Professor: Michelle Holder, Ph.D.
Class Days, Times: Tues. & Thurs. 10:50am-12:05pm,
Email: mholder@jjay.cuny.edu
Office Hours: Tues. & Thurs. 12:15-1:15pm

Course Objectives:
This seminar is a culmination of the economics major. In this course students will synthesize the various topics and techniques acquired in previous economics courses into the production of a significant research project. The project will include substantial analysis, policy recommendations, and oral and written presentations. Students will engage in extensive peer review.

Course Goals:
Throughout the semester we want to improve our ability and comfort in the following areas:
- Communicating ideas in a public setting.
- Designing and executing an original economic research plan.
- Writing a scholarly research paper.
- Critically reading economics literature.
- Providing constructive feedback to peers.
- Interpreting and presenting data effectively and accurately.

Course Requirements:
(1) General Presentations- 10% Rubric used to grade presentations: (a) accuracy; (b) content; (c) engagement, and (d) professionalism
(2) Paper (draft and full) Presentations- 10%
(3) Peer Critiques- 15% Rubric used to grade critiques: (a) accuracy; (b) content; (c) engagement, and (d) professionalism
(4) Draft Papers at Midterm- 20% Each student will do either one 18 page paper on a topic related to inequality, or two 10 page papers with one topic relating to inequality and the other topic of the student’s choosing. All topics must be approved by Professor Holder. Papers must be no more than 1.5 spaced, no more than 12 font, with margins of no more than one inch on each side. Notes should be endnotes, NOT footnotes, and all tables and charts DO NOT COUNT toward page count and must be inserted at the end of the paper.
(5) Final Papers- 20%
(6) Attendance - 10% A maximum grade of 100 is attainable for this portion of the grade only if there are no absences or latenesses. Each absence results in a
deduction of 10 points from this grade, and each lateness results in a 3.33 points deduction. As an example, if a student is absent two times and late three times their attendance grade will be a 70.

NOTE: STUDENTS ABSENT 7 (SEVEN) OR MORE CLASSES RISK FAILING THE COURSE

(7) Participation in Classroom Discussions - 15%

Textbook and Reading Materials:
There is no one text that will be required for the course. However, for your course paper you will need to cite: (1) one book; (2) three academic journal articles; (3) one newspaper article; (4) one policy report

Grading:
The grading scale is as follows (rounded to the nearest whole number):

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93-100 %</td>
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<td>A-</td>
<td>90-92 %</td>
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<td>B+</td>
<td>87-89 %</td>
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<td>B</td>
<td>83-86 %</td>
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<td>B-</td>
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<td>C+</td>
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<td>C-</td>
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<td>D+</td>
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<td>D</td>
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<td>D-</td>
<td>60-62 %</td>
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<td>F</td>
<td>Less than 60 %</td>
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Academic Integrity:
For John Jay College’s policy on academic integrity, including plagiarism, please go to:
https://www.jjay.cuny.edu/academic-integrity-0

Writing Quality as Part of Grading and the John Jay College Writing Center
This course will require significant written analysis, the quality of which will be a consideration in grading, so if you need help writing you should consider utilizing the resources available in the John Jay College Writing Center. They provide free tutoring to students, helping them become more effective writers, from organizing and structuring a paper, to writing and proofreading it. Being able to write well is a useful skill in many situations, a skill worth honing.

Disability Policy:
Students with disabilities will be provided reasonable accommodations if they are determined eligible by the Office of Accessibility Services (OAS). Prior to granting disability accommodations in this course, the instructor must receive written verification of a student’s eligibility from the OAS. It is the student’s responsibility to initiate contact with that office and to follow the established procedures for having the accommodation notice sent to the instructor.

Friendly Expectations and Understandings:
1) Students are expected to attend class on time.
2) Students are expected to turn down their cellphone ringers down
3) Please do not eat during class meeting time.
4) Unless you receive prior approval from me, if you miss a presentation or a submission deadline you will receive a grade of 0 (zero) for that presentation or submission.

Week 1-
Introduction

Week 2 -
(a) Research Question, Hypothesis & Methodology (continued)
(b) Review of Course Requirements & Grading
(c) Team Set-Up

Week 3 -
(a) DISCUSSION: Abstract, Research Outline, and Literature Review
(b) STUDENT PRESENTATIONS: Research Questions & Hypothesis

Week 4 -
(a) DISCUSSION: Annotated Bibliography, References, Notes
(b) STUDENT PRESENTATIONS: Research Questions & Hypothesis

Week 5 -
(a) DISCUSSION: Policy & Quantitative Analyses
(b) STUDENT PRESENTATIONS: Research Questions & Hypothesis; Research Outline & Annotated Bibliography

**INDIVIDUAL RESEARCH QUESTIONS, HYPOTHESES, OUTLINES, & BRIEF ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHIES DUE TO PROFESSOR HOLDER ON SEPTEMBER 30TH!!**

Week 6-
(a) STUDENT PRESENTATIONS: Research Outline and Annotated Bibliography

Week 7 -
(a) STUDENT PRESENTATIONS: Research Outline and Annotated Bibliography

Week 8-
(a) DISCUSSION: Limitations and Critiques
(b) STUDENT CRITIQUES: Research Question, Hypothesis, Outline and Bibliography

Week 9-
(a) DISCUSSION: Conclusion & Discussion Sections in Papers
(b) STUDENT CRITIQUES: Research Question, Hypothesis, Outline and Bibliography

**ALL DRAFT HALF-PAPERS DUE TO PROFESSOR HOLDER ON NOVEMBER 1st!!**
Week 10 -  
(a) **STUDENT PRESENTATIONS** of draft half-papers

Week 11 -  
(a) **STUDENT CRITIQUES**: HALF-PAPERS

Week 12 -  
(a) **STUDENT CRITIQUES**: HALF-PAPERS

Week 13 - 
FINAL PAPER PRESENTATIONS

Week 14 -  
FINAL PAPER PRESENTATIONS

**ALL FINAL PAPERS DUE TO PROFESSOR HOLDER ON DECEMBER 18TH!!**