



Instructor: Michael Davidsson
Office: Kelce Room # 110C
Hours: M&W 2:00pm to 5:00pm,
and Tuesdays 1:00pm-5:00pm.
Phone: 620 235-4592 (Economics Department 620 235-4547)
E-mail: mdavidsson@pittstate.edu

Textbook

Required:

1. Software: EViews Student Version

Recommended:

1. Text: *Using Econometrics: A Practical Guide* (Sixth edition, Addison-Wesley), by A. H. Studenmund.
2. Use of resources available on the internet and in the library.

Catalog Course Description

This is an independent study which serves as a capstone course in economics -- one that completes the course work for the major. Emphasis is placed on the integration of the tools and concepts of microeconomics, macroeconomics, monetary economics, and international economics.

Prerequisites

ECON 318 Intermediate Microeconomics, ECON 319 Intermediate Macroeconomics, ECON 650 Econometrics (you have a special exemption), and senior standing. May be taken for honors.

Course Objectives / Learning Outcomes

1. Develop skills necessary for critical evaluation of economic work.
2. Synthesizing or combining the theories, concepts, and policies studied in economics courses.
3. Conducting economic inquiry.
4. Present research work in a formal way.

The main output of this course is a major research paper demonstrating the student's knowledge of economic principles and concepts, and his/her ability to apply that knowledge scientifically. The final paper must be 10-20 double-spaced pages.

The following criteria will be used to evaluate each student's research paper:

1. Organization of problem statement, coverage of the relevant literature, and research documentation.
2. Application of the relevant tools, concepts, and theories of the discipline.
3. Empirical support and analysis.
4. Development of the thesis--topic coverage, proper sequencing of the material, and cohesiveness of the analysis.
5. Policy recommendations (if applicable).
6. Persuasiveness of the argument(s) and clarity of results.
7. Writing ability--grammar, syntax, clarity, conciseness, and interest.
8. Merit of the analysis applied to the problem under study and the conclusions reached.

Course Outline

August 2021	Submit topic proposal (less than one page with objectives and preliminary bibliography) and incomplete data file by Wednesday, August 31.
September 2021	Submit Introduction and Literature Review (4 to 5 pages) by Monday, September 19 th . Work on presentation - I will give you slide frames you can fill out if you need.
October 2021	Submit final Data Sources, Model and Methodology: 3 to 5 pages Monday, October 3 rd . Work on presentation - I will give you slide frames you can fill out if you need.
November 2021	Submit data and econometric tests, findings, conclusions and recommendations by Monday by November 7 th . Work on presentation - I will give you slide frames you can fill out if you need. Submit 8-minute slide presentation by Monday November 28 th to be presented later. In class eight minutes presentation of paper later in late November or early November on day per your preference.
December 2021	Submit final paper Friday December 9 th .

Teaching Methods

In this capstone course, emphasis will be placed on **independent thinking and independent work**. You are expected to use your previous learning to study any economic issue. There are no class sessions, except one formal class session in which you will present your study.

You are also expected to make good use of the resources available in the AXE library especially the Writing Center (for help with grammar, sentence structure, mechanics, etc.) and Reference (for research databases).

Organization of the Course:

Emphasis is on proper research methodology, the study of deductive reasoning, and the use of economic data and standard statistical techniques to estimate and analyze economic relationships. The student is required to have, and be familiar with, a computer statistical software package such as EViews, Minitab, or Excel.

THE INSTRUCTOR WILL PROVIDE EXAMPLES OF SPECIFIC TOPICS TO CHOOSE FROM. For example, economic issues related to the Kansas economy or the Midwest regional economy would be useful and relevant; data are also accessible.

STUDENTS WILL WRITE AN AD(O/A)PT-AND-UPDATE PAPER. The student must find ONE current empirical paper from an ECONOMICS or BUSINESS JOURNAL which is highly relevant and suited to his/her chosen topic. The student will adopt and adapt that study's original hypothesis and methodology, and then empirically test his/her revised model using past and/or current statistics. This approach has the advantage of a predetermined economic model and of helping the student through the statistical methodology.

Course Evaluation Methods

Letter grades will be assigned according to the standard scale.

A: 90%-100%, B: 80%-89%, C: 70%-79%, D: 60%-69%, F: below 60%
Extra credit will NOT be available in this class.

Note: The instructor reserves the right to amend and to reorganize this syllabus at any time.