

## Syllabus - Spring, 2024

### Course and Instructor Information

**Course Title:** Seminar in Economics

**Credits:** 3

**Format:** In-person

**Prerequisites:** ECON 2201 or 2211Q; 2202 or 2212Q; ENGL 1010 or 1011 or 2011.

**Professor:** Metin Cosgel

**Email:** [Metin.Cosgel@UConn.edu](mailto:Metin.Cosgel@UConn.edu)

**Web:** [www.cosgel.uconn.edu](http://www.cosgel.uconn.edu)

**Office Hours:** 10-10:45 am on Thursdays, and by appointment..

### Course Materials

Course readings and media will be made available by email or within HuskyCT, including links to documents that will serve as guides to scholarly sources and citation styles in economics. However, this is a W course, and we will spend a lot of time talking about -- and practicing -- writing. If you don't already own a good guide to research and writing, I recommend the following:

[\*Sin and Syntax: How to Craft Wicked Good Prose\*](#) by Constance Hale.

[\*Economical Writing\*](#) by Deirdre McCloskey.

[\*The Little Book of Research Writing\*](#) by Varanya Chaubey.

### Course Description

Special topics in micro – and macroeconomic theory, applications, and testing. Recommended for capable students who are motivated to develop and extend their knowledge of economics in creative ways. Required for Honors Scholars in Economics and Economics Scholars.

### Course Objectives

This course will not try to teach any particular body of substantive economics. Rather, it aims at preparing students to write a senior thesis in economics. It does this by providing practice in the writing of economics and by surveying the field through the eyes of various UConn economics faculty members. A representative number of faculty members will meet with us to discuss some aspect of their own research, allowing students a glimpse of what professional economists do and also helping students to choose a topic and an advisor for the thesis.

The overall objectives of the course, then, are three: (1) to give you a taste of what professional economists do and how they do it; (2) to make you a better writer; and -- perhaps most importantly -- (3) to challenge you with new ideas and to provoke you to think in new ways.

### Course Requirements and Grading

The following is a brief description of course requirements and grading. See HuskyCT for the course schedule, further guidelines, grading rubrics, and deadlines.

### Summary of Course Grading:

Course Components	Weight
Peer Feedback	20
Research Paper, First Draft	20
Presentation	20
Discussion	20
Research Paper, Final Draft	20

### Research Paper

The research paper is key to your reflection process as a learner. You will be asked to submit successive drafts of a research paper based on a topic of your choice.

### Peer Feedback

Feedback and revision are important parts of the writing process. You will be asked to submit an anonymous writing assignment and give anonymous feedback on 3 of your colleagues's submissions (via the Peer-Assessment assignment in HuskyCT). You will be graded for the quality of both your submission and the feedback.

### Presentation

The presentation of research papers is an opportunity to share your ideas with fellow students in the class and to receive their comments and suggestions for improvement. You will be graded for the quality of your presentation slides.

### Discussion Forum

Discussions are an opportunity to put your ideas in writing and to communicate and learn from fellow students. You will post entries in a discussion forum in HuskyCT to exchange ideas on your research projects and to comment on presentations by faculty and peers.

### Grading Scale:

Grade	Letter Grade	GPA
95+	A	4.0
90+	A-	3.7
85+	B+	3.3
80+	B	3.0
78+	B-	2.7
75+	C+	2.3
70+	C	2.0
68+	C-	1.7
65+	D+	1.3
60+	D	1.0
55+	D-	0.7

<55	F	0.0
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### **Due Dates and Late Policy**

It is important to submit your assignments on time so that you can receive meaningful feedback from me. Discussion Forums in particular require that you submit your posts by the due dates so that you and your peers can participate in a dialogue about the topics we cover.

All course due dates are identified in HuskyCT. Late submissions will lose a significant portion of the available points past the due date, as specified in the grading rubrics (available in HuskyCT). *The instructor reserves the right to change dates accordingly as the semester progresses. All changes will be communicated in an appropriate manner.*

### **Feedback and Grades**

I will make every effort to provide feedback and grades in a timely manner. To keep track of your performance in the course, refer to My Grades in HuskyCT.

## **Student Responsibilities and Resources**

As a member of the University of Connecticut student community, you are held to certain standards and academic policies. In addition, there are numerous resources available to help you succeed in your academic work. Review these important [standards, policies and resources](#), which include:

- The Student Code
  - Academic Integrity
  - Resources on Avoiding Cheating and Plagiarism
- Copyrighted Materials
- Netiquette and Communication
- Adding or Dropping a Course
- Academic Calendar
- Policy Against Discrimination, Harassment and Inappropriate Romantic Relationships
- Sexual Assault Reporting Policy

### **Students with Disabilities**

The University of Connecticut is committed to protecting the rights of individuals with disabilities and assuring that the learning environment is accessible. If you anticipate or experience physical or academic barriers based on disability or pregnancy, please let us know immediately so that we can discuss options. Students who require accommodations should contact the Center for Students with Disabilities, Wilbur Cross Building Room 204, (860) 486-2020 or <http://csd.uconn.edu/>.

Blackboard measures and evaluates accessibility using two sets of standards: the WCAG 2.0 standards issued by the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) and Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act issued in the United States federal government.” (Retrieved March 24, 2013 from [Blackboard's website](#))

### **Software Requirements**

The software/technical requirements for this course include:

- HuskyCT/Blackboard ([HuskyCT/ Blackboard Accessibility Statement](#), [HuskyCT/ Blackboard Privacy Policy](#))
- [Adobe Acrobat Reader](#) ([Adobe Reader Accessibility Statement](#), [Adobe Reader Privacy Policy](#))
- Google Apps ([Google Apps @ UConn Accessibility](#), [Google for Education Privacy Policy](#))
- Microsoft Office (free to UConn students through [uconn.onthehub.com](http://uconn.onthehub.com)) ([Microsoft Accessibility Statement](#), [Microsoft Privacy Statement](#))

- Dedicated access to high-speed internet with a minimum speed of 1.5 Mbps (4 Mbps or higher is recommended).

## Help

[Technical and Academic Help](#) provides a guide to technical and academic assistance.

This course is completely facilitated online using the learning management platform, [HuskyCT](#). If you have difficulty accessing HuskyCT, you have access to the in person/live person support options available during regular business hours through [HuskyTech](#). You also have [24x7 Course Support](#) including access to live chat, phone, and support documents.

## Minimum Technical Skills

To be successful in this course, you will need the following technical skills:

- Use electronic mail with attachments.
- Save files in commonly used word processing program formats.
- Copy and paste text, graphics or hyperlinks.
- Work within two or more browser windows simultaneously.
- Open and access PDF files.

University students are expected to demonstrate competency in Computer Technology. Explore the [Computer Technology Competencies](#) page for more information.

## Evaluation of the Course

Students will be provided an opportunity to evaluate instruction in this course using the University's standard procedures, which are administered by the [Office of Institutional Research and Effectiveness](#) (OIRE).

Additional informal formative surveys may also be administered within the course as an optional evaluation tool.