilities for participation in the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program (UROP). Under this program a student and a faculty member may submit a proposal for partial funding of a research project. The UROP office is located in Norlin M400H.

7. Candidates for Honors will not be informed of their committee's recommendation to the Honors Council, as the final designation can only be made by the Council. If a student wishes to appeal the designation of the Council, the student should first see the appropriate departmental or program representative on the Honors Council. Following that interview, if a further appeal is pursued, the student should make an appointment with the Associate Dean for Curricular Affairs of the College of Arts & Sciences. The Associate Dean's decision will be final.
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<thead>
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<th>Name</th>
<th>Office</th>
<th>Phone</th>
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<td><strong>Arts and Sciences</strong></td>
<td>Todd Gleeson</td>
<td>MAIN 2-24</td>
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<td>ECOT 209</td>
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<td>Hellem's 84</td>
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<td>McKenna 236</td>
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<td>Ramaley N317</td>
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<td>Libr 549</td>
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<td>Duane F-321</td>
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<td>Muenzinger D243C</td>
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<td>David Thomas</td>
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<td><strong>Spanish &amp; Portuguese</strong></td>
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6/1/92
The senior thesis, with its emphasis on independent study and interdisciplinary research, is intended as an important capstone to the undergraduate educational experience. Doing a thesis provides a unique opportunity for a student to reach beyond the boundaries of a single academic department and thus to feel the satisfaction and sense of achievement that come with a genuine synthesis of knowledge and understanding. Becoming immersed in and completing a large research project is in itself a most worthwhile experience.

The most important features of the senior thesis in General Honors are originality and thoroughness. Typically the thesis involves concentrated work over a four or five month period and reports the results of a new experiment, or presents a new synthesis or critical analysis. Seniors intending to graduate in the Spring should start making plans and discussing those plans with their principal advisor by early November. December graduates should begin their work in the Spring and anticipate working on the thesis over the summer months.

A student contemplating writing a General Honors thesis must secure the approval of a director of the Honors Program prior to the submission of the prospectus. The prospectus must be submitted to the Honors Program office the semester prior to anticipated graduation.

For students pursuing General Honors and intending to graduate in the Spring, we suggest taking an Honors Senior Seminar in the Fall or in the Spring preceding the senior year. The term paper written for the Senior Seminar could then become the basis for the General Honors thesis. Students may wish to take up to 3 credit hours of independent study specifically designated as thesis preparation.

Students writing a thesis for General Honors should seek a principal advisor from among regular faculty members. The principal advisor and two other faculty members selected by the student, one of whom must be an honors director, will make up the student's thesis committee. To insure sufficient guidance, it is essential that the student keep the committee members informed of the progress of the thesis. The advisor should be constantly consulted as the thesis develops.

Though rare, students who encounter difficulties in achieving Honors are students who fail to keep their thesis advisor informed of their progress.
Spring 1993
Graduation With Honors

October 9, 1992
Application for graduation with honors and thesis prospectus, signed by thesis advisor, due for students planning departmental and/or general honors Spring 1993. Submit to Honors Program Office, Norlin M400C.

January 29, 1993  TIME AND PLACE TO BE ANNOUNCED
Meeting for all candidates for graduation with departmental and/or general honors, Spring 1993.

February 12, 1993
Questions for General Honors Comprehensive Exam available at Honors Program Office, Norlin M400C.

March 8, 1993
General Honors Comprehensive Exam for Spring 1993 candidates who are attempting double honors & not writing a General Honors Thesis.

March 31, 1993
A copy of the Senior Thesis and Abstract for Spring 1993 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 - 15 1993
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, 1993
Recommendations from departments for Spring/Summer 1993 candidates due in the Honors Program Office, Norlin M400C, by 4:00 p.m.

Approved final copy of the Senior Thesis and Abstract (including changes prescribed by the thesis defense committee, should there be any) for Spring 1993 candidates due in Honors Program Office.

April 19, 19923
HONORS COUNCIL SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS (Light dinner will be served)
5:00 p.m. Norlin M400

April 20, 1993
HONORS COUNCIL MEETING
Designations will be decided at this meeting
3:00 p.m. Norlin M400G

April 21, 1993
Honors designations (departmental and general) will be posted at the Honors Program Office.

May 3, 1993
Application for graduation with honors and prospectus, signed by thesis advisor, due for students planning departmental and/or general honors Fall 1993.

May 13, 1993
HONORS CONVOCATION for those receiving Honors, Spring/Summer 1993.
Fall 1992
Graduation With Honors

April 24, 1992
Application for graduation with honors and thesis prospectus, signed by thesis advisor, due for students planning departmental and/or general honors Fall 1992. Submit to Honors Program Office, Norlin M400C.

September 10, 1992
Meeting for all candidates for graduation with departmental and/or general honors. Fall 1992. Time and location to be announced.

September 21, 1992
Questions for General Honors Comprehensive Exam available at Honors Program Office, Norlin M400C.

October 26, 1992
General Honors Comprehensive Exam for Fall 1992 candidates who are attempting double honors & not writing a General Honors Thesis.

November 2, 1992
A copy of the Senior Thesis and Abstract for Fall 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.

November 2-13, 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.

November 13, 1992
Recommendations from departments for Fall 1992 candidates due in the Honors Program Office, Norlin M400C, by 4:00 p.m.

November 16, 1992
Approved final copy of the Senior Thesis and Abstract (including changes prescribed by the thesis defense committee, should there be any) for Fall 1992 candidates due in Honors Program Office prior to the Honors Council meeting.

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

November 17, 1992
Honors designations (departmental and general) will be posted at the Honors Program Office.

December 18, 1992
HONORS CONVOCATION for those receiving Honors, Fall 1992.