The purpose of this “capstone” seminar is to give students an appreciation of the methodologies economists use to explore important problems, as contrasted with those used by other social science disciplines, and to improve their speaking and writing. E406 is required of economics majors in the School of Liberal Arts. It is assumed that students have completed E201 and 202, E270, E321-2, and at least one applied course before enrolling in this senior seminar.

This course will satisfy these IUPUI Principles of Undergraduate Learning: (1) Express ideas and facts to others effectively in a variety of written formats, (2) Evaluate the logic, validity, and relevance of data, and (3) Demonstrate substantial knowledge and understanding of at least one field of study.

Requirements: Regular attendance at group and individual sessions, short presentations, an exam on the introductory readings, and a longer research paper on a topic to be agreed on due December 17.

Grading: As practiced in most intermediate and advanced Economics courses, grading will be about half A’s or B’s, the rest C’s or below. Grades will be calculated on the basis of class preparation and participation (30%), midterm exam on readings (30%), and the paper (40%). No one should expect an A or B without regular attendance and informed participation.

Warning! Plagiarism is the unacknowledged quotation of others’ work. Your paper may be checked for this electronically. Plagiarism is a serious academic violation and will be penalized with an “F” for the entire course.

Schedule:
August 27: Getting to know you. Choice of topics.
Sept. 1-Oct. 7: Discussion of seven debates among economists and others about important issues in macro and microeconomics, as well as applied fields. Lecture and informal discussion on Tuesday, student presentations on the readings on Thursday.
Oct. 13: Last student presentation
Oct. 22: Hour exam in class.
Oct. 27: Guided tour of library resources for paper.
October 29: Participate in globalization conference
Nov. 3: Group meeting to discuss possible paper topics
Nov. 5-9: Group Individual conferences on topics. (no group meetings)
November 17-24: Student presentations of topics and bibliography in class
November 26: Thanksgiving—no classes
Dec. 1-3: Individual conferences on outlines, as scheduled. (no group meetings)
Dec. 8-10: Paper presentations to group.
December 17: *Papers due at my office by noon.* 15-20 pages. Penalties for late papers will be ½ grade per day through December 22, after which no papers will be accepted for a fall grade. Incompletes must be arranged in advance with the instructor. If there are no reasonable grounds for an incomplete (I), penalties will be assessed in the final grade.

**ASSIGNMENTS**

Week 1: Choice of topics.


**Illustrative choices from 2007**


Week 7. Fiscal policy. Articles by Taylor and Auerbach and Feenstra, *JEP*, summer 2000 [Oncourse], and by XXX, 2006, no. 4. [to be distributed] (Discussant:  )


**Others:** poverty, securities markets, monetary policy, Europe, Africa.