**NISS 710 Workshop in New Institutional Social Science**

Credits: 3

Summer 2021

Room Barry Hall 272

Professor: James Caton

Office Hours: The hour following class

By appointment

Contact Hours: 45 contact hours

Contact: Office – BH 400C

E-mail – james.caton@ndsu.edu

**Bulletin Description:**

Workshop incorporating multiple methodologies with a focus on developing research topics that include institutional analysis. Capstone experience for the graduate certificate in New Institutional Social Science.

**Course Description**

Students will be exposed to a variety of quantitative and qualitative methodologies. Time will be devoted to development and writing of resedarch topics and questions that apply the knowledge gained in certificate coursework to pertinent research questions in New Institutional Social Science. It is expected that at the end of the summer, students will have made substantial progress on a research project including research question development, data collection, analysis, and paper.

The course begins with an intensive workshop week. In each day’s sessions, students will receive instruction in quantitative and qualitative research methods used in the study of institutions. Lab time will focus on applications of the material and may involve collecting and analyzing actual and/or simulated data using the learned techniques.

**Course Objectives:**

1. Students will learn state of the art qualitative and quantitative research methods used in the study of institutions
2. Students will learn the scholarly process of writing an original research paper
3. Students will learn how to devise research questions in such a manner that existing research methods can be implemented to answer them
4. Students will learn how to conduct a literature review of existing research
5. Students will learn how to collect data
6. Students will learn how to apply the appropriate method to collected data in order to answer a research question
7. Students will learn how to report the results of the research in a written scholarly paper
8. Student will learn how to present the results of research in an oral presentation

**Course Learning Outcomes:**

Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. devise a feasible research question on the theme of institutions
2. conduct a literature review surrounding the devised research question
3. collect data and conduct analysis using an appropriate method to answer the research question devised
4. write a research paper, of publishable quality, which answers the devised research question using an appropriate method of analysis
5. give an oral presentation of the research paper which outlines the research question studied, existing literature, methods, and results

**Course Prerequisites**:

NISS 701

ECON 762

POLS 762

One of PSCY 670 or SOC 733

**Grading:**

Participation: 30%

Research Paper: 40%

Presentations: 30%

Between 90% and 99.99% A

Between 80% and 89.99% B

Between 70% and 79.99% C

60% and Less Than 69.99% D

Less Than 60% F

**Participation:**

Students are expected to attend every weekly session and each complete day of the one week intensive workshop. Any absence must be cleared with the instructor. Participation means more than mere attendance. Students are expected to be active participants that come prepared to ask questions, give feedback, and contribute to class discussions.

Excused absences are specified in NDSU Policy 333 and include: participation in university sanctioned events, absences due to pregnancy or related conditions, religious observance, legally mandated absence, absence due to military service, personal illness, death of an immediate family member. Students who anticipate excusable absences shall notify the instructor as soon as possible, preferably by the third week of class. In the case of unanticipated excusable events, the student needs to contact the instructor as soon as possible. Students have the responsibility to visit with the instructor if exams or assignments are scheduled during times where absences are required.

**Research Paper:**

Students are expected to submit a scholarly article, **(14+ pages, times new roman 12 font, double spaced, one-inch margins)** sufficient for submission to a journal or conference. The research paper is a primary component of the class. A completed research paper is due 24 hours before the mini conference begins. These will be posted to the Blackboard page so that all participants in the mini conference have access to the final papers.

*You are expected to work on your research paper each week outside of class meeting time in accordance with NDSU requirements.*

**Weekly Lab Presentations:**

After the week 1 intensive workshop, meetings will take on a lab format in which students will make a presentation of their research paper progress every week for the first 3 weeks, and then once more on Monday 7/13.. Following each presentation, students will receive feedback from peers as well as any faculty present. Direction for future progress will be provided by email from the instructor following the presentations.

**Final Presentation:**

On the Friday of the final week, each student will present their completed research project in a mini conference. Presentations in the mini conference should be between 10-12 minutes. A complete rubric will be given to students as the mini conference approaches.

**Communication**

Whenever necessary, I will email the class with announcements via blackboard. This requires that each student regularly check his or her @NDSU.edu email account. It is the student’s responsibility to activate the NDSU.edu email account and employ it in communicating with their department and university administration whenever necessary.

When you send an email to me please put NISS 710 in the title line of the email.

**Programmatic Learning Outcomes:**

This course contributes to AAE Graduate PLO’s (2) Application and Data Management, (4) Technical Writing and Interpretation, and (5) Communication.

1. Students will be able formulate a falsifiable research hypothesis based on new institutional social science and design and design/execute a research project to test this hypothesis. (PLO 2)
2. Students will be able to interpret results of qualitative and/or quantitative research, connect them to theoretical predictions, and effectively communicate research findings in the form of a scientific article (PLO 4)
3. Students will be able to demonstrate their knowledge of new institutional social science and ability to apply that knowledge to original research paper by effective communication of research findings in an oral presentation. (PLO 5)

These PLO’s will be assessed throughout the course based upon presentations, research paper, and oral presentation.

