

**ECONOMICS 1960**  
**Honors Tutorial for Economics Majors**

**Course Time:** TuTh, 2:30 – 3:50 pm in J. Walter Wilson 403

**Course Website:** MyCourses

**Office Hours:**

Friday 3:00 – 4:30 pm  
70 Waterman St, rm. 303

**Overview and Objectives:**

This class has three primary objectives: i) cover, in detail, papers that use different approaches to constructing decisive empirical evidence on questions in applied microeconomics; ii) have students critically evaluate an important research paper in their topic of interest; iii) have students develop a thesis topic and present their proposed approach to the topic in a seminar-style setting.

The class is collaborative, with professor and students providing feedback. There are three phases to the course that match the three objectives. By the end of the course, students should have developed a proposal for an Honors Thesis that is feasible and likely to be completed before graduation.

**Required Background:** In good standing for completing an Honors Thesis before graduation.

- GPA of 3.5 or above in Economics concentration courses  
(Standards more stringent next year)

**Course Requirements:**

In the first third of the course, the Instructor will cover research papers. Students are expected to read the papers before class. In the next third, students will critically evaluate an important research paper in their topic of interest by giving a 25-minute presentation in class. In the final third, students will give a 40-minute class presentation of their thesis idea and its feasibility. In all presentations, the professor and students will provide feedback. Students are expected to attend all classes. The final course requirement is a 5-7 page thesis proposal, which is due on December 7.

Class handouts will be available at the MyCourses website.

**Course Grading:**

20% Presentation of “best paper” in topic of interest  
20% Presentation of thesis idea and feasibility  
45% Thesis proposal (5-7 pages, due December 7)  
15% Class participation

Failure to complete any of the course elements will result in an Incomplete for the course.

## **ROUGH SCHEDULE**

The course will be conducted in three phases: i) instructor discussion of research papers; ii) student's in-class presentation of an important research paper in the topic of interest; and iii) student's in-class presentation of thesis idea and feasibility.

For the first phase, all students will be required to come to all lectures. For the second and third phases (presentations), the class will be divided into two groups of students – one which meets every week on Tuesdays, the other meeting every week on Thursdays.

### **Phase 1: Instructor presentation of research examples**

- September 7 through September 23
- Students come to both Tuesday and Thursday lectures

### **Phase 2: Student 25-minute presentations of important research paper**

- September 28 through October 21
- Students divided into 2 groups; one of which meets on Tuesdays, the other on Thursdays

### **Phase 3: Student 40-minute presentations of thesis idea and feasibility**

- October 26 through December 2

**Thesis Proposal due December 7**