

SENIOR REQUIREMENT PREFERENCES SIGN-UP

Barnard College, Economics Department, 2007-2008

REVISED November 2007

Your Name _____ School / Major _____

Month/Year you plan to graduate _____ Email _____

Are you currently taking or have you previously taken a senior seminar (ECON BC3063)? Yes / No

If you have an idea of what your post-graduation plans will be, let us know here _____

There are three ways to satisfy the senior requirement. Please checkmark your preferred route:

- (A) _____ Senior Thesis I & II, ECON BC3061-62
- (B) _____ Senior Seminar and Senior Thesis II, ECON 3063 – ECON BC3062
- (C) _____ Senior Seminar, ECON BC3063 and additional upper level elective

THESIS: If you selected Option A, please tell us your thesis subject preference, even if it's in the most general terms (or write "unknown" if you have no idea what your subject will be). Also rank your section preference (1st, 2nd, 3rd):

Section	Topic
1 _____ Kristin Mammen, T 2:10-4:00	
2 _____ Randall Reback, TBA	
3 _____ Sonia Pereira, Hours TBA	

When do you want to begin the thesis? fall 2007 / spring 2008

SEMINAR: If you selected Option B or C, please indicate your seminar preference (1st, 2nd, 3rd). Students who elect Option B and intend to graduate in May 2008 should be sure to select a fall seminar as the appropriate lead in to their spring senior thesis.

Fall 2007 Senior Seminars

- (1) _____ ~~ECON BC3063x (01)~~, T 4:10-6:00, David Weiman
Topic: *The Political Economy of Crime and Punishment*
- (2) _____ ~~ECON BC3063x (01)~~, W 4:10-6:00, Sanjay Reddy
Topic: *Work*

Spring 2008 Senior Seminars

- (3) _____ ECON BC3063y (01), T 2:10-4:00pm, Lalith Munasinghe
Topic: *Human Capital and Human Freedom*
- (4) _____ ECON BC3063y (02), W 11:00am-12:50pm, Sonia Pereira
Topic: *Social Exclusion*
- (5) _____ ECON BC3063y (03), M 2:10-4:00pm, Marcellus Andrews
Topic: *Race, Law, and Economics*

-- Submit this form to the department office 4A Lehman Hall or email roconnor@barnard.edu with your preferences as soon as possible[†].

Spring 2008 Senior Seminars

ECON BC3063y (01) Senior Seminar: “Human Capital and Human Freedom”

Instructor: Lalith Munasinghe T 2:10-4:00pm

Prerequisites: Permission of the Instructor and completion of all courses (except the senior requirement) required for the economics track, political economy track, or economics and mathematics majors. Exceptions to these prerequisites may be granted by the chair of the department only.

In this senior seminar we read a collection of essays written by economists and philosophers that relate to three broad topics: Human capital theory (HCT), human freedom, and the role of the worker in the modern workplace.

Human Capital Theory. Our readings will focus on the historical origins of HCT and on the puzzles and facts of labor market phenomena that the theory is designed to explain. We will read some of the pioneering works by two Nobel laureates in economics Schultz and Becker.

Human Freedom. We will read about and discuss various notions of human freedom, starting with a highly romantic and individualistic vision of Marx, and then moving on to more contemporary ideas of negative and positive conceptions of human freedom. Our readings will begin with Marx (selections from the 1844 Manuscripts, Grundrisse and Capital Vol. III), and continue on to some modern essays by Isaiah Berlin, Charles Taylor and Amartya Sen.

Worker and Firm. The final topic focuses on economic theories of the employment relationship between the worker and the firm. The readings will be aimed at providing multiple perspectives on the worker-firm relationship. In particular, we will read about the employment relationship from the radical, neoclassical and the managerial perspectives, with a view to unraveling the philosophical differences in these accounts. Readings will include papers by Marglin, Stiglitz, Bowles, and Lazear, to mention a few.

Here are some broad questions that I hope these readings will prompt us to think about and discuss in class.

1. The first set of questions relates directly to freedom. For example, what constitutes human freedom or what is the locus of human freedom? Is freedom about whether human beings as moral agents live up to some predetermined ideal in the Platonic sense? Or is it more about the nature of human activity as it relates to the creative pursuit of diverse human interests?
2. A second set of questions is to ask whether human freedom might in any way relate to human capital theory. For example, do we have to learn skills or cultivate our tastes, interests and desires to become free agents just like we learn skills to become lawyers and carpenters?
3. A third set of questions relate to whether freedom can be achieved within the context of the modern workplace. For example, is work necessarily alienating? Is it a mere means to other ends? Or is it possible to find freedom and meaning in our working lives?

ECON BC3063y (02) Senior Seminar: “Social Exclusion”

Instructor: Sonia Pereira W 11:00am-12:50pm

Prerequisites: Permission of the Instructor and completion of all courses (except the senior requirement) required for the economics track, political economy track, or economics and mathematics majors. Exceptions to these prerequisites may be granted by the chair of the department only.

This course is centered on the concept of social exclusion. It begins by analyzing the differences between the U.S. and other OECD countries' in terms of policies that fight social exclusion. It then analyses various dimensions of social exclusion focusing on economic policy tools. The course follows a debate format in which one student (or two students with opposing views) gives a brief presentation of the topic which is then followed by class discussion. Topics include: housing and labor market discrimination and anti-discrimination policies, gender inequality and maternity leave, urban sprawl, the ghetto and housing policy, school reform, immigration, public health insurance, obesity and marriage and fertility. Students are required to write a term paper with a policy focus on a topic of their choice. Students may choose different approaches, such as: hands-on data work, field work, literature review, theoretical discussion and historical perspective. Guidance will be provided for all.

Evaluation: Students are required to read the assigned reading before class and to actively participate in class discussion. Evaluation consists of: participation in class discussion (10%), two 5-10 page policy memoranda (25%), class presentation (15%), term paper assignment (35%), presentation of the term paper (15%)

Readings: Most readings consist of journal articles or book chapters which will be posted on Courseworks.

ECON BC3063y (02) Senior Seminar: “Economics, Philosophy and Economic Justice”

Instructor: Marcellus Andrews M 2:10-4:00pm

Prerequisites: Permission of the Instructor and completion of all courses (except the senior requirement) required for the economics track, political economy track, or economics and mathematics majors. Exceptions to these prerequisites may be granted by the chair of the department only.

Description TBA