COURSE SYLLABUS: ECONOMICS 4309

ECONOMICS HONORS SEMINAR

Professor Jane Lillydahl
Office hours: MWF 11:00 - 12:00
or by appointment
Phone: 492-4599

Class Hours: M 3:00-5:30
Classroom: Econ. 119

This seminar is required of economics majors who wish to graduate with honors in economics. The prerequisite is an economics GPA of 3.4. The course also meets the College of Arts and Sciences critical thinking course requirement.

There are two main goals of the course. The first goal is to assist the student in the research and writing of the first draft of their honors thesis. With this purpose in mind, students are asked to read the article by McCloskey, attend a workshop on September 9 in Norlin library, and to present their proposals and research findings to the seminar. The second goal is to provide a forum for students to discuss current economic issues using the theories and methods learned in prior courses. Students are expected to come to class having read the assigned articles and prepared to discuss the topic of the week. Two students per class will have the responsibility for leading the discussion. The attached article by Phillip Saunders will provide a guide on preparing for and leading discussions.

Required books


Course Assignments

August 26  Selection of thesis topics, research techniques, criteria for honors, timetable for thesis

September 2  Holiday

September 9  Workshop with librarians Charles Eagleston and Chris Busick. Meet inside Norlin Library (first floor, east entrance)
Assignment: Read McCloskey, "The Writing of Economics."

September 16  Topic: Productivity; Promoting Economic Growth
Mansfield, Part 6
Carson, Issue 7
September 23  Topic: The Distribution of Income; Welfare Reform
                          Mansfield, Parts 1 and 2
                          Carson, Issue 8

September 30  Topic: Alternative Economic Philosophies; Labor Issues
                          Carson, Part 1 and Issue 6
Assignment: One-page thesis proposal due.

October 7  Topic: The Environment
                          Mansfield, Part 5
                          Carson, Issue 3

October 14  Topic: Big Business and Government Regulation
                          Mansfield, Part 4
                          Carson, Issues 4 and 5

October 21  Topic: Competition and Protection in the Marketplace
                          Mansfield, Part 3
                          Carson, Issues 1 and 2

October 28  Economic Stands of the Presidential Candidates

November 4-December 9  Thesis presentations

A draft of the honors thesis is due on December 9. The course grade is determined by
the draft of the thesis, class attendance, and oral participation.