ECO 405:01 Seminar in Economics  
John Jay College of Criminal Justice-City University of New York  
Instructors: Professor Cathy Mulder  

Syllabus  
FALL 2021  
9.63.08

PLEASE NOTE: THE SYLLABUS IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE  
(I will explain to you in person on Thursday, August 26. 2021 why this class is a bit out of the ordinary)

Office: 9.63.08 NB, New York, NY 10019  
E-mail: cmulder@jjay.cuny.edu  
Phone: (212) 484-1309  
Office Hours: All office hours are online. Please message me via BB for a scheduled time.  
Class Meeting Time: This is a hybrid class, all of the classes are online,

Course Description:  
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 & written presentations. Students will engage in extensive peer review.

Instructional Objectives:  
1. Students will choose wisely among several topics for in-depth research  
2. Students will employ analytical and/or quantitative skills to research topics in economics  
3. Students will lead detailed discussions of economic topics  
4. Students will engage in peer-review  
5. Students will demonstrate professional presentation skills: production of clear visual aids, clear oral summaries and responsiveness to questions

Texts:  
All other readings and information will be on BlackBoard  
You can also get help with APA online at the library.

Attendance: Attendance is extremely important for this course; therefore, it will be taken at every class that is in session. To receive full credit for attendance, you must be at every assigned (even the 2 Thursday) class. If you miss 2 classes or 3, the most you will earn is 3.5% or 2% of the attendance grade respectively. If you miss 4 or more classes, you will fail the class. The official record is my class log. If you miss an assignment, you will receive no credit for it. If you miss your presentation and do not retain a substitute, you will receive a “0” for the assignment. Please note that only under extreme situations, with my prior approval, will there be any exception to this policy. So, please save your absences for when you are truly sick or cannot make it. THERE ARE NO MAKE-UPS FOR MISSED WORK, unless approved by me.

Grading:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Value</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attendance</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Essay</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Topic, Literature search and methodology</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>1st Draft</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Peer Review</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Paper Final Draft</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Presentation</td>
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**Essay: DUE SEPTEMBER 2, 2021**

Each student will write an essay and submit to BB. The essay should be about any issue you are extremely passionate about—music, baseball, dancing, family, homelessness, inequality, immigration, the military/war, even a stop sign or a pot hole on your street. Anything, and I really do mean anything! The first couple of paragraphs should introduce the subject and why it is your passion. This is not a novel or fiction, so the punch line goes right into the first 2 paragraphs. Then the next 3-6 paragraphs should explain your passion for this topic and what you can do to either help it, support it, or whatever. The last paragraphs should contain your assessment at making it better, go away or whatever (the conclusion).

Double spaced, 12 Times New Roman font. 1 inch margins, and don’t forget to put your name and page number on every page (use footers or headers). If you need help, there is a discussion board for that.

**NO LATE ASSIGNMENTS**

**Topic Etc: DUE SEPTEMBER 23, 2021**

We will be discussing this in class mostly. Be prepared to discuss what you think you’d like to write about for your final paper and why! (the “why” will be the most important questions).

**1st Draft: DUE October 7, 2021**

After a decision is made between you and me on the topic of your paper, you will begin writing it. It must contain an abstract, introduction, body (that has the literature search and your methodology in use). I would expect it to be 10-13 pages at least. Due Date: September 30, 2021

**Peer Review: Due October 21, 2021**

You will be divided into groups of 3 or 4. Each student is to read and comment on papers of the members of their groups. This is supposed to be helpful and with constructive criticism. You are to help your colleagues get A’s. Everyone can get an A in the class, it’s not curved. You can help with grammar, punctuation, context, order, whatever. The peer review is to help the student write a great paper (it’s not a competition). You will be graded on how well you help your colleague, so it’s in your best interest to help them out. You may even suggest an article, book, or movie/film. Whatever you can do to help him/her/they out. Each peer review should be at least 3 pages, double spaced, Times New Roman 12, 1 inch margins. You will each review 3 papers. Now don’t think you have to say “this is the best paper I ever read.” Indeed, that is not a review, be critical and constructive, help them out.

**Final Draft: Due November 16th:**

After adjusting your paper and having discussions with me (post peer review), your final paper is due. It should include everything discussed above and I will meet with you privately if that is preferred. Additionally, you can meet with your groups and/or the class prior to the due date to see what can be improved upon if anything.

**Presentations: Dates: November 30, December 2, December 7 and December 9th.**

Each student will give a 5-7 minute presentation on his/her/their paper. Hopefully we’ll have other professors and visitors in the audience. Power points are welcome, but really they are NOT necessary. Should you read your power point, points will be deducted. Power points are there for maps, graphs, or things like that—we can all read, so we won’t need you to read your presentation to us. If you want to practice, I recommend it highly especially with your group-mates.