**Academic Honesty:**

*All students taking any course in the College of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Natural Resources are under the Honor System (*[*http://www.ag.ndsu.edu/academics/honor-system-1*](http://www.ag.ndsu.edu/academics/honor-system-1)*). The Honor System is a system that is governed by the students and operates on the premise that most students are honest and work best when their honesty, and the honesty of others, is not in question. It functions to prevent cheating as well as penalize those who are dishonest. It is the responsibility of the students to report any violations of the honor pledge to the instructor, honor commission or the Dean of the College of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Natural Resources.*

*The academic community is operated on the basis of honesty, integrity, and fair play.* [*NDSU Policy 335: Code of Academic Responsibility and Conduct*](http://www.ndsu.edu/fileadmin/policy/335.pdf) *applies to cases in which cheating, plagiarism, or other academic misconduct have occurred in an instructional context. Students found guilty of academic misconduct are subject to penalties, up to and possibly including suspension and/or expulsion. Student academic misconduct records are maintained by the* [*Office of Registration and Records*](http://www.ndsu.edu/registrar/)*. Informational resources about academic honesty for students and instructional staff members can be found at* [*www.ndsu.edu/academichonesty*](http://www.ndsu.edu/academichonesty)*.*

**Students with special requirements:**

*Any students with disabilities or other special needs, who need special accommodations in this course are invited to share these concerns or requests with the instructor as soon as possible. The instructor may ask for verification and that, plus other assistance, can be requested from Disability Services in the Lower Level of the NDSU Library (231-8463).* [*http://www.ndsu.edu/disabilityservices/*](http://www.ndsu.edu/disabilityservices/)*.*

**Veterans and military personnel**:

*Veterans or military personnel with special circumstances or who are activated are encouraged to notify the instructor as early as possible.*

**Course Schedule:**

**Week 1: Intensive Workshop**

Rayamajhee Tuesday 6/1 9:00-12:00 *Workshop Seminar*

1:30-4:30 *Workshop Labs*

Pemstein Wednesday 6/2 9:00-12:00 *Workshop Seminar*

1:30-4:30 *Workshop Labs*

Emmanuelson Thursday 6/3 9:00-12:00 *Workshop Seminar*

1:30-4:30 *Workshop Labs*

March Friday 6/4 9:00-12:00 *Workshop Seminar*

1:30-4:30 *Workshop Labs*

**Week 2:**

Carlson Monday 6/7 9:00-12:00 *Workshop Seminar*

1:30-4:30 *Workshop Labs*

Friday 6/11 9:00-10:00 *Research Question workshop*

10:30-12:00 *Measuring Institutions I (Data Workshop I)*

**Week 3:** Monday 6/14 9:00-10:00 *Presentation of progress and feedback*

Friday 6/18 9:00-10:30 *Measuring Institutions II (Data Workshop II)*

**Week 4:** Monday 6/21 9:00-10:00 *Presentation of progress and feedback*

Friday 6/25 9:00-10:30 *Transaction Costs I (Data Workshop III)*

**Week 5:** Monday 6/29 9:00-10:00 *Presentation of progress and feedback*

Friday 7/2 9:00-10:30 *Transaction Costs II*

**Week 6:** Friday 7/9 9:00-10:30 *Building Narrative I*

**Week 7:** Monday 7/13 9:00-10:00 *Presentation of progress and feedback*

Friday 7/16 9:00-10:30 *Building Narrative II*

**Week 8:** Friday 8/69:00-10:30*Mini-conference*: *Final presentation*

*and final papers due*

Readings:

Week 2: Hall and Lawson (2014); Boris Nikolaev (2012); Caton and Harwick (2021, Chapters 5 and 6)

Week 3: Caton and Harwick (2021; Chapter 8)

Weeks 4: North (1990, 27-70)

Week 6: Coelho (2001); North and Thomas (1973, 1-90)

Week 7: North and Thomas (1973, 91-158)

**Bibliography:**

***Required:***

North, D. C. and Thomas, P. T. (1973). *The Rise of the Western World: A New Economic History*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press.

***Provide on Blackboard:***

Caton, J. and Harwick, C. (2021). *Learn Python for Economic Computation: A Crash Course*: <https://github.com/jlcatonjr/Learn-Python-for-Stats-and-Econ/blob/master/Textbook/Introduction.ipynb>

Coelho, P. R. P. (2001). “New or Old Economic History? Incentives and Development. [Review of North and Thomas (1973)]” *EH.net*: <https://eh.net/book_reviews/the-rise-of-the-western-world-a-new-economic-history>

Hall, J. C., and Lawson, R. A. (2014). “Economic Freedom of the World: An Accounting of the Literature.” *Contemporary Economic Policy* 32 (1).

Hall, J. C., Nikolaev, B., Pulito, J. M., VanMetre, B. J. (2013). “The Effect of Personal and Economic Freedom on Entrepreneurial Activity: Evidence from a New State Level Freedom Index.” *American Journal of Entrepreneurship* 6 (1).

North, D. C. (1990). *Institutions, Institutional Change and Economic Performance*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press.