

**Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics (AREC)  
University of Arizona**

**AREC 596 – Agricultural and Resource Economics Seminar<sup>1</sup>  
Spring 2024**

**Course Description**

This is a 1 credit unit seminar course. It is designed for the presentation and discussion of research methods and ideas in economics. The topics covered include natural, lab and field experiments, classical and Keynesian approaches to economics, major ideas in macroeconomics, special issues in econometrics, special issues in microeconomics, economics Nobel-prize winning ideas, and current economic policy debates. Other course activities include discussion about job market strategies, PhD applications, and presentations by students (e.g., thesis, assigned papers).

**Professor:** Dr. Anna Josephson

Dept. of Agricultural and Resource Economics

Email: [aljosephson@arizona.edu](mailto:aljosephson@arizona.edu)

**Professor's Office Hours:** I am available by appointment – send me an [email](#) to coordinate a time.

**Communication Policy:** Email is my preferred method of contact for you to get in touch with me. I check my email daily. I do my best to respond to all emails within 24 hours. Emails sent after 5pm on Friday or on Saturday or Sunday, will receive a response on Monday.

**Important Links**

- Attendance: all absences must be logged [here](#)
- Presentation: sign up for your presentation time [here](#)

More details on both are given below.

**Course Format:** Lectures, presentations, coding, readings, seminar guest speakers

**Course Learning Objectives:**

1. Introduce students to research methods in economics, in particular the use of GitHub and best practices for Open Science.
2. Introduce students to breakthrough ideas in economics.
3. Prepare students for job market and PhD applications.
4. Provide opportunities for students to present and discuss their thesis and/or research work.

**Expected Learning Outcomes:** Upon completing this course, students will be able to:

1. Apply, integrate, and discuss the use of best practices for Open Science, creating reproducible, transparent, and replicable code and use of GitHub.
2. Identify, present, and explain breakthrough ideas in economics.
3. Identify and motivate research questions and plan research accordingly.
4. Prepare and present research ideas, papers, and thesis research in professional settings.

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<sup>1</sup> Information contained in the course syllabus, other than the grade and absence policy, may be subject to change with advance notice, as deemed appropriate by the instructor.

## Course Organization and Communication

The class meets weekly on Fridays from 12 – 2. In some weeks, the time may be adjusted to accommodate the schedule of guest speakers. Notification of these changes will be given in advance. These dates are: 9 February and 23 February.

### Required Material:

- *Students will not have to purchase texts, readings, or videos for this course. All material will be available on D2L or from the professor via email.*
- You are required to select a coding language and so may need to purchase that. However, R and Python are free options, if you would prefer to use those.

## Course Organization and Components

The course will be divided into two parts:

1. *Open Science Best Practices:* in the first hour of the course, we will do coding work, building skills with GitHub. These exercises will be led by the instructor, but students are responsible for ensuring that they are prepared to participate actively in all exercises. Failure to be prepared to do the work is equivalent to failing to do the work.
2. *Presentations and Feedback:* in the second hour, students will present their ongoing work. Students in their second year are required to present for thirty minutes and students in their first year are required to present for fifteen minutes.
  - a. Sign up for your presentation slot [here](#).
  - b. I encourage students to present their thesis or a topic of interest. But, if you are having trouble at all thinking of a topic, let's chat and we can brainstorm some ideas.

## Attendance

Attendance is mandatory. Evaluation policies are given below, with respect to coursework. ***If you miss more than three lectures, you will not pass the course without arrangements made through the AREC Department.***

All absences must be logged [here](#).

## Student Evaluation

The course is evaluated pass/fail.

- P =  $\geq 600$  points
- F =  $< 600$  points

### Assessment Design

	<u>Points</u>
Presentation	200
Peer Evaluation of Presentations	300
Open Science Exercises	<u>500</u>
<b><i>Course Total</i></b>	<b><i>1,000</i></b>

Please do the assignments in a timely and professional manner when they are assigned. You have all the due dates at the beginning of the semester, so let me know as soon as possible if you have a knowable conflict (e.g., travel, family wedding, etc.).

I do not accept late work.

## **Course & University Policies**

For more details on all university policies visit: <https://academicaffairs.arizona.edu/syllabus-policies>.

