

Syllabus, Eco 49250, Spring 2013

**Honors Thesis** (continuation)

Department of Economics and Business, Kevin R Foster

**Course Description**

Students work over two semesters to complete an Honors Thesis, a substantial written work on a particular subject. Students will work with the thesis coordinator (Foster) as well as at least one faculty advisor with more specific knowledge of the chosen topic. Upon completion, students may graduate with departmental honors. The Department of Economics and Business will recognize the best thesis with an award and scholarship.

Although much of the work will be done individually by each student or in collaboration with your faculty advisor, the class will meet as a group to provide additional help. We will begin by building a basic framework of the necessary writing and presentation skills: we will read and discuss classic books on *Economical Writing* by Dierdre McCloskey and *The Visual Display of Quantitative Information* by Ed Tufte. Later in the fall term you will find a topic; you will give and receive regular feedback from your colleagues as you brainstorm topics and new directions. At the end of the fall term you should have a topic chosen, have written an annotated bibliography, selected a dataset, and be starting work on your data analysis.

**Textbooks**

Required:

Dierdre McCloskey, *Economical Writing*

Edward R. Tufte *The Visual Display of Quantitative Information* (in library)

Suggested:

Howard Wainer, *Graphic Discovery: A Trout in the Milk and Other Visual Adventures*

Jane E. Miller, *The Chicago Guide to Writing about Numbers* (in library)

**Students**

Students are accepted to the class at the discretion of the department; participants must have a GPA of 3.3 or better and more than 85 credits.

**Professor**

Kevin R. Foster, Department of Economics, The City College of New York,  
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**Course Requirements**

This course entails a series of requirements culminating in the final project, due at the end of the spring semester.

- Oct 19, 2012 a topic report (2-3 pages) signed by a faculty advisor
- 8am Dec 22, 2012 an annotated bibliography (8-10 pages)
- A preliminary data analysis (10-15 pages) is due at the beginning of spring term
- A first draft is due at middle of spring term
- Peer reviews of all of the previous assignments
- The final project (50-75 pages including tables and graphs) is due at the end of spring term.

All of the work is to be submitted online and will be available for your fellows to read there. The final project will be available online for future generations of students. You may decide to submit your paper for the International Atlantic Economic Society's best undergraduate paper award ([http://econsources.com/econsources\\_bestundergraduatepapercompetition.asp?PageID=139](http://econsources.com/econsources_bestundergraduatepapercompetition.asp?PageID=139))

The peer reviews are important to help you become a better editor, which helps improve your own writing as well as learning how to guide and help others.

The course meets in person once per week during each term.

### **Educational Outcomes**

This capstone course expects students to display mastery of all of the department's educational outcomes through writing a final project which exhibits the ability to compose excellent oral and written communications for diverse audiences.

### **Grading**

Grades in this two-semester sequence are determined principally by the final project which has a two-thirds weight. The remaining one-third of the grade is determined by the milepost projects due during the two semesters: a topic report (2-3 pages) is due by the middle of fall term, an annotated bibliography (8-10 pages) is due by the end of fall term, a preliminary data analysis report (10-15 pages including tables and graphs) is due at the beginning of spring term, a first draft is due by the middle of spring term, and the final project (50-75 pages including tables and graphs) is due by the end of spring term. Students are marked for completing reviews of your fellow students' works.

In developing this course syllabus I am grateful for help from Prof. Lee Quinby at Macaulay Honors College CUNY.

## Academic Integrity

*The CCNY Faculty Senate has recommended that every course syllabus include this notice:*

### **CUNY Policy on Academic Integrity**

As stated in the CUNY Policy on Academic Integrity: 'Plagiarism is the act of presenting another person's ideas, research or writings as your own. The following are some examples of plagiarism:

- 'Copying another person's actual words without the use of quotation marks and footnotes attributing the words to their source;
- 'Presenting another person's ideas or theories in your own words without acknowledging the source;
- 'Using information that is not common knowledge without acknowledging the source;
- 'Failing to acknowledge collaborators on homework and laboratory assignments.
- 'Internet plagiarism includes submitting downloaded term papers or parts of term papers, paraphrasing or copying information from the internet without citing the source, and "cutting & pasting" from various sources without proper attribution.'
- A student who plagiarizes may incur academic and disciplinary penalties, including failing grades, suspensions, and expulsion.
- A complete copy of the CUNY Policy on Academic Integrity may be downloaded from the College's home page.

## Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

The Office of Student Disability Services (SDS) is dedicated to providing students with disabilities equal access to the College curriculum. The Office ensures that, upon request, qualified students with disabilities are provided reasonable and effective accommodations, as mandated by law, as well as appropriate support services.

Students who contact SDS and indicate that they have a disability or believe that they might qualify for services will be asked to make an appointment for an intake interview with SDS staff. To qualify for services, students must register with SDS by providing appropriate documentation from a qualified professional describing the nature of their disability and functional limitations. Although academic adjustments are mandated by law, the College is not required to alter demonstrably essential academic requirements of a course of study nor is the College mandated to lower or effect substantial modifications of reasonable academic standards.

Early planning is essential for many of the resources, adjustments and accommodations; students are asked to contact SDS at the earliest possible date (NA 1/218; 212-650-5913 or 212-650-6910 for TTY/TTD).