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Econ 2500w

Spring 2017

ECON 2500 is a one-credit “W” course. It fulfills the University’s “W” requirement for undergraduate general education and, for economics majors, the writing-in-the-major “W” requirement. Although the course is one credit rather than the more typical three, it still must — and will — fulfill the University requirements for a “W” course: a paper of at least 15 pages in length, revised multiple times after feedback from the instructor and others (including, in our case, peer feedback and, if you choose, feedback from the UConn Writing Center). The paper should display a clear and engaging writing style, demonstrate a command of standard written American English, and reflect the standards of research, citation, argument, and data presentation appropriate to an academic audience. It is recommended but not required that you write the paper using a word processor with greater formatting options like Latex.

We will be breaking into 4 groups and after the first week you will only come every fourth week. Within that group you should form sub-groups of 2-3 that can keep each other accountable, give feedback and help out if a group member misses a class. This is not required. If you have trouble finding a subgroup, ask me and I will help facilitate.

The final paper is due on the last day of class. (There will be no actual final exam.)

There is no required textbook. Economical Writing by Deirdre McCloskey has been used as a reference in past courses and may be helpful to you.

There is no attendance requirement. However missing class and presentations will be reflected in your grade as the quality of your work suffers.

**Office Hours**: Will be officially held Mon 1:30-3:30. Please give me notice if you intend to come, as I will be on campus but am not always in my office. I am free many other times during the week, feel free to ask. I will only answer short and easy problems via email.

The schedule for the class is as follows**:**

1/23- Full Meeting, Different Types of Economic Papers, Tone and Mechanics of Review, Data and Theory, Assign Groups

1/30- Group A Introduction presentations

2/6- Group B Introduction presentations

2/13- Group C Introduction presentations

2/20- Group D Introduction presentations

2/27- Group A Bibliography presentations

3/6- Group B Bibliography presentations

3/15-Spring recess

3/20- Group C Bibliography presentations

3/27- Group D Bibliography presentations

3/31- ALL FIRST DRAFTS DUE

4/3- Group A Final Discussion

4/10- Group B Final Discussion

4/17- Group C Final Discussion

4/24- Group D Final Discussion

4/28- ALL FINAL DRAFTS DUE

Graded assignments are due when your group meets. Group A will be graded the easiest for their presentations since they will have the least time and Group D will be graded the hardest. After the presentations the grading will normalize. I will always want PDFs of your assignments emailed to econ2500.cooke@gmail.com

**Introduction Presentation-** A 7-8 minute “elevator pitch” with accompanying multimedia. This should include a 2 page summary of your idea, as well as a fully formulated abstract. **5%**

**Bibliography Presentation-** At least 20 of the sources you intend to use in your paper, with 3-5 sentences on how that source will aid in your argument or explanation. Should be 7-8 minutes long. **10%**

**First Draft**- Exactly what it sounds like. It should be in an advanced state, and no major sections should be missing. If you are doing novel research, some data and tables missing at this stage is fine but should be noted. **20%**

**Final Paper-** See below. **65%**

The grading rubric for the final paper is as follows. Each element is equally weighted as 1/6 of your grade:

**Researching the topic**: Did you find and master relevant scholarly reference materials? We will talk in class about what “scholarly” means. Briefly: it means professional books and journal articles. I recommend Google Scholar as a good starting point. “Scholarly” specifically excludes the kind of unmonitored websites that turn up in ordinary web searches. “Joe’s website about economics” is not a scholarly source, even if Joe is a professor of economics somewhere.

**Documentation and Citation**: Did you document and cite all sources appropriately? You are responsible for providing proper citation for all direct quotations, paraphrased ideas, and statistical and other information coming from other sources. (Note that you have to cite an idea even if you paraphrase it rather than quote an author directly; and, in general, you ought to paraphrase not quote.) Make sure to include at the end of each paper a list of works cited. You must format properly both your in-text citations and list of works cited. We will talk about this in class. A good resource to start is the UConn Library’s guide on citing sources.

**Argument**: Is there a central idea, a thesis that you sustain consistently throughout the paper? How clear, sophisticated, and original is the idea? Does it convey a clear knowledge of the material and a recognition of alternative perspectives?

**Support:** How well do you support your argument? Are your sources clearly and consistently relevant to the thesis? Do you use examples, quotations, statistical and other information skillfully to support the argument(s)?

**Organization:** Is the paper well-organized? Make sure that your objective is clear at the beginning, that each section has a clear role in meeting the objective, and that ideas flow logically from one paragraph or section to the next.

**Mechanics**: Are the mechanical elements of writing (grammar, spelling, punctuation, etc.) free of errors? Using your word processor to check spelling and grammar before printing the paper can go a long way. But be careful: your word processor does not know if you meant “there” or “their.” In the end, there is no substitute for human proofreading. Use Times New Roman size 12, double-spaced, 1” margins.

Various UConn policies can be referenced at: http://provost.uconn.edu/syllabi-references/