

**Research Philosophy**  
AGEC701, Fall 2022 (1 credits)  
Class Meets: Thurs 10-11:15pm at Barry Hall 360

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## Correspondence

- Please feel free email or visit me in person during my office hours if you have any questions. I am also happy to set up appointments to meet with you outside of my office hours.
- I will make all major announcements in class. I may provide updates via email or Blackboard Announcement Page.
- Always use AGEC701 in the subject line for your email.

## Objectives

Most of what you learn in your core courses in graduate school will be theoretical and/or technical. This is true even for an Applied Economics program like ours. While technical skills are important, they are not enough to conduct graduate level research. To become a successful researcher, you must be able to identify gaps in the literature, ask relevant and interesting questions, gather and/or understand your data, produce results, and communicate them effectively. And, research involves writing – lots and lots of writing!

This course will walk you through the process of conducting economic research. I will teach you what it means to think like an economist, and more importantly, how to write like one. By the end of this course, you should be able to develop your own ideas, conduct literature review, identify problems and gaps in understanding, formulate empirically testable hypotheses, gather, manage and analyze data, and effectively communicate your findings.

## Recommended Readings

Bellemare, M. F. (2022). *Doing Economics: What You Should Have Learned in Grad School—But Didn't*. MIT Press.

McCloskey, D. N. (2000). *Economical Writing*. Waveland Press.

## Assignments and Grading Policy

*Class Participation (10%)*

You are expected to come to each class prepared to discuss the day's materials. Class participation can only help your grade, not hurt it. If you come to all classes and contribute frequently to the discussion, you will receive a full participation grade.

### *Project Abstract and References (20%)*

You will turn in your project abstract and list of references on Oct 6 (before the class meeting). The project abstract will be 1 page document that provides an overview of the research project. It should motivate the study by identifying research gap in the existing literature and/or establish the relevance of your work. Focus on answering the question: why should the reader pay attention to your work? Your abstract should clearly state the objective of your research. For example, if you are interested in establishing a causal relationship, you should clearly state the dependent and independent variables of interest and your potential identification strategy in your statement.

You must include a list of references (at least eight) that your work draws ideas and motivations from. Keep seminal (old) contributions to a minimum and focus on recently published research in respected economics journals. Your references must be the APA style.

### *Literature Review (20%)*

Your literature review must: a) summarize the existing literature on your topic, b) identify research gaps in the literature, and c) establish the relevance of your work. Your submission must include at least 12 references. Keep interdisciplinary contributions to a minimum (2-3) and focus on well-respected economics journals. Please follow the APA citation style.

Your literature review must be approximately 4 pages long (excluding references). Your literature review assignment will be due on Oct 20.

### *Research Proposal (30%)*

Your final research proposal will be due on Dec 12 at 5:30pm. Your final proposal will a) identify a research topic, b) provide a clear motivation and connect the topic with economic theory, c) provide an empirically testable hypothesis, d) provide an overview of the literature on the topic, and e) include potential data sources and/or data collection process. Your submission must include references to at least 15 sources (books, journal articles). The proposal must be five to seven pages (excluding references), double spaced, in Times New Roman font, size 12, and have 1-inch margins on all sides (right/left/top/bottom). References should be in APA style.

### *Proposal Presentation (20%)*

You will present your research proposal to the class during the following days: Nov 10, Nov 17, Dec 1, and Dec 8. I expect you to prepare presentation slides. Your assignment grade will be based on both the content and delivery of your presentation.

Below is a summary of your total grade for this course.

A. Class Participation	10%
B. Project Abstract and References	20%
C. Literature Review	20%
D. Research Proposal	30%
E. Proposal Presentation	20%

#### *Grading Criterion*

A	90-100
B	80-89.99
C	70-79.99
D	60-69.99
F	0-59.99

Grades will not be curved.

## **Course Delivery and Expectations**

The course will be conducted in person. Online option is no longer available. The course relies on knowledge sharing and interaction with your peers, so I expect you to engage with the materials and actively participate.

COVID-19: You must follow NDSU guidelines regarding public health measures. If you have a viral infection, please be sure to wear a mask. **Please do not come to class if you have COVID-19.**

## **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>). 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](#) 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](#). 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 NDSU Library Suite 17 (231-8463). <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.

## Well-being Resources on Campus and in the Community

As a member of the NDSU community, resources are available for you should you need help in dealing with adverse reactions to things happening in the world today. A variety of resources are listed below:

### For students on campus and remotely (telehealth):

Counseling Services: 701-231-7671

Disability Services: 701-231-8463

Student Health Service: 701-231-7331

### In a crisis or emergency situation:

Call University Police: 701-231-8998

Call 911 Go to a Hospital Emergency Room

Go to Prairie St. Johns for a Needs Assessment: 701-476-721 (510 4th St. S.)

Call the FirstLink Help Line: 1-800-273- TALK (8255) or 2-1-1

Call Rape and Abuse Crisis Center: 701-293-7273

## Important Dates

August 31, Wednesday	Last day to add classes via Campus Connection
August 31, Wednesday	Last day for no-record drop of classes @ 100% refund
August 31, Wednesday	Last day to withdraw to 0 credits @ 100% refund
September 5, Monday	Labor Day holiday (no classes/offices closed)
September 6, Tuesday	Financial Aid applied to Student Accounts
September 12, Monday	Last day to submit request to audit, pass/fail
October 14, Friday	Undergraduate fall graduation application due
October 14, Friday	Graduate student Intent to Graduate due
October 14, Friday	Grades of Incomplete convert to F
October 27, Thursday	Spring/ Summer registration begins
November 10, Thursday	Last day to drop classes with 'W' record
November 10, Thursday	Last day to <a href="#">withdraw to zero credits</a> for Fall
November 11, Friday	Veteran's Day (no classes/offices closed)
November 18, Friday	Fall commencement participation deadline
November 23-25, Wed-Fri	THANKSGIVING- no classes (offices open on Friday)
December 5-9, Mon-Fri	Dead Week
December 12-16, Mon-Fri	Final Examinations

December 16, Friday

Commencement

## COURSE SCHEDULE

<b>Wk.</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Requirements</b>
1	Aug 25	Introduction: Syllabus	
2	Sep 1	Faculty Proposal Presentations	
3	Sep 8	Faculty Proposal Presentations	
4	Sep 15	How to write an economics paper	
5	Sep 22	How to write an economics paper	
6	Sep 29	How to write an economics paper	
7	Oct 6	Literature Review	Project Abstract and References
8	Oct 13	Methods and Procedures	
9	Oct 20	Sample Talk	Literature Review
10	Oct 27	Methods and Procedures	
11	Nov 3	Speaker	
12	Nov 10	Student Presentations	
13	Nov 17	Student Presentations	
14	Nov 24	<b>Thanksgiving Holiday</b>	
15	Dec 1	Student Presentations	
16	Dec 8	Student Presentations	
17	Dec 12-15	Exam week - <b>no meeting</b>	Research Proposal due Dec 12 at 5:30pm