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 16.

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.

Overall Schedule:

August 24-Oct. 21: Discussion of eight debates among economists and others.
Oct. 19-fall break, no class
Oct. 26: Hour exam in class.
Oct. 28: Guided tour of library resources for paper.
Nov. 2-4: Group meetings to discuss possible paper topics
Nov. 8-24: Individual conferences on topics, to be scheduled. (no group meetings)
November 25: Thanksgiving—no classes
Nov. 30-Dec. 9: Paper presentations to group.
December 16: Papers due at my office by 5 p.m. 15-20 pages. Penalties for late papers will be ½ grade per day through December 21, 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 0: Jared Diamond, Guns, Germs, and Steel. (Norton pb, 1981, available in Student Bookstore), pp. 15-25, 354-401, 405-25 (at least). Differences between geographical and economic history approach to the rise of Western market economies. (Thursday: discussion of pp. 405-25 only)


**Week 9. Hour exam Tuesday, Oct. 26, in class.** Thursday: trip to Library.

Week 10: (Nov. 2 and 4) Discussion of possible paper topics in class.

Weeks 11-13. (Nov. 8-24) Individual conferences on outlines, as scheduled. **No group classes.**

Week 14-15. (Nov. 30-Dec. 9) Individual presentations to class, 10-15 minutes each.

December 16—papers due by 5 p.m.