**Late Assignments:**

- The will be very few if any excused late assignments—so please PLAN AHEAD. ALL of your assignments are to be submitted on BlackBoard, they will be time and date stamped—thus if you miss the deadline, for the first day (24 hours) you will be penalized 10%, the 2nd and 3rd days, an extra 5% each. You will receive no credit for assignments handed in after Day 3—you still should probably do the assignment this this class is cumulative, but you will receive no credit for it. So please, I know it’s hard, but try to anticipate feeling ill, having to work late, your computer crashing, losing internet service or whatever—and get the assignment done early—**leaving it to the last minute could have serious consequences.**
**Friendly Expectations**

- Students are expected to have read all the required assignments **PRIOR** to class. Footnotes typically have helpful information in them, so please read them.

- Class participation is strongly encouraged and may help to raise your grade.

- Students are expected to shut off cell phones and any electronic devices during class. Please make arrangements so that you have privacy like you would in class. I know things come up, but let me know. Texting is prohibited in class and you will be asked to leave and be counted absent for the class.

- If you should have a *documented* learning disability, please get me the paperwork as soon as possible. Please go to the Office of Accessibility Services. (See more below)

- Cheating, Plagiarism and any other form of student misconduct are unacceptable. Please see the college’s policies in the *John Jay College of Criminal Justice Undergraduate Bulletin*. If caught cheating or plagiarizing on any assignment, you will fail that particular assignment. If there is a second violation, you will fail the course. If you plagiarize the final research paper, you will fail the class. Plagiarism includes work you’ve completed for other classes, i.e., you are plagiarizing yourself. (See more below)

- Students are expected to come prepared for any presentation, and/or assignment. There will be **NO MAKE-UPs FOR MISSED WORK** unless approved by me.

- Any homework assignments should be typed and submitted to Blackboard in the appropriate place.

- Students are expected to come to contact me via BB messaging and to seek help from the writing center and/or classmates if they do not understand the material. See me immediately if you believe you are falling behind. Either I will help you or I will refer you to someone who can.

- My email address is: cmulder@jjay.cuny.edu, however, please only use the email if it’s an emergency. Most questions should either be posted to the appropriate discussion board, or you can send me a private message via the “communications” tab in BB. Please let me know if you are having any problems with the class, work schedules, personal issues, whatever; I will try my best to accommodate most requests/issues. Any information you provide to me will be held with the utmost confidentiality.

- Please be respectful of other people’s opinions. This class will address some “sensitive” topics and there is bound to be a variety of ideological slants with regard to them and that’s great!! However, while we do not have to agree with each other, let’s use this as a time to have an intellectual discussion/debate.

- Good Luck and let’s have a wonderful semester.

**Policies (Also see the first page of Blackboard)**

*Indeed, please go through all of BB so that you don’t miss anything.*

**Academic Integrity Policy**

For quick definitions of violations of academic integrity go to:


For the entire policy on academic integrity please the Undergraduate Bulletin or go to:


**Plagiarism Policy**

Plagiarism is the presentation of someone else’s ideas, words, or artistic, scientific, or technical work as one’s own creation. Using the ideas or work of another is permissible only when the original author is identified. Paraphrasing and summarizing, as well as direct quotations require citations to the original source. Plagiarism may be intentional or unintentional. Lack of dishonest intent does not necessarily absolve a student of
responsibility for plagiarism. It is the student’s responsibility to recognize the difference between statements that are common knowledge (which do not require documentation) and restatements of the ideas of others. Paraphrase, summary, and direct quotation are acceptable forms of restatement, as long as the source is cited. Students who are unsure how and when to provide documentation are advised to consult with their instructors. The Library has free guides designed to help students with problems of documentation.

The instructor reserves the right to use plagiarism detection software such as Turnitin.com and Blackboard’s SafeAssign.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Policies
Qualified students with disabilities will be provided reasonable academic accommodations if 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 which is located at L66 in the new building (212-237-8031). It is the student’s responsibility to initiate contact with the office and to follow the established procedures for having the accommodation notice sent to the instructor.

Incomplete Grade Policy
An Incomplete Grade will only be assigned in exceptional circumstances. See the College Bulletin for full details.

Extra Work Policy
No extra credit assignments will be available to any student at any time during or after this course. In exceptional circumstances students may receive substitute assignments at the discretion of the instructor.
Please be prepared for each class by completing the assignments and readings prior to posting. As events unfold in any society, there might be changes in this agenda. It is the responsibility of every participant to keep current with the assignments and changes to the agenda.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>When</th>
<th>What</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 2</td>
<td>Essay Due</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 23</td>
<td>Topic, etc Due</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 7</td>
<td>First Draft Due</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 21</td>
<td>Peer Review Due</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov. 16</td>
<td>Final Draft Due</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov. 30, Dec. 2, Dec. 7, and Dec. 9</td>
<td>Presentations by Group (Groups will be assigned) PLEASE NOTE THAT DEC. 2ND AND 9TH ARE ON THURSDAYS. PLEASE MAKE ARRANGEMENTS NOW TO BE THERE.</td>
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The Agenda is subject to change with prior announcement from the instructor.