

ECON 985: Applied Micro Student Workshop Fall 2021- Spring 2022

Course Number:	ECON 985-001	Day/Time:	T 12:30 – 1:45
Credit Hours:	1.0 to 3.0	Bldg/Room:	Gardner 211
Department:	Economics	Term:	Fall 2021
Professor:	Donna Gilleskie	Office:	06B Gardner Hall
Phone:	(919) 966-5372	Office Hrs:	By Appointment
Email:	donna_gilleskie@unc.edu		

Grading:

Presentation	33 %	1-2 times per year
Written Comments	33 %	2-3 times per year
Participation	33 %	Engagement: (attendance, verbal comments, questions, attention)

Target Audience: Graduate students in the Ph.D. program in Economics who have completed their field paper and are engaged in dissertation research in the area of applied microeconomics. Registration in at least two semesters of ECON 985 (for 1-3 credits each semester) is a requirement for the Ph.D. degree.

Course Prerequisites: Permission by instructor and the Director of Graduate Studies in the Economics department.

Course Goals and Key Learning Objectives:

The goals of the workshop:

- To make progress on dissertation research
- To generate new research ideas
- To cultivate research partnerships
- To engage with fellow students in discussing economics
- To improve presentation skills

The learning objectives of this workshop are (at least) three-fold:

1. By actively engaging in the workshop both as a presenter and a *prepared and vocal* participant, a student improves his or her ability to organize thoughts and to discuss ones' own and other's research.
2. Participation in the workshop provides the student with feedback on his or her own research in a relaxed, but formal, setting from student colleagues and multiple faculty members who may or may not be dissertation committee members.
3. By observing and engaging others, participation in the workshop allows the student to discern appropriate presentation and research skills, while also allowing the student to associate, correct, or avoid similar problems in one's own research.

Course Requirements:

All student participants are required to present at least once during the Fall or Spring semester. Dr. Gilleskie will assign dates to each participant based on dissertation progress, proposal status, and job market participation. Length of presentation will depend on year in program, progress to degree, and practice needs.

- If you are the only “speaker” listed, then you should prepare a 1-hour long presentation.
- If there are two speakers, then each should prepare a 30-minute presentation.
- If there are three speakers, then each has 20 minutes.
- And the four speaker days are for “elevator pitches” of your current work (and to update us on where you are before the semester ends for break).

Speakers should email a description of your work, your current questions (to which you seek advice), and slides (if available) to all student and faculty participants on the *Wednesday* before the Tuesday presentation.

Student participants will also provide comments on the research of the presenter when the student is assigned to be a super reader. Super reader assignments are made by the instructor at the beginning of the semester. In addition, you are encouraged to provide comments for every presenter. Please read the materials provided before the presentation and bring written comments to the presentation. On the day of the presentation turn the comments in to Dr. Gilleskie, who will read them and distribute them to the presenter.

As a super reader, your written evaluation should be prepared like a referee report on a journal submission. Dr. Gilleskie has examples if you would like to see some. It is expected that you will provide detailed comments on the assigned paper; these comments should be substantive with regard to the economic content and modeling as well as constructive with regard to grammar and style. Students (and myself) will know who provides good comments and who does not. Provide the type of detail that you’d like to receive yourself.

In addition to the required presentation of own research at least once during the semester and weekly active written participation, you are expected to participate vocally during each presentation. Purpose: to practice asking questions, to get some of your own questions answered, and to push the student presenter to address a concern you might have.

We also encourage preliminary oral exams (defense of the prospectus) and final oral exams (defense of the dissertation) for applied micro students to be scheduled as part of the workshop.

- Final Exams: There is no final exam in this course. Graduate courses are not required to have final exams.
- Course Policies: Regular attendance is expected and will be accounted for in the assignment of grades. Written comments are accepted and expected, even if late.
- Course Resources: Reading for the course consist of the presenter’s materials and will be distributed on Wednesday before the Tuesday presentation. If a presenter does not provide the paper in a timely manner, he/she should not expect written feedback from student participants.

Honor Code: I expect all students to follow the guidelines of the UNC honor code. In particular, students are expected to refrain from “lying, cheating, or stealing” in the academic context. You can read more about the honor code at honor.unc.edu.

Time Table: The scheduled presentation dates, times, and locations are provided by the instructor. For now, I will email them, and eventually they may be available in other formats.

Syllabus Changes: The facilitator of this course reserves the right to make modifications to the presentation schedule (dates, times, and locations) in the event that a presenter cancels. Any such changes will be announced as early as possible so that participants may adjust their schedules.

Resources: **Counseling and Psychological Services:** CAPS is strongly committed to addressing the mental health needs of a diverse student body through timely access to consultation and connection to clinically appropriate services, whether for short or long-term needs. Go to their website: <https://caps.unc.edu/> or visit their facilities on the third floor of the Campus Health Services building for a walk-in evaluation to learn more.

Accessibility Resources & Services: The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill facilitates the implementation of reasonable accommodations, including resources and services, for students with disabilities, chronic medical conditions, a temporary disability or pregnancy complications resulting in barriers to fully accessing University courses, programs and activities. Accommodations are determined through the Office of Accessibility Resources and Service (ARS) for individuals with documented qualifying disabilities in accordance with applicable state and federal laws. See the ARS Website for contact information: <https://ars.unc.edu> or email ars@unc.edu.

Title IX Resources: Any student who is impacted by discrimination, harassment, interpersonal (relationship) violence, sexual violence, sexual exploitation, or stalking is encouraged to seek resources on campus or in the community. Reports can be made online to the EOC at <https://eoc.unc.edu/report-an-incident/>. Please contact the University’s Title IX Coordinator (Elizabeth Hall, interim – titleixcoordinator@unc.edu), Report and Response Coordinators in the Equal Opportunity and Compliance Office (reportandresponse@unc.edu), Counseling and Psychological Services (confidential), or the Gender Violence Services Coordinators (gvsc@unc.edu; confidential) to discuss your specific needs. Additional resources are available at safe.unc.edu.

Community Standards in Our Course and Mask Use.

This semester, while we are in the midst of a global pandemic, all enrolled students are required to wear a mask covering your mouth and nose at all times in our classroom. This requirement is to protect our educational community — your classmates and me – as we learn together. If you choose not to wear a mask, or wear it improperly, I will ask you to leave immediately, and I will submit a report to the [Office of Student Conduct](#). At that point you will be disenrolled from this course for the protection of our educational community. An exemption to the mask wearing community standard will not typically be considered a reasonable accommodation. Individuals with a disability or health condition that prevents them from safely wearing a face mask may seek alternative accommodations through [Accessibility Resources and Service](#) For additional information, see [Carolina Together](#).

University Attendance Policy:

No right or privilege exists that permits a student to be absent from any class meetings, except for these University Approved Absences:

1. Authorized University activities
2. Disability/religious observance/pregnancy, as required by law and approved by [Accessibility Resources and Service](#) and/or the [Equal Opportunity and Compliance Office](#) (EOC)
3. Significant health condition and/or personal/family emergency as approved by the [Office of the Dean of Students](#), [Gender Violence Service Coordinators](#), and/or the [Equal Opportunity and Compliance Office](#) (EOC).