ECON 4200: SENIOR SEMINAR – Fall 2015
Friday 381  11:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. TR

INSTRUCTOR:  Peter Schwarz, Professor of Economics and Public Policy, and Senior Faculty Associate, EPIC (Energy Production and Infrastructure Center), UNC Charlotte, and Visiting Professorship, China University of Mining and Technology

OFFICE:  Friday 223A  OFFICE HOURS:  TR 9:30 – 10:30 a.m; 1-1:30 pm or by appointment.
OFFICE PHONE:  704.687.7614  EMAIL: pschwarz@uncc.edu
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Moodle2:  Grades, announcements, discussion board, email

Catalog Course Description
An integrative capstone course for the economics major that should normally be taken during the student’s last semester of study. The primary objective is to provide a framework in which senior economics majors can review and solidify their understanding of economic concepts by applying those concepts to specific economic issues. Topics vary. Analytical ability and written and oral communication skills are assessed.

Course Prerequisites
ECON 3112 (Econometrics), ECON 3122 (Intermediate Microeconomics), ECON 3123 (Intermediate Macroeconomics), Economics Major, Senior Standing

Course Objective
The objective of the Senior Seminar course is to help you continue developing your analytical ability and your written and oral communication skills. This objective can be accomplished while studying any number of topics. Our topic for this offering of the Senior Seminar course is Energy Economics.

Textbook
I have the publisher’s approval to make available draft chapters of my text under contract with Routledge, Energy Economics.

Determination of Grades
Course grades will be determined by your performance on three tests, one regression project, one paper, and one oral presentation. These components will have the following weights in the calculation of your final grade: 20% for each of the three tests, 10% for the regression project, 20% for the paper, and 10% for the oral presentation. Each of the three tests will consist of discussion questions. The third test will be given at 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday Dec. 15 (the final examination slot assigned for this course).

Paper
Each paper must be typed. Handwritten papers will NOT be accepted. You must double space your papers using a 12-point font and one-inch margins. I will assign the topic for the paper that you have to write. I will give additional instructions at the time I make the paper assignment.

Oral Presentation
Each oral presentation will be no more than 15 minutes long and will require you to summarize your paper.

Regression Project
I will assign the topic for the short paper that will include analysis of data. I will provide the data. I will give additional instructions at the time I make the regression project assignment.
The standards and requirements set forth in this syllabus may be modified at any time by the course instructor. Notice of such changes will be by announcement in class and by email.

Outline of Topics and Reading Assignments

A. Theory
I. Energy Overview (Week 1—T Aug. 25, R Aug. 27) Chapter 1

II. Energy, Environment, and Sustainability (Week 2—T Sep. 1, R Sep. 3) Chapter 2

   Labor Day (Week 3 M Sep. 7)

III. Static Efficiency (Week 3 – T Sep. 8, R Sep. 10) Chapter 3

IV. Dynamic Efficiency (Week 4 – T Sep. 15, R Sep. 17) Chapter 4

   (Week 5) Review for Exam 1 – Chapters 1-4 (T Sep. 22); EXAM 1 (R Sep. 24)

B. Conventional Energy Sources
V. Oil (Week 6 – T Sep. 29, R Oct. 1) Chapter 5

VI. Natural Gas (Week 7 – T Oct. 6, R Oct. 8) Chapter 6

   Fall Break (M, T Oct. 12, 13; No class T Oct. 13).

VII. Coal (Week 8 – R – Oct. 15) Chapter 7

VIII. Nuclear Energy (Week 9 – T Oct. 20, R Oct. 22) Chapter 8

   The last day to withdraw from courses with grades of W is T, Oct. 27.

There will be no class meeting on T, Oct. 27. I will be attending the North American Conference of the International Association for Energy Economics. If you need to discuss the possibility of withdrawing from the class with me, make sure to do so on or before R Oct. 22.

   (Week 10) EXAM 2 – Chapters 5-8 (R Oct. 29)
C. Alternative Energy Sources
IX. Energy Conservation and Efficiency (Week 11 – T Nov. 3, R Nov. 5)
   Chapter 9

T Nov. 3 Energy paper assigned (Due R Dec. 3), class presentation assigned (Due R, Dec. 3, T Dec. 8)
R Nov. 5 Regression Project assigned (Due R Nov. 19)

X. Alternative Fuels (Week 12 – T Nov. 10, R Nov. 12)
   Chapter 12

D. Additional Topics
XI. Energy Sustainability (Week 13 – T Nov. 17)
   Chapter 16

XII. Electricity (Weeks 13, 14 – R Nov. 19, T Nov. 24)
    Chapters 10, 11

Thanksgiving Nov. 25-29 (No class R Nov. 26)

E. Summing Up
XIII. Comprehensive Energy Policy (Week 15, T Dec. 1)
      Chapter 17

Class presentations (Weeks 15, 16, R Dec. 3, T Dec. 8)

   W Dec. 9: Last Day of Classes; R Dec. 10: Reading Day

   FINAL EXAM: T Dec. 15 11:00 am-1:30 pm (Chapters 10, 11, 12, 16, 17)

Academic Integrity
Students are required to abide by the UNC Charlotte Code of Student Academic Integrity. Violations of the Code will result in disciplinary action as provided in the Code. The Code is available from the Dean of Students Office or online at http://www.legal.uncc.edu/policies/ps-105.html.

Disability Accommodations
UNC Charlotte is committed to access to education. If you have a disability and need academic accommodations, please provide a letter of accommodation from the Office of Disability Services early in the semester. For more information about accommodations, you may contact the Office of Disability Services at 704-687-0040 or visit the Office of Disability Services itself in Fretwell 230.

The Belk College of Business Diversity Statement
The Belk College of Business strives to create an inclusive academic climate in which the dignity of all individuals is respected and maintained. Therefore, we celebrate diversity that includes, but is not limited to ability/disability, age, culture, ethnicity, gender, language, race, religion, sexual orientation, and socio-economic status.