Course Objectives. The primary goal of this course is to provide a framework for the successful completion of honors theses for those graduating this semester. For students working towards Fall graduation, this seminar will facilitate the launch of your thesis project, including choice of a topic and completion of a formal thesis proposal. Most of your thesis work will occur outside our class, but a portion of each class period will be devoted to tracking your progress with the thesis and exploiting the talents of the group for assistance with problems and general suggestions. In addition, the three class sessions before the oral exam period will be dedicated to mock thesis defenses. These sessions will give each of you practice presenting and defending your work before a friendly and supportive group. To make these sessions productive, presenters should distribute a thesis abstract to the class one week before their presentation. Those who are at the proposal stage this semester will present their proposals orally during the final weeks of the term.

Our secondary objective is to bring together a number of topics in macroeconomics in the critical evaluation of contemporary economic issues. The readings in your two assigned texts, readings on economic issues in current periodicals, and our collective memories of macroeconomic principles will provide background for the discussion of each week's topic. Each week two students will be responsible for leading the class discussion, by constructing discussion questions based on the readings and current events. The class discussions are more likely to be successful if these questions can be distributed in advance, via Email, for example, to all class members. I will set up an Email distribution list for this purpose.

Evaluation

Students graduating and completing their honors theses this semester will receive a grade based on their honors thesis, oral defense, and class participation. Students who will not graduate this semester will receive a grade based on their thesis proposal and class participation. The proposal should include a literature review, a statement of thesis objectives, and a discussion of how the thesis relates to the literature. Further guidance on developing a thesis topic, using library resources, and writing the proposal will be offered during the semester.

Texts.


Calendar.

Planning Dates:

January 24 - Meeting for all candidates for graduation with honors.
March 5, 12, and 19 - Class presentations of theses.
March 31 - Thesis and abstract due in Honors Office
April 1-14 - Oral defenses.
April 15 - Reports on orals and examining committee recommendations due in Honors Office.
April 18 - Honors designations posted at the Honors Program Office.
May 15, 9:00 a.m., Honors Convocation, Glenn Miller Ballroom.
Class meetings:

January 15 - Planning meeting. Progress reports on theses.

January 22 - Macroeconomic Instability, Inequality, and Economic Growth
Krugman, Introduction, Chapters 1-3.

January 29 - International Economic Relations
Krugman, Chapters 4, 9, 10, 11, 14

February 5 - International Trade
Cole, Articles 39-42

February 12 - Deficits and Debt; Social Security
Krugman, Chapter 7
Cole, Articles 11, 12, 15, 16

February 19 - Unemployment and Inflation
Krugman, Chapter 5.
Cole, Articles 26, 27, 31, 32

February 26 - Future prospects
Krugman, Chapters 15-17
Cole, Articles 7, 10, 18, 34, 35, 44, 45

March 5 - thesis presentations

March 12 - thesis presentations

March 19 - thesis presentations

March 26 - Spring Break

April 2 - orals; World Affairs Conference.

April 9 - orals

April 16 - R & R

April 23 - Critique of contemporary macroeconomics
Cole, Articles 3, 6, 9

April 30 - Proposal presentations.