



Economics 418/518: Economics Department Seminar Series Syllabus

(Winter 2024)

Course Time: Friday 14:00 – 15:30

Place: Zoom

Facilitator: J Forrest Williams

Office: Urban Center Building, #450

Email: forrest.williams@pdx.edu

Office Hours: By appointment

Portland State University Economics Department Seminar (1 credit per term)

Economics majors, graduate students and other students currently enrolled in an economics course may earn one credit per term for enrollment in the PSU Economics Department Seminar. There is no limit to the number of terms for which students may enroll in the Economics Seminar; however only 4 credits of seminar may be applied toward an undergraduate economics major or minor. Economics graduate students are expected to enroll in the seminar, and may apply up to 4 credits toward the master's degree.

The seminars will be presented by PSU faculty, faculty from other academic institutions, or other professional economists, and from a variety of approaches and on a wide range of topics. Students will therefore be exposed to the breadth of economics in practice at an advanced level, rather than the coherent study of a particular field or topic.

Undergraduates will be required to:

- attend all seminars
- submit a 1-page summary and discussion of four seminars, to be turned in within 7 days of the seminar, using Canvas for the corresponding seminar. Please submit in Word format.

Graduate students will be required to:

- attend all seminars
- submit a 2-page summary and discussion of four seminars that draws on your broader knowledge of economics, using Canvas for the corresponding seminar. Please submit in Word format.

Student papers will be evaluated by both the substance and accuracy of their

description of the research project presented, the centrality of the issues discussed, the strength of the connections made to economics course material assigned in other classes and the sophistication of discussion with respect to the analytical strategies of the researcher, as well as the clarity, coherence and flow of the writing. Expectations for graduate students, particularly those pursuing graduate work in Economics, shall be markedly higher than for undergraduates.

Should circumstances arise that prevent a student from attending one of the scheduled seminars, please contact me to discuss a possible alternative arrangement.

Academic Dishonest and Access and Inclusion for Students with Disabilities

As for all courses at Portland State University, sanctions for academic dishonesty are severe. Also, students with disabilities will be accommodated, primarily with the help of the Disability Resource Center; please see the instructor about any needs for which you have not yet found accommodations. Please read the following statement for further information for support:

Access and Inclusion for Students with Disabilities

PSU values diversity and inclusion; we are committed to fostering mutual respect and full participation for all students. My goal is to create a learning environment that is equitable, useable, inclusive, and welcoming. If any aspects of instruction or course design result in barriers to your inclusion or learning, please notify me. The [Disability Resource Center \(DRC\)](#) provides reasonable accommodations for students who encounter barriers in the learning environment.

If you have, or think you may have, a disability that may affect your work in this class and feel you need accommodations, contact the Disability Resource Center to schedule an appointment and initiate a conversation about reasonable accommodations. The [DRC](#) is located in 116 Smith Memorial Student Union, 503-725-4150.

- If you already have accommodations, please contact me to make sure that I have received a faculty notification letter and discuss your accommodations.
- Students who need accommodations for tests and quizzes are expected to schedule their tests to overlap with the time the class is taking the test.
- Please be aware that the accessible tables or chairs in the room should remain available for students who find that standard classroom seating is not useable.
- For information about emergency preparedness, please go to the [Fire and Life Safety](#) webpage for information.

Title IX Reporting Obligations

As an instructor, one of my responsibilities is to help create a safe learning environment for my students and for the campus as a whole. We expect a culture of professionalism and mutual respect in our department and class. You may report any incident of discrimination or discriminatory harassment, including sexual harassment, to either the [Office of Equity and Compliance](#) or the [Office of the Dean of Student Life](#).

Please be aware that as a faculty member, I have the responsibility to report any instances of sexual harassment, sexual violence and/or other forms of prohibited discrimination. If you would rather share information about sexual harassment or sexual violence to a confidential employee who does not have this reporting responsibility, you can find [a list](#) of those individuals. For more information about Title IX please complete the required student module [Creating a Safe Campus](#) in your Canvas.