Syllabus

University of Oklahoma

Department of Economics

ECON 4983-001: Economics as Social Science

**Spring 2021**

**Professor:** Dr. Chunbei Wang

**Email:** chunbei.wang@ou.edu

**Course Meeting:** TR 1:00 pm – 2:15 pm

Zoom Meeting ID: 919 6053 8687

Passcode: 91775082

<https://oklahoma.zoom.us/j/91960538687?pwd=V2hDN042OGtnSnVJdHVCcE5OTzRxUT09>

**Office Hours:** TR 3:00 pm – 4:00 pm, or by appointment.

Zoom Meeting ID: 984 7350 3544

Passcode: 04555625

<https://oklahoma.zoom.us/j/98473503544?pwd=aFZNdmp4bTNlMlBQSENrVndVWVNCZz09>

**Learning Management System:** canvas.ou.edu

**Course Prerequisite:** Senior status, Economics major

**Course Description:**

This is a seminar-style capstone course for economics seniors, and **mainly takes the form of presentations, discussions, and writings**. The course consists of 2 parts.

* In the first part, you will be introduced to six hot topics related to behavior and social issues using Economic theories and Economics literature. During this process, you become familiar with how Economics can be applied to analyze social issues, Economics writing styles, and what is expected in a literature review paper. Two short papers are expected as practice writing assignments.
* In the second part, we will concentrate on making progress toward the final research paper – a literature review paper on a topic of your interest.

**Course Goals:**

The goal of this course is to showcase how to utilize economics knowledge to analyze various social issues and how to gain first-hand knowledge on scientific research. Since this is a capstone seminar course, it is not about lecturing new theories or methods, but about how to make use of what you have already learned in the economics major and to transition yourself into an independent learner. During this process, you will also hone your oral and written communication skills via regular in-class discussions, presentations, and writing practices.

**Learning Outcomes:**

* Reinforce the ability to apply economic theories and methods to analyze various social issues.
* Collect and synthesize academic literature to answer a question.
* Deepen the understanding of economic concepts and theories through oral and written communications.
* Enhance discussion and presentation skills.

**Required Book:** **Predictably Irrational,** **Revised and Expanded Edition**: The Hidden Forces That Shape Our Decisions.

Author(s):  [Dan Ariely](https://www.amazon.com/Dan-Ariely/e/B001J93B34/ref=dp_byline_cont_book_1) Edition: **revised and expanded edition**

ISBN-10: 0061353248                ISBN-13: 978-0061353246

**Supplemental Readings:**

Supplemental readings will be provided on Canvas throughout the semester.

**Requirements and Grading:**

The course requirements include in-class discussions, discussion reports, attendance, Kahoot games, short papers, presentations, and a research paper. The weights in the final grade are assigned as follows:

In-class discussions 15%

Discussion reports 15%

Attendance 5%

Kahoot games Extra Credits Short papers 20%

Presentations 10%

Research paper 35%

Letter Grade Criteria

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| A | 90-100 | B | 80-89 | C | 70-79 | D | 60-69 | F <60 |

1. *In-class discussions (15%)*

Discussion is a skill that can be developed/sharpened through practice, and this class aims to offer plenty of opportunities for such practice. Grading will be based on willingness and readiness to participate and contributions to the discussions.

1. *Discussion report (15%)*

**To facilitate classroom discussions**, you will be provided with a discussion report with a few questions to answer. You will type up the answers and submit on Canvas before class, and be ready to discuss them in class. Your lowest 2 grades will be dropped.

1. *Attendance (5%)*

Attendance will be taken regularly. You may miss up to 3 classes (for example, because of internet issues) without penalty. If you **never miss** a class, you will receive **5 points of extra credits** toward your attendance grade. If you **miss only 1 class,** you receive **3 points** of extra credits.

1. *Kahoot Games (Extra Credit)*

Kahoot games will be played every time we have a journal article reading. The days are listed on the schedule in the last page of the syllabus.

For each game, those who rank top 3 will receive 4 points of extra credit toward one of the course requirements, those who rank top 4-6 will receive 3 points, and those who answer at least 70% of the questions correctly will receive 2 points.

1. *Short Papers (20%)*

You will write two short papers to practice how to write a literature review paper. The first short paper is due after we finish the first three topics (Irrational behavior, Immigration, and Automation). You choose one of the three topics, come up with a question to which you want to find the answer, find references closely related to that question, and write a short literature review to answer your question. The second short paper is due after we finish the next three topics (Discrimination, COVID pandemic, and Legalization of Marijuana). Again you choose one of these three topics to write a short literature review.

