

**Graduate Economics Seminar**  
**Econ 988**  
***Second year Students, Term 2***

Dr. Karen Smith Conway  
411 McConnell Hall

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The purpose of this course is to introduce our graduate students to a wide range of research methodologies practiced by economists. The Economics Department strongly believes that the introduction to economic research provided by the Seminar is an important and integral part of graduate education. Over the course of the year, it is hoped that the student will develop the ability to critically evaluate the research presented in the Seminar; therefore, the requirements differ as a student progresses through the seminar.

The seminar meets most weeks during the semester on Fridays from 2:10-3:30. One or more papers are presented. Presenters are drawn from our own faculty and advanced graduate students, as well as from other universities. Generally, the presenter will be given about one hour to present his or her paper. This is followed by a question and answer period. Students are encouraged to participate fully in the seminar by asking questions and commenting on the papers.

**Requirements:**

1. Read the paper **before** the seminar. The paper will typically be available the Wednesday prior to the seminar.
2. You must write a critique of each seminar paper. This critique should briefly summarize the paper and then identify the major weaknesses of the paper and offer suggestions for improvement. You may use the comments made during the seminar, but **you must attribute them and you must explain and elaborate upon them in your own words. IMPORTANT: the critique must be written in your own words and from your own viewpoint. If you must quote directly from the paper, use quotation marks (“) and cite the paper. I will take any violations of this very seriously; it is plagiarism and will be treated as such.** Please limit your use of such quotes as they reduce the originality of your review and may lead me to judge it unacceptable.
  - A. The critiques are due by 4 pm on the Tuesday immediately following the presentation.
  - B. Each critique should be machine-generated and at least 300 words long.
  - C. Turn in a **hard copy** of the review to either Sin or me. I may also ask you to submit an electronic copy in Word to which I can apply the SafeAssign software to check for plagiarism.
  - D. I reserve the right to require you to rewrite or elaborate on a review before counting it.
  - E. You are permitted to ‘skip’ (not a write a review for) **ONE** paper each term. I recommend that you save this skip for later in the term when an exam, paper, etc. in another class may make it difficult for you to do the review.
  - F. Reviews handed in after the deadline will not count towards the requirements and will be treated as a skip. **All reviews must be handed in on time for them to count.**

3. Attend and participate in the seminar each week in a courteous manner. (See below).
4. I am very interested in increasing the participation of the students in the seminar. As an incentive, each **thoughtful** question asked by a student during the seminar **can** count for up to one review per term. After the seminar, I will inform you whether the question you asked 'counts' or not.

**Professional Courtesy during Seminar:**

You are required to attend seminar; I will take attendance each session. Moreover, you are required to behave in a professional, courteous manner during the seminar presentation. Every speaker has spent a great deal of time preparing their research and their presentation; many have traveled a distance to present their work to us. Your behavior during seminar helps shape the impression they form about our department – and our graduate students.

As such, I require that you

- be on time for the seminar presentation; I will do my best to start promptly at 2:10.
- do not leave the room unless it is absolutely necessary.
- turn off your cell phone and any other electronic device.
- give the speaker your full attention.

Failure to follow these simple rules of courtesy will result in real consequences, such as revoking skip(s), requiring extra written work, or failing to pass the course.