### **Grade Dispute**

Any disputes about grades must be submitted in writing within fourteen days of posting. After this period, grades are fixed.

***All grades after the fourteen-day window are final.***

**Requests for incomplete (I) or withdrawal (W)** must be made in accordance with University policies, which are available at <http://catalog.arizona.edu/policy/grades-and-grading-system#incomplete> and <http://catalog.arizona.edu/policy/grades-and-grading-system#Withdrawal> respectively.

### **Absence and Class Participation Policy**

The UA's policy concerning Class Attendance, Participation, and Administrative Drops is available at <https://catalog.arizona.edu/policy/class-attendance-and-participation> & <https://catalog.arizona.edu/policy/change-of-schedule>. Some specifics:

- If you feel sick, or may have been in contact with someone who is sick, stay home. Except for seeking medical care, avoid contact with others and do not travel.
- Notify your instructor(s) if you will be missing a course meeting or an assignment deadline.
- Non-attendance for any reason does **not** guarantee an automatic extension of due date or rescheduling of examinations/assessments. Please communicate and coordinate any request directly with your instructor.
  - If you must miss the equivalent of more than one week of class, you should contact the Dean of Students Office [DOS-deanofstudents@email.arizona.edu](mailto:DOS-deanofstudents@email.arizona.edu) to share documentation about the challenges you are facing.

The UA policy regarding absences for any sincerely held religious belief, observance or practice will be accommodated where reasonable, <http://policy.arizona.edu/human-resources/religious-accommodation-policy>. Absences for groups of more than three students that are approved by the UA Dean of Students (or Dean Designee) will be honored: <http://policy.arizona.edu/employmenthuman-resources/attendance>.

### **Late Enrollment**

Students who enroll late for this course should contact the instructor as soon as possible to negotiate a schedule to complete missed activities and assignments.

### **Class Behavior Policy**

To foster a positive learning environment, students and instructors have a shared responsibility. We want a safe, welcoming, and inclusive environment where all of us feel comfortable with each other and where we can challenge ourselves to succeed. Although we are learning online, work to focus on being present and learning, when engaging with course material. In the online environment, be kind to one another and engage in good faith. Remember, even though we're just at the computer, there is a person on the other end!

## Threatening Behavior Policy

The UA Threatening Behavior by Students Policy prohibits threats of physical harm to any member of the University community, including to oneself. See <http://policy.arizona.edu/education-and-student-affairs/threatening-behavior-students>.

## Accessibility and Accommodations

Our goal in this classroom is that learning experiences be as accessible as possible. If you anticipate or experience physical or academic barriers based on disability, please let me know immediately so that we can discuss options. You are also welcome to contact the Disability Resource Center (520-621-3268) to establish reasonable accommodations. For additional information on the Disability Resource Center and reasonable accommodations, please visit <http://drc.arizona.edu>.

If you have reasonable accommodations, please plan to meet with me by appointment or during office hours to discuss accommodations and how my course requirements and activities may impact your ability to fully participate.

## Code of Academic Integrity

Students are encouraged to share intellectual views and discuss freely the principles and applications of course materials. However, graded work/exercises must be the product of independent effort unless otherwise instructed. Students are expected to adhere to the UA Code of Academic Integrity as described in the UA General Catalog. See: <http://deanofstudents.arizona.edu/policies/code-of-academic-integrity> and <http://deanofstudents.arizona.edu/academic-integrity/students/academic-integrity>.

The University Libraries have some excellent tips for avoiding plagiarism, available at <http://new.library.arizona.edu/research/citing/plagiarism>.

***Selling class notes and/or other course materials to other students or to a third party for resale is not permitted.*** Violations to this and other course rules are subject to the Code of Academic Integrity and may result in sanctions. Additionally, students who use D2L or UA e-mail to sell or buy these copyrighted materials are subject to Code of Conduct Violations for misuse of student e-mail addresses. This conduct may also constitute copyright infringement.

## UA Nondiscrimination and Anti-harassment Policy

The University is committed to creating and maintaining an environment free of discrimination; In support of this commitment, the University prohibits discrimination, including harassment and retaliation, based on a protected classification including race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity or genetic information. For more information, see <http://policy.arizona.edu/human-resources/nondiscrimination-and-anti-harassment-policy>.