The short papers should be about 2 pages in main text (excluding references, figures, or tables), in Times New Roman font 12, double spaced. They should include at least 6 references, a paragraph of introduction that describes the research question of interest, three to four paragraphs of literature review synthesizing the literature, and one paragraph of conclusion.

You may choose to work with ONE partner, in which case the paper should be about 3 pages long in main text.

1. *Presentations (10%)*

You will be asked to present your research a few times. These presentations will be graded based on preparation, slides, and presentation styles.

1. *Research Paper (35%)*

The research paper should be about 15 pages in main text (excluding references, figures, or tables), in Times New Roman font 12, double spaced. It should be a literature survey paper of a topic of your interest and discuss and synthesize at least 15 journal articles closely related to that topic.

You may choose to work with ONE partner, in which case the paper should be about 23 pages long in main text, with at least 20 journal articles in the references.

**Course Policies**

**Zoom Policy:**

Please start video and mute yourself when you join the class. Please be respectful to your fellow classmates and listen attentively when others talk or present.

**Extra Credit Policy:**

Extra credit opportunities, if provided, are available to all students to ensure fairness. *Individual* requests of extra credit opportunities will be denied.

**Changes in the syllabus**

The instructor reserves the right to make changes to the syllabus if desirable or necessary, and will inform you via email and in class.

**University Policies**

**Academic Integrity:**

All students are expected to conform to college-level standards of ethics, academic integrity, and academic honesty. By enrolling in this course, you agree to be bound by the Academic Misconduct Code published in The University of Oklahoma Student Code (www.ou.edu/studentcode/OUStudentCode.pdf). For further clarification please see: [www.ou.edu/provost/integrity-rights/](http://www.ou.edu/provost/integrity-rights/).

All members of the community recognize the necessity of being honest with themselves and with others. Cheating in class, plagiarizing, lying and employing other modes of deceit diminish the integrity of the educational experience. None of these should be used as a strategy to obtain a false sense of success. The need for honest relations among all members of the community is essential.

**Religious Observance:**

It is the policy of the University to excuse the absences of students that result from religious observances and to reschedule examinations and additional required classwork that may fall on religious holidays, without penalty.

**Reasonable Accommodation Policy:**

Students requiring academic accommodation should contact the Disability Resource Center for assistance at (405) 325-3852 or TDD: (405) 325-4173. For more information please see the Disability Resource Center website <http://www.ou.edu/drc/home.html>

Any student in this course who has a disability that may prevent him or her from fully demonstrating his or her abilities should contact me personally as soon as possible so we can discuss accommodations necessary to ensure full participation and facilitate your educational opportunities.

**Title IX Resources and Reporting Requirement:**

For any concerns regarding gender-based discrimination, sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating/domestic violence, or stalking, the University offers a variety of resources. To learn more or to report an incident, please contact the Sexual Misconduct Office at 405/325-2215 (8 to 5, M-F) or [smo@ou.edu](mailto:smo@ou.edu). Incidents can also be reported confidentially to OU Advocates at 405/615-0013.

**Readings:**

1. **Irrational Behavior**

Ariely: Predictably Irrational, Revised and Expanded Edition: The Hidden Forces That Shape Our Decisions

Chapter 1: The Truth about Relativity

Chapter 2: The Fallacy of Supply and Demand

Chapter 3: The Cost of Zero Cost

Chapter 4: The Cost of Social Norms

Furnham, Adrian and Hua Chu Boo (2011) “A literature review of the anchoring effect,” The journal of Socio-Economics, 40: 35-42.

1. **Immigration**

Peri, Giovanni. (2016). “Immigrants, Productivity, and Labor Markets.” Journal of Economic Perspectives. 30(4): 3-30.

1. **Automation**

Autor, David H. (2015) “Why Are There Still So Many Jobs? The History and Future of Workplace Automation.” Journal of Economic Perspectives. 29(3): 3-30

1. **Discrimination**

Neumark, David (2018) “Experimental Research on Labor Market Discrimination.” Journal of Economic Literature. 56(3): 799-866.

1. **COVID Pandemic**

Find a paper of your interest that is related to this topic and that is published in an Economics journal. Be prepared to share in class.

1. **Legalization of Marijuana**

Find a paper of your interest that is related to this topic and published in an Economics journal. Be prepared to share in class.

