

Economics 4990-4991: Honors Program in Economics

Gregory Besharov

The Undergraduate Honors Program in Economics is an opportunity for students who have demonstrated academic excellence in the major to pursue an independent research project. The program runs for the entire senior year, and the research is conducted under the close supervision of a faculty advisor. For admission to the second semester of the program (4991), students must successfully complete a thesis proposal and participate fully in the first semester (4990). Students who successfully complete the program graduate with honors. Higher levels of honors are awarded for superior performance on the thesis and in the program as a whole.

University Policy, Academic Integrity and Code of Conduct

Together with all the members of this Department, I respect and uphold University policies and regulations pertaining to racial or ethnic discrimination, sexual harassment, assistance available to handicapped, visually and/or hearing impaired students, the observation of religious holidays, and plagiarism. All students are advised to become familiar with the respective University regulations and are encouraged to bring any questions or concerns to my attention.

Each student in this course is expected to abide by Cornell's Code of Academic Integrity (<http://cuinfo.cornell.edu/Academic/AIC.html>) and Cornell's Code of Campus Conduct (<http://www.dfa.cornell.edu/treasurer/policyoffice/policies/volumes/governance/campuscode.cfm>). Students agree that by taking this course all required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to Turnitin.com for the detection of plagiarism. All submitted papers will be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of such papers. Use of the Turnitin.com service is subject to the Usage Policy posted on the Turnitin.com site.

Please note that videotaping, photographing, audiotaping, or otherwise making any picture or sound recording of an instructor is not permitted without the instructor's written consent. Failure to comply with this rule is a violation of Cornell's Campus Code of Conduct. Moreover, students are not authorized to replicate, reproduce, copy or transmit such materials, or "derivative" materials, including class notes, for sale or general distribution to others without the written consent of the faculty, academic staff member, or class participant who is the original source of such materials; and that Violations of the above constitute academic misconduct as described in the Code of Academic Integrity.

Texts

We will discuss much of Greenlaw's *Doing Economics: A Guide to Understanding and Carrying Out Economic Research*, and it is on reserve in Uris. We will also discuss articles in class that will typically be available as links on the course website.

Office Hours

My office hours will be held in Uris 484 on Wednesdays from 10:45 to 11:45 and 1:30 to 2:30 and by appointment if you cannot make those times. If you would like to set up an appointment, please send me an email at gb293@cornell.edu listing three or four times you are available over the following several days so that I can choose one.

Note to students with disabilities: If you have a disability-related need for reasonable academic adjustments in this course, provide me with an accommodation letter from Student Disability Services. Students are expected to give two weeks' notice of the need for accommodations. If you need immediate accommodations, please arrange to meet with me within the first two class meetings.

Course Outline

August 23: Introduction and Topic Discussion

September 6: Economic Models and Causality

Week of September 11: Meetings

Due: TDQ I day before meeting.

September 27: Economic and Statistical Significance

Due: Peer Reviews

Week of October 9: Meetings

Due: 1) TDQ II day before meeting and 2) supervisor selection

October 18: Methodological Debates

November 8: Presentations I

Thesis supervisors do not attend November presentations except by their request.

November 15: Presentations II

Due: Electronic copies of thesis proposals to director and supervisor.

November 28: TBD

Beginning of February: Spring Presentations

These will be 30 minute sessions with your supervisor that other students will attend as well.

March 29: Initial version of thesis is due. Submit hard and electronic copies of a complete, near-final (not rough) draft. There should be neither missing sections of text nor missing tables or graphs.

April 25: Final version of thesis is due. Submit a hard copy, incorporating all required revisions, for copying and binding.