

University of California, San Diego  
Department of Economics

Fall Quarter 2004  
Professor T. Groves

## Economics 87: Freshman Seminar: Economics of the 2004 Presidential Campaign

### Syllabus

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This seminar examines the economic positions taken by the major candidates in the current election campaign. Each session will be devoted to one or more of the major economic issues such as: employment and outsourcing of jobs, tax cuts and the deficit, Social Security, and defense vs domestic expenditures. Students are expected to familiarize themselves with the positions of one of the major candidates and defend them.



### Prerequisites:

There are no prerequisites for this course, except Freshman Standing. If you are not a freshman, please see me.

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### Grades:

All freshman seminars are graded on a Pass/Not Pass basis. To receive a Passing grade you must (a) come to all four class meetings unless otherwise excused ahead of time, (b) participate in class discussion, which means you should acquaint yourself with some of the reading suggested, and (c) complete a five (5) page project described below, including a presentation of your paper at the final meeting.

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### Office Hours:

I will be available to students in this Freshman Seminar on Tuesday afternoons between 1 and 3 pm. My office is room 317 of the Economics building. I can also be reached by electronic mail at my UCSD e-mail address, [tgroves@ucsd.edu](mailto:tgroves@ucsd.edu), to ask questions, set up an appointment, and the like. I strongly encourage you to make use of this way of communicating with me.

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### Paper Project:

This only written assignment for this Seminar is a five (5) page paper discussing one of the main economic issues in the Bush-Kerry campaign and choosing one side or the other and defending it. You should not only state your candidate's position, but also explain why your candidate's position is better than his opponent's position on the same issue. Also, if possible, you should defend your candidate's position against his opponent's likely criticism of it.

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### Meeting Dates and Topics:



The seminar will meet in room 244 of Sequoyah Hall on four Tuesday in October -- October 5, 12, 19, and 26 -- from 5:00 - 7:00 pm. Students will present their paper projects on the last meeting.

- **October 5: Introduction and Overview of the Economics of the Presidential Campaign**
- **October 12: Employment Policies and Outsourcing; Taxes and the Deficit**
- **October 19: Social Security, Health Policy, Defense Expenditure and the War on Terror**
- **October 26: Student presentations**