

WELCOME TO SENIOR SEMINAR ECON 4200 – STUDENT DEBT

INSTRUCTOR

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Office Hours
Tu noon – 3 pm
and by appointment

OVERVIEW

Senior Seminar is the capstone course for economics majors. It is your opportunity to apply the theories and ideas you've learned to a new area of study. A seminar is fundamentally different from the other courses you have taken. You are required to prepare for each day's class so that you can participate in discussions. The objective of the Senior Seminar course is to help you continue developing your analytical ability and your communication skills.

A seminar is a collaborative undertaking, so the success of the course depends on your full commitment to prepare and participate in the course. This semester we will be undertaking a robust consideration of the problem of student debt from higher education in the US. While you may have a personal connection to the topic, we will be looking at student debt from a more analytical perspective.

An important part of your work will develop problem-solving skills, including the ability to:

- identify resources and leverage them to your benefit,
- identify your knowledge gaps and fill them, and
- evaluate the proposed solution for its correctness and relevance to the problem.

COURSE PREREQUISITES

To take this course, you must have declared an Economics major and have achieved Senior standing. You also must have earned a grade of C or higher in ECON 3112 (Econometrics), ECON 3122 (Intermediate Microeconomics), and ECON 3123 (Intermediate Macroeconomics).

COURSE MATERIALS

This course uses Canvas for assignments and class communications. There is no required text for this course. You are encouraged to study Strunk and White's Elements of Style.

COURSE ACTIVITIES

Much of the learning in a seminar takes place in the classroom. Each Thursday, you will be given the assignments for the upcoming week. Completing the work before the class meeting will allow you to contribute to the class discussion and to work effectively with your colleagues.

Sometimes there will be a joint discussion during the class period. For example, you might be given 10 minutes to research the unique characteristics of a seminar course with a class discussion to follow. On other classes, you might be working on editing another group's written work or discussion how to improve the analysis in your paper. On other occasions, we may have a guest speaker or a class exercise.

GRADES

Graded Work: There will be three graded events.

1. There will be three panel discussions per class, each day from February 21 – 28. One group will be the panelist and a selected member of a second group will be the moderator. Only the panelists are graded on a 100-point basis. This is an interim report on your research project.
2. Each group will make a formal presentation of their research findings from April 18 – April 25. The content of the presentation will count 100 points and the materials and speaking skills of the group will count 50 points.
3. A Wikipedia-like report on your topic is due on 25 April. It will be graded 100 points for content and 50 points for writing and presentation.

Attendance: In a seminar course, attendance is essential. You will be allowed 3 absences for any reason. Coming to class after the roll has been taken will count as 0.5 absences. Plan your schedule accordingly. Attendance counts beginning January 17 to accommodate anyone who adds the class late.

Grades will be adjusted according to the following scale:

Number of Absences	Course Grade Penalty
0 – 3	None
4 – 5	1 letter grade
6 – 7	2 letter grades
8 or more	Course grade of F

Course Grades: Final grades will be assigned according to the following scale:

A	B	C	D	F
90% or higher	80 – 89%	70 – 79%	60 – 69%	Less than 60%

THE FINE PRINT: UNIVERSITY POLICIES

It is your responsibility to be fully and accurately informed of University policies, including, but not limited to, rules regarding dropping and adding courses, graduation requirements, and student conduct. The Dean of Students Office is the authoritative source for these policies.

The UNC Charlotte Code of Student Academic Integrity will be actively enforced in this course. The code forbids cheating, fabricating or falsifying information, submitting academic work for multiple requirements, plagiarizing, abusing academic materials, and complicity in academic dishonesty. Be sure you know the meaning of these terms. "I didn't think THAT was plagiarizing." is not an acceptable defense. Any special requirements or permissions regarding academic integrity will be stated by the instructor and are binding. You are expected to report cases of academic dishonesty to the course instructor.

If you have a disability that affects your ability to do the work in this course, please contact the Office of Disability Services to obtain a Letter of Accommodation. The office is 230 Fretwell; phone 7-4355.

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.

MORE FINE PRINT: CATALOG COURSE DESCRIPTION

Senior Seminar is an integrative capstone course for the economics major that should normally be taken during the student's penultimate or 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.