**Tentative Course Schedule**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Week** | **Date** | **Topic/Readings** | **Assignment** |
| 1 | Jan 26 T | Syllabus |  |
| Jan 28 Th | Introduction and Research Tools |  |
| **I. Irrational Behavior** | | | |
| 2 | Feb 2 T | Ariely – Ch 1 | Discussion report 1 |
| Feb 4 Th | Ariely – Ch 2~4 | Discussion report 2 |
| 3 | Feb 9 T | Furnham and Boo (2011) **Kahoot Game 1** | Discussion report 3 |
| **II. Immigration** | | | |
| 3 | Feb 11 Th | Overview |  |
| 4 | Feb 16 T | Peri (2016) **Kahoot Game 2** | Discussion report 4 |
| **III. Automation** | | | |
| 4 | Feb 18 Th | Overview |  |
| 5 | Feb 23 T | Autor (2015) **Kahoot Game 3** | Discussion report 5 |
| Feb 25 Th | Research Day - No Class Meeting (I'll be on Zoom for questions) |  |
| 6 | Mar 2 T | Present your research | Short Paper 1 Due |
| Mar 4 Th | Present your research |  |
| **IV. Discrimination** | | | |
| 7 | Mar 9 T | Overview |  |
| Mar 11 Th | Discuss Neumark (2018) **Kahoot Game 4** | Discussion report 6 |
| **V. COVID Pandemic** | | | |
| 8 | Mar 16 T | Overview |  |
| Mar 18 Th | Find a paper on this topic and share in class | Discussion report 7 |
| **VI. Legalization of Marijuana** | | | |
| 9 | Mar 23 T | Overview |  |
| Mar 25 Th | Find a paper on this topic and share in class | Discussion report 8 |
| 10 | Mar 30 T | Research Day - No Class Meeting (I'll be on Zoom for questions) |  |
| Apr 1 Th | Present your research | Short Paper 2 Due |
| 11 | Apr 6 T | No Class - University Non-Instructional Day |  |
| Apr 8 Th | Present your research |  |
| **Progress toward Final Paper** | | | |
| 12 | Apr 13 T | Present Research Outline | Outline Due |
| Apr 15 Th | Present Research Outline |  |
| 13 | Apr 20 T | Present First Draft | First Draft Due |
| Apr 22 Th | Present First Draft |  |
| 14 | Apr 27 T | Research Day - No Class Meeting (I'll be on Zoom for questions) |  |
| Apr 29 Th | Research Day - No Class Meeting (I'll be on Zoom for questions) |  |
| 15 | May 4 T | Present Research Paper | Final Draft Due |
| May 6 Th | Present Research Paper |  |

**Zoom Invitation**

Chunbei Wang is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: ECON4983 Zoom Meeting

Time: Jan 26, 2021 01:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

Every week on Tue, Thu, until May 6, 2021, 30 occurrence(s)

Please download and import the following iCalendar (.ics) files to your calendar system.

Weekly: https://oklahoma.zoom.us/meeting/tJUkcemtrTMsEtO0A3owPNLEtc554JACMzxt/ics?icsToken=98tyKuCppz0qH9edthGARowcHY\_oc-\_ztlxdj7dyzD62DDdjTC\_TIuEXZ-ZVMfv9

Join Zoom Meeting

https://oklahoma.zoom.us/j/91960538687?pwd=V2hDN042OGtnSnVJdHVCcE5OTzRxUT09

Meeting ID: 919 6053 8687

Passcode: 91775082

One tap mobile

+12532158782,,91960538687#,,,,\*91775082# US (Tacoma)

+13462487799,,91960538687#,,,,\*91775082# US (Houston)

Dial by your location

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 602 753 0140 US (Phoenix)

+1 669 219 2599 US (San Jose)

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

+1 720 928 9299 US (Denver)

+1 971 247 1195 US (Portland)

+1 213 338 8477 US (Los Angeles)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington D.C)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 470 250 9358 US (Atlanta)

+1 470 381 2552 US (Atlanta)

+1 646 518 9805 US (New York)

+1 646 876 9923 US (New York)

+1 651 372 8299 US (Minnesota)

+1 786 635 1003 US (Miami)

+1 267 831 0333 US (Philadelphia)

Meeting ID: 919 6053 8687

Passcode: 91775082

Find your local number: https://oklahoma.zoom.us/u/acuMjuMlNn

Join by SIP

91960538687@zoomcrc.com

Join by H.323

162.255.37.11 (US West)

162.255.36.11 (US East)

221.122.88.195 (China)

115.114.131.7 (India Mumbai)

115.114.115.7 (India Hyderabad)

213.19.144.110 (Amsterdam Netherlands)

213.244.140.110 (Germany)

103.122.166.55 (Australia)

209.9.211.110 (Hong Kong SAR)

64.211.144.160 (Brazil)

69.174.57.160 (Canada)

207.226.132.110 (Japan)

Meeting ID: 919 6053 8687

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