

Economics 990
Industrial Organization Student Research Workshop
Fall 2023

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Location and time: Gardner 307. Wednesdays 11:30am-12:45pm.

Office hours: Wednesdays 12:45pm-2:00pm or by appointment in Gardner 300A.

Course goals and key learning objectives:

The purpose of this course is for students to:

- Improve their ability to organize thoughts and discuss their and their peers' research.
- Learn presentation skills including handling of audience questions.
- Obtain feedback from peers and faculty members in a relaxed but structured setting.
- Make progress in meeting the department's requirements for a PhD.

Presentations:

Students will regularly present their research to other students and faculty. Presentations will be in either a 15-minute, 30-minute, or a 60-minute format. Students will pick the duration and topic for the presentation together with their faculty adviser/mentor and the course instructor. If we hold any practice job market talks in the workshop, those will last 75 minutes.

Students must record preferences for presentation slots by first Wednesday of August (for Fall this is August 2nd 2023). In assigning slots, students with higher seniority and on the market will have priority. The instructor will assign 30-minute slots to students who do not sign up by the deadline. To complete the course, a student must present **at least once** per semester and to display meaningful progress throughout the course.

Participation:

To remain in good standing in the workshop, a student must attend regularly and participate as an audience member. Asking questions and providing feedback to speakers is an important part of the research process. We will work together in helping the presenter improve his or her research, as well as developing the audience members' ability to provide constructive feedback.

Requirements on research progress:

In addition to the presentations, students in different cohorts need to meet specific goals:

Third-year students:

- Communicate regularly with your field paper reading committee, including regular meetings with your main advisor. By October 25th, 2023, you should meet with each member of your reading committee.
- Produce a research paper that can form the basis of a dissertation chapter (or otherwise publishable paper). The paper must be turned in to the instructor and reading committee by December 6th, 2023.

Fourth-year students and others who have not yet completed dissertation proposal:

- Form a dissertation committee of at least three faculty members by October 25th, 2023. It is expected that students meet regularly with their committees.
- Write a dissertation proposal and present it in the workshop by April 24th, 2024. The proposal will be reviewed by the dissertation committee and must receive a passing grade.

Students planning to go on the job market in 2023:

- Give a 75-minute presentation of their job market paper by October 25th, 2022. This presentation should complement independent presentations at academic/industry conferences and/or in other workshops in the department (e.g. econometrics, applied micro, theory). Students should work with their dissertation and committee members to identify these opportunities.
- Turn in a draft of their job market paper to their dissertation committee at least one week before the workshop presentation.

Additional requirements:

Participating in the workshop is only a small part of what you should do as part of your training. Other avenues that I **strongly encourage** all students to pursue include:

- Attend the UNC-Duke joint IO seminar. UNC seminars are on Wednesdays at 3:30, and Duke seminars are on Tuesdays at 3:15.
- Present in a different student workshop once per year. Depending on your interests, suitable workshops may include the econometrics workshop (Prof. Hansen), the micro theory workshop (Prof. Tian), the applied micro workshop (Prof. Gilleskie), or the Macro workshop (Prof. Hendricks). If you plan to present in one of these workshops, please make sure that you reach out to the organizer in a timely manner, ideally within the first two weeks of the semester.
- Speak with faculty members on a regular basis. You should keep a semi-regular meeting schedule with your main advisor(s). You should also strive to meet occasionally (at least once per year) with all IO faculty, both empirical and theoretical, as well as faculty in fields close to your specific research.

Classroom etiquette

I expect you to arrive on time for each workshop meeting. If you use a laptop or tablet during the workshop, you should restrict your usage to class-related activities. If you view content unrelated to class, you will distract your neighbors in addition to taking your own focus away from our discussion.