

# Economics 191A Web Site

## Course Syllabus for Winter Quarter Economics 191A

University of California, San Diego  
Department of Economics

Winter Quarter 2001  
Professor Clive W.J. Granger

Economics 191A: Senior Essay Seminar, Class Meeting Fridays 10:00 - 11:00 AM, Room 300, Economics Building

### Syllabus and Course Schedule

This course is Part I of the Economics Department's senior essay seminar. It is limited to students with a GPA of 3.5 or better in upper division economics and management science courses. It is required for all economics and management science majors who wish to graduate with the "highest distinction" honors designation on their diploma.

Economics 191B will be given in the Spring Quarter 2001. Both quarters must be taken to receive departmental honors. The only requirement of the two course sequence is to complete a well-researched 25 - 30 page paper on an economics topic approved by the instructor. However, to satisfactorily complete the first half of the sequence, a first draft of the paper must be turned in by the end of the quarter. Typically, the first draft should contain the theoretical analysis of the paper and a preliminary description of the empirical content.

The seminar the first quarter will be divided roughly into three parts --

(1) selecting your topic and finding sufficient reference and source material and writing a short description of your topic, including at least three references, (2) formulating an outline, and (3) writing a first draft. At the end of each part, you will turn in your work product to date.

To help in suggesting a wide range of possible topics, I have made available the following books for you to read:

1. Brux and Cowen, Economic Issues and Policy, Southwestern. (On Reserve)
2. Cole, Annual Editions, Economics 99/00, Dushkin McGraw-Hill.
3. Dolan and Goodman, Economics of Public Policy, West. (On Reserve)
4. Swartz and Bonello, Taking Sides, Dushkin McGraw-Hill. (On Reserve)

To facilitate communication and to help you gain access to many useful resources, you must get a personal computer account from the Academic Computing Center. Devaney Kerr in the Undergrad Econ Office can help you do this, if you don't already have an account. In addition to allowing you to communicate with others and me in the course, you will be able to use

your account to search the library for material. You may also access the Social Science Database for an enormous amount of data, in addition to an incredible amount of useful (and not-so-useful) sites on the World Wide Web. I have established a course web site that has links to some important sources of information and data as well as information about the course. It can be accessed at URL:

<http://weber.ucsd.edu/Depts/Econ/Classes/191/>

### Office Hours:

My office hours for this course are on Monday 2-3 or Tuesday 10-11 and also by appointment. My office is room 315 of the Economics building. I can also be reached by electronic mail to ask questions, set up an appointment, and the like. E-mail me at my campus e-mail address: [cgranger@ucsd.edu](mailto:cgranger@ucsd.edu)



**Schedule Dates (Other times/dates may be arranged depending on class size)**

- \* January 12, 19: Class Meetings (Choosing a paper topic and references)
- \* January 26: Turn in two-page description of paper topic and a list of at least three references.
- \* February 2: Class Meetings (Short presentations and discussions of paper topics)
- \* February 9: Turn in outline of paper.
- \* February 16, 23: Class Meetings (Discuss outlines/problems)
- \* March 2, 9: Class Meetings (Presentations of First Drafts)
- \* March 17: (Last day of classes) Turn in first draft of paper.

**Interesting WWW Sites for Economists**

- [Start with Economics Links from Econ Dept. Web Page](#)
- [Economics Resources](#)
- [Hal Varian's List of Interesting and Useful Economics Sites](#)
- [Paul Krugman's Web Site](#)
- [Key Databases and WWW Sites for Economics Publications and Data](#)
- [Economic Report of the President, 1999](#)
- [Dismal Scientist: Economic Analysis and Data for the World](#)
- [Bill Goffe's List of Resources for Economists](#)
- [Econmagic: Economic Time Series Page](#)
- [Council of Economic Advisers](#)
- [Congressional Budget Office](#)
- [SSDC, Data on the Net](#)
- [The Economics of Networks](#)
- [Global Economic Crises](#)
- [National Bureau of Economic Research](#)

**How to Find a Project**

At the start the main problem is deciding on the topic of your research project. One needs to find something that is original, not too small or irrelevant, and not too big and complicated. Recall that the project should have two sections, the first should be theory and the second empirical. In general, you do not have the time or experience to attempt topics that might be considered by a graduate student, although you could try a "lower level" approach to such a topic. Areas of research can be found in major economic journals, some of the lesser applied journals, and the products from the regional Federal Reserve Banks or the IMF. A possible strategy is to take a successful paper published six to ten years ago in a good journal and ask how well the results hold up now. Equally, one could find a good paper that is based on just one country, or data set, and extend it to another country or data set.