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 at least four seminars; and
* submit a 1-page summary and discussion of four seminars, to be turned in within 7 days of the seminar, in hard copy to my mail box in the Economics Dept. lobby, 241 Cramer Hall.

Graduate students will be required to:
* attend at least four seminars; and
* submit a 2-page summary and discussion of four seminars that draws on your broader knowledge of economics, to be turned in within 7 days of the seminar, in hard copy to my mail box in the Economics Dept. lobby, 241 Cramer Hall.

Student papers will be evaluated by both the substantialness 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. As a guide for content for your paper, please see Outline for Seminar Write-up (available on D2L). Students are advised to consult the speakers’ papers, or other material, generally available for download from the departmental website at http://www.pdx.edu/econ/seminars.

Should circumstances arise that prevent a student from attending one of the scheduled seminars, please contact me to discuss a possible alternative arrangement.
I will use e-mail to communicate with you about any changes in the schedule. Please update the e-mail address PSU has for you, if need be.

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.

Spring Term Seminar Schedule – Fridays, 3 – 4:30 pm, unless otherwise noted

April 3, 2015:  
Title:  TBA  
Yan Lau, Assistant Professor  
Reed College

April 10, 2015:  
Title:  TBA  
Cesar Rodriguez, Assistant Professor  
Portland State University

April 17, 2015:  
Title:  TBA  
Nicholas Wilson, Assistant Professor  
Reed College

April 24, 2015:  
"Optimal Expectations and the Welfare Cost of Climate Variability,"  
Yonas Alem, Research Director,  
University of Gothenburg, Sweden.

May 15, 2015:  
"Chaos Theory and the Frontier Economy of Brazil's Amazon River Valley,"  
John Hall, Professor,  
Portland State University.

May 22, 2015:  
Title:  TBA  
Yan Liang, Associate Professor  
Willamette University.