The basic idea behind the ECON 4999 courses is participation on the part of the student. This participation may take a number of forms, but writing and speaking are the two that are stressed here, along with the development of research skills.

This section of ECON 4999 is concerned with the economics of migration, and especially with the economics of U.S. immigration. Presently, U.S. immigration is a highly visible public policy issue. It promises to be a major issue in the upcoming presidential campaign, as well as in many state and local campaigns. Rarely does a day pass without one of the area newspapers carrying an article about migration. These articles range broadly from immigrant sweat shops in Los Angeles to refugees in the former Yugoslavia to more general issues such as the labor market consequences of U.S. immigration.

My goal is to encourage you to think critically like an economist about various migration issues. To this end, I see the course unfolding in two major parts. First, I will lecture for approximately the first two months. My intention is to acquaint you with various concepts and issues relating to U.S. internal migration and to U.S. immigration. During this period, I expect you to develop a migration topic for intense study, to form two-person teams to actually conduct research and to begin to prepare a draft of your research paper, and to work with me to prepare a list of background readings relevant to your specific topic. I also expect you to prepare a short critique during the period.

Second, during November and December you will present your research to the class. These oral presentations will require considerable preparation. I expect each member of the team to speak for about one-half hour. Each team will be required to recommend one article for the class to read before the presentation. This recommendation should be made two weeks prior to the actual presentation. The idea here is to sufficiently acquaint the rest of the class with your topic that we will have some background to understand your discussion, as well as to ask good questions.

I have assigned no text for this course. My intention is to work closely with each of you to help you design a program of study of your own. This program of study will be strongly oriented toward your research topic. However, from time to time I will suggest articles for you to read in connection with my lectures.

To participate you must be in attendance. I am not big on requiring attendance, but in this class I do have an "attendance clause" (see below). Whether students make their presentations early in the term or late, I want them to have an audience. Moreover, I want this class to be a pleasant and exciting learning experience for each of you. Your experience is in an important sense tied not only to your own participation, but also to that of your fellow students.
ASSIGNMENTS

1. From an economist's perspective, a 5 to 7 page (doubled-spaced) critique of a current article (or editorial) regarding U.S. immigration taken from the popular press (i.e., newspaper or magazine). Please attach to your critique a copy of the article you select.

   Due: October 21
   Points: 20

2. A major research paper co-authored with another member of the class. Your team will be expected to make an oral presentation of your work. The presentation must occupy at least 60 minutes, not including questions from the class and your answers to these questions. You will be penalized 3 points for falling short of 60 minutes and for exceeding 75 minutes. If you fall more than 5 minutes short of 60, you will be penalized 10 points. The authors must share equally in the oral presentation. Topics must be discussed with me and approved by me. I will also help you with references.

   Final drafts of papers are due December 14. Working drafts must be submitted to me seven days prior to your presentation. I will read and make comments/suggestions that can be incorporated into your presentation and your final draft.

   Points: 1. Paper 40
          2. Oral Presentation 20

OFFICE HOURS

Office: Economics - Room 208
Center for Economic Analysis

Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays: 3:15 pm - 4:30 pm
       By appointment
Summary of Points:

1. Critique ........................................... 20
2. Research Paper ................................. 40
3. Oral Presentation ............................... 20
4. Other Participation .............................. 20

TOTAL POINTS ..................................... 100

Less 10 points for three (3) absences, plus four (-4) points for each additional absence.

Grade Requirements:

93+ .............................. A
90 - 92 ............................. A-
87 - 89 .............................. B+
83 - 86 .............................. B
80 - 82 .............................. B-
76 - 79 .............................. C+
65 - 75 .............................. C
60 - 64 .............................. C-
Schedule of Presentations

Tuesday, November 7:

Thursday, November 9:

Tuesday, November 14:

Thursday, November 16:

Tuesday, November 21:

Tuesday, November 28:

Thursday, November 30:

Tuesday, December 5:

Thursday, December 7:

Tuesday, December 12: