

## Economics 9413 Research Workshop 2

Spring 2012

**Instructor:** Shawn Ni, Professional Building 329

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**Office Hours:** F 10:00-11:30am

**Meeting Time:** F 1:00-3:30 p.m.

**Room:** MIDDLEBUSH HALL 211, although this is subject to change on days when class does not occur at the normal time.

**Overview:** This course is part of a two-year sequence for PhD students. For the third year PhD students, this is the second semester. For the fourth year PhD students, this is the fourth semester. The general purpose of this sequence is to introduce to you the practice of conducting scholarly economic research. This will be accomplished by going through the process of selecting a broad topic area, identifying the relevant literature, finding an unresolved problem in the literature, structuring a test to resolve the problem, and finally communicating your results through research papers and oral presentations.

The presentations are judged by organization, slides, and handling of questions. Written assignments are graded by originality in ideas, clarity in writing, and accuracy in substance. Grades will be assigned on a plus/minus basis.

The third year and fourth year students will follow different plans.

The third year students in this semester are expected to start conducting independent research. In the last fall, you wrote a technical report and made a presentation on a primary paper of your choice. In this semester you will write and present a draft of your own research paper after conducting literature review and independent research related to the primary paper. A reasonable strategy is to modify the numerical methodologies in the primary paper and apply it to a data set. You will have time to revise the research paper in the next semester. The meeting schedule for the third year students will be handed out in the first meeting of the semester.

### **Course requirements for the third year PhD students:**

- (1) write a preliminary draft of research paper that contains literature review and your independent research related to the primary paper,
  - (2) present your literature review in class,
  - (3) present a preliminary version of your research paper in class.
  - (4) attend department seminar and arranged presentations of the fourth year students.
- Presentation of literature review will be in March. You will have 30 minutes for your presentation. Presentation of your research paper will be during the last three weeks of the semester. You will have 45 minutes for your presentation, and 15-20 minutes will be available

for questions.

**Evaluation of the third year students:**

Your grade this semester is based on grades in four areas according to the following structure:

Presentation of literature review	20 points
Research paper	30 points
Presentation of research paper	30 points
Class participation and seminar attendance	20 points

**Course requirements for the fourth year PhD students:**

The fourth year students are expected to complete a working paper that may serve as a chapter of the dissertation. Students will be given opportunities to present the paper in class. The plan for the fourth year students will be designed individually, depending on the progress made by the student since last semester. But all fourth year students are expected to complete and present a research paper in this semester. You may choose to make more than one presentation during the semester.

**Evaluation of the fourth year students:**

Your grade this semester is based on grades in three areas according to the following structure:

Research paper	50 points
Presentation of research paper	30 points
Seminar attendance, class participation	20 points

Presentation of the final paper for the fourth year students will be scheduled in late March to mid April. You will have 45 minutes for your presentation, and 15-30 minutes will be available for answering questions. The presentation will be similar to a job seminar.

**Departmental Seminars:** Students are required to attend four departmental seminars during the semester. These must be seminars organized by the Department of Economics in which faculty from MU or elsewhere, or applicants for MU faculty positions who are presenting papers. Seminars organized by other departments (e.g., finance, agricultural economics), and student seminars do *not* meet this requirement. When you attend a seminar, it is your responsibility to sign a sheet indicating your attendance. If you have a conflict that prevents you from attending four seminars, it may be possible to substitute attendance at a Department of Economics Brown Bag presentation, but it will be necessary to attend two such presentations to substitute for one regular departmental seminar. Please contact me if you need to do this. Seminars are usually on Thursdays or Fridays. A preliminary seminar schedule is available on the Department of Economics website. Be aware that not all seminars may be listed in the current schedule; seminars may be added later in the semester, and other changes may occur as well. Finally, let me note that if you discover a faculty seminar given by another department that is directly relevant for your work, it may be possible to substitute attendance at this seminar for attendance at an economics department seminar. To do so, please obtain my permission in advance.

## **University Polices**

### **STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:**

If you anticipate barriers related to the format or requirements of this course, if you have emergency medical information to share with me, or if you need to make arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please let me know as soon as possible.

If disability related accommodations are necessary (for example, a note taker, extended time on exams, captioning), please register with the Office of Disability Services (<http://disabilityservices.missouri.edu>), S5 Memorial Union, 882-4696, and then notify me of your eligibility for reasonable accommodations. For other MU resources for students with disabilities, click on "Disability Resources" on the MU homepage.

### **THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS EXAM ACCOMMODATION PROCEDURE FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:**

1. A disabled student who wants accommodations for an exam in Economics course must present the course instructor with a Letter of Accommodation from the Office of Disability Services (ODS) that documents the accommodations the student is entitled to receive. This should be done as early in the semester as possible.
2. For each accommodated exam, the student should bring the course instructor an Adaptive Examination Request Form from ODS. The course instructor is not required to accept such a request unless the student has first provided you with a Letter of Accommodation. ODS policies require that this form be provided to you at least 7 business days in advance for hourly examinations and by Thanksgiving Break (Spring Break) for fall (spring) final examinations.
3. The student section of the form must be properly filled out (including consistency with the Letter of Accommodation regarding the accommodations) and signed by the student. The course instructor must fill out the instructor portion including a note in the SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS box and sign the form.
4. The white and pink copies of the form are given back to the student and the student must submit the white copy to ODS.

### **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY**

Academic integrity is fundamental to the activities and principles of a university. All members of the academic community must be confident that each person's work has been responsibly and honorably acquired, developed, and presented. Any effort to gain an advantage not given to all students is dishonest whether or not the effort is successful. The academic community regards breaches of the academic integrity rules as extremely serious matters. Sanctions for such a breach may include academic sanctions from the instructor, including failing the course for any violation, to disciplinary sanctions ranging from probation to expulsion. When in doubt about plagiarism, paraphrasing, quoting, collaboration, or any other form of cheating, consult the course instructor.

Academic Dishonesty includes but is not necessarily limited to the following:

- A. Cheating or knowingly assisting another student in committing an act of cheating or other academic dishonesty.
- B. Plagiarism which includes but is not necessarily limited to submitting examinations, themes, reports, drawings, laboratory notes, or other material as one's own work when such work has been prepared by another person or copied from another person.
- C. Unauthorized possession of examinations or reserve library materials, or laboratory materials or experiments, or any other similar actions.
- D. Unauthorized changing of grades or markings on an examination or in an instructor's grade book or such change of any grade report.

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY PLEDGE:** *"I strive to uphold the University values of respect, responsibility, discovery, and excellence. On my honor, I pledge that I have neither given nor received unauthorized assistance on this work."* Students are expected to adhere to this pledge on all graded work whether or not they are explicitly asked in advance to do so.

The University has specific academic dishonesty administrative procedures. Although policy states that cases of academic dishonesty must be reported to the Office of the Provost for possible action, the instructor may assign a failing grade for the assignment or a failing grade for the course, or may adjust the grade as deemed appropriate. The instructor also may require the student to repeat the assignment or to perform additional assignments. In instances where academic integrity is in question, faculty, staff and students should refer to Article VI of the Faculty Handbook. Article VI is also available in the M-Book. Article VI provides further information regarding the process by which violations are handled and sets forth a standard of excellence in our community.

#### **INTELLECTUAL PLURALISM STATEMENT**

The University community welcomes intellectual diversity and respects student rights. Students who have questions or concerns regarding the atmosphere in this class (including respect for diverse opinions) may contact the Departmental Chair or Divisional Director; the Director of the Office of Students Rights and Responsibilities (<http://osrr.missouri.edu/>); or the MU Equity Office (<http://equity.missouri.edu/>), or by email at [equity@missouri.edu](mailto:equity@missouri.edu). All students will have the opportunity to submit an anonymous evaluation of the instructor(s) at the end of the course.