Our classroom is a place where everyone is encouraged to express well-formed opinions and their reasons for those opinions. We also want to create a tolerant and open environment where such opinions can be expressed without resorting to bullying or discrimination of others.

## Confidentiality of Student Records:

Students should know the federal regulations regarding the privacy of their academic records <http://www.registrar.arizona.edu/ferpa/default.htm>

### **Subject to Change Statement:**

Information contained in the course syllabus, other than the grade policies, may be subject to change with reasonable advance notice, as deemed appropriate by the instructor.

### **Preferred Gender Pronoun**

This course affirms people of all gender expressions and gender identifies. If you prefer to be called a different name than what is on the class roster, please let me know. Feel free to correct instructors on your preferred gender pronoun. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me directly via email ([aljosephson@arizona.edu](mailto:aljosephson@arizona.edu)). If you wish to change your preferred name or pronoun in the UAccess system follow these guidelines:

- Preferred name: University of Arizona students may choose to identify themselves within the University community using a preferred first name that differs from their official/legal name. A student's preferred name will appear instead of the person's official/legal first name in select University-related systems and documents, provided that the name is not being used for the purpose of misrepresentation. Students are able to update their preferred names in UAccess.
- Pronouns: Students may designate pronouns they use to identify themselves. Instructors and staff are encouraged to use pronouns for people that they use for themselves as a sign of respect and inclusion. Students are able to update and edit their pronouns in UAccess.

More information on updating your preferred name and pronouns is available on the Office of the Registrar site: <https://www.registrar.arizona.edu>.

### **Additional Resources for Students**

- UA Academic policies and procedures are available at <http://catalog.arizona.edu/policies>
- Student Assistance and Advocacy information is available at <http://deanofstudents.arizona.edu/student-assistance/students/student-assistance>
- Campus Health information is available at <https://health.arizona.edu/home>
- Counseling and Psych Services information is available at <https://health.arizona.edu/counseling-psych-services>
- Campus Food Pantry information is available at <https://campuspantry.arizona.edu/>

Any student who has difficulty affording groceries or accessing sufficient food to eat every day, or who lacks a safe and stable place to live and believes this may affect their performance in the course, is urged to contact the Dean of Students for support. In addition, the University of Arizona Campus Pantry is open for students to receive supplemental groceries at no cost. For more details, visit the Campus Pantry website.

## ***If you are in immediate danger, call 911.***

### **Lauren's Promise: I will listen and believe you if someone is threatening you**

Lauren McCluskey, a 21-year-old honors student athlete, was murdered on Oct. 22, 2018, by a man she briefly dated on the University of Utah Campus.

### ***We must all take actions to ensure this never happens again.***

Any form of sexual harassment or violence will not be excused or tolerated at the University of Arizona.

If you are experiencing sexual assault, relationship violence, or stalking, you can take the following actions:

- If you are in immediate danger, call **911**.
- ***Report it to me and I will connect you to resources.***
- Seek confidential sources of support and help:
  - Counseling and Consultation Service Available 24/7 through Campus Health Counseling and Psych Services: [caps.arizona.edu](https://caps.arizona.edu) & (520) 621 – 3334; Oasis Program: (520) 626 – 2051; the Tucson Rape Crisis Center: (520) 327 – 1171.
  - Women and Gender Resource Center: <https://wgrc.arizona.edu/> & (520) 621 – 4498.
  - Survival Advocacy Program: <http://survivoradvocacy.arizona.edu> & [survivoradvocacy@arizona.edu](mailto:survivoradvocacy@arizona.edu) & (520) 621 – 5767.
  - Medical services through the Campus Health General Health Services: <http://www.health.arizona.edu> & (520) 621 - 9202; Women's Health Services: (520) 621 – 6512; Planned Parenthood: (520) 624 – 1761.
  - Legal services through the Pima County Bar Associations' Lawyer Referral Program for Students: (520) 623 – 4625; Southern Arizona Legal Aid: (520) 623 – 9465.
  - More resources are shared here: <https://titleix.arizona.edu/title-ix/faqs/> and are available through the Dean of Student's Office Student Assistance Program: <http://deanofstudents.arizona.edu/student-assistance/students/student-assistance> & [DOS-deanofstudents@arizona.edu](mailto:DOS-deanofstudents@arizona.edu) & (520) 621 – 7057.