

Professor Kevin Neuman  
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Office hours: Monday 12-2, Tuesday 10-12, Wednesday 11-1, or by appointment.

Class Meetings: TR from 12:35 to 1:50 in CPS 322. There is an attendance policy discussed below and attendance is strongly encouraged. The course is taught in a seminar style that will require participation. There are also a few weeks where class will not meet, but will be replaced with required personal meetings.

Course Description: ECON 450 serves as the capstone for the major as well as a portion of the communication in the major requirement of the GEP. The course is taught as a senior research seminar. Students survey a number of scholarly papers from across the discipline, focusing on the empirical techniques and methodologies commonly used by economists. The course also illustrates oral and written communication conventions in the discipline. Throughout the semester students develop a research topic and apply the research and communication skills discussed to conduct an original research project.

School of Business and Economics Mission and Course Outcomes: The UWSP School of Business & Economics educates and inspires students and prepares graduates for success in positions of leadership and responsibility. We serve the students, businesses, economy and people of the greater Central Wisconsin region. Our students achieve an understanding of regional opportunities that exist within the global economy.

After completing the course students should be able to:

- use appropriate economic concepts and models to arrive at logical conclusions about economic events.
- persuasively apply secondary economic sources and/or primary quantitative analysis to evaluate a thesis about a controversial economic issue.
- present their ideas in an organized, sequential manner from a topic introduction to a logical conclusion.
- express their ideas orally and in writing using purposeful transitions between topics and clear, fluent language.
- speak comfortably and engagingly when presenting their research to the class.

Achievement of the course outcomes will be assessed using defined rubrics. The School of Business and Economics will aggregate and analyze the data as part of a continuous effort to improve our programs.

Required text and readings: There is no required text, but there will be various distributed readings throughout the course.

Course Requirements: The course grade will be determined as follows:

Article Summaries:	TBA	30%	= 120 pts
Research Paper Total:		30%	= 120 pts
- Topic:	due Sunday, Feb. 19	- 5%	= - 20 pts
- Theory:	due Mar. 14	- 10%	= - 40 pts
- Final draft:	due May 2	- 15%	= - 60 pts
Research Paper Presentation:		25%	= 100 pts
- Topic:	Mar. 14 & 16	- 10%	= - 40 pts
- Final results:	May 2, 4, 9, & 11	- 15%	= - 60 pts
Methods Exam:	March 30	10%	= 40 pts
Participation:		<u>5%</u>	<u>= 20 pts</u>
		100%	= 400 pts

There will be six scholarly paper summaries which combined make up 30% of the final grade. The summaries will be annotated bibliographies highlighting the research questions, empirical methodologies, and conclusions of the papers. Another portion of the grade, 30%, is made up by a research paper. The paper is divided into three components to lead you through the project. Details of the project will be discussed at a later date. An additional 25% of the grade is made up by two presentations of the research topic and final results. Another 10% of your grade will come from an exam about the methods learned from the scholarly papers. The remaining 5% of the grade will be based on participation in class discussions and activities.

The attendance policy allows two unexcused absences without reducing your grade. On the third unexcused absence your final grade will be reduced by 2 percentage points (8 points). For each unexcused absence after the third your final grade will be reduced by an additional 2 percentage points (8 points). University sanctioned absences will not count against this total and should be cleared prior to missing class. If you are absent the day an assignment is due your assignment should be handed in by someone else, or should be turned in at my office by the time I get back from the scheduled class meeting. Telling me why you were absent will not make the absence excused. Attendance will be taken each day by a signup sheet. It is your responsibility to make sure you sign the sheet. Signing up another individual who is not present will result in an absence for both of you. Coming to class solely to sign the sheet and then leaving will be counted as an absence. If you arrive at class excessively late, or repeatedly late, I reserve the right to assign an absence at my discretion.

Grading Scale: Letter grades are determined as follows:

A:	grade $\geq$ 93%	C:	77% > grade $\geq$ 73%
A-:	93% > grade $\geq$ 90%	C-:	73% > grade $\geq$ 70%
B+:	90% > grade $\geq$ 87%	D+:	70% > grade $\geq$ 67%
B:	87% > grade $\geq$ 83%	D:	67% > grade $\geq$ 63%
B-:	83% > grade $\geq$ 80%	D-:	63% > grade $\geq$ 60%
C+:	80% > grade $\geq$ 77%	F:	60% > grade

This schedule may be adjusted during the course of the class but only in favor of the students as a group.

**Any suspected academic misconduct on an exam, paper, or assignment will be dealt with under the appropriate University procedures.**

Students with Disabilities: Students with learning or other disabilities should contact the Office of Disability Services during the first two weeks of the semester if they wish to request accommodation.

Religious Beliefs: Religious beliefs will be accommodated according to UWS 22.03 as long as the student notifies me of the specific days or dates within the first three weeks of the beginning of classes.

General Information: I understand that things happen that prevent people from getting to class on time, myself included. As such, occasional late entrances are not a problem, and I would rather have you attend class than not. However, repeated instances of late arrival will be a problem. Arriving late is disrupting not only to me, but to the rest of the class. When quizzes or exams are given late arrivals will not be given extra time. I also understand that people occasionally forget to turn off their cell phones before coming to class. Again, occasional instances are not a problem but do your best to turn off your phone before entering class. However, sitting in class text messaging your friends will not be tolerated.

Student Rights and Responsibilities: UWS/UWSP Student Academic Standards and Disciplinary Procedures: <http://www.uwsp.edu/dos/Documents/CommunityRights.pdf#page=11>.

ECON 450 – 1 course outline

Week 1: Jan. 24 & 26

Introduction

Week 2: Jan. 31 & Feb. 2

**Paper 1 summary: due Jan. 31**

Week 3: Feb. 7 & 9

**Paper 2 summary: due Feb. 7**

Week 4: Feb. 14 & 16

**Paper 3 summary: due Feb. 14**

Week 5: Feb. 21 & 23 - NO CLASS: TOPIC MEETINGS

**Research paper topic: Due Sunday, Feb. 19**

Week 6: Feb. 28 & March 2

**Paper 4 summary: Due Feb. 28**

Week 7: Mar. 7 & 9

**Paper 5 summary: Due Mar. 7**

Week 8: Mar. 14 & 16 - **TOPIC PRESENTATIONS**

**Research paper theory: Due Mar. 14**

Week 9: Mar. 28 & 30

**Paper 6 summary: Due Mar. 28**

**Methods exam: Mar. 30**

Week 10: Apr. 4 & 6 - NO CLASS: WORK WEEK

Week 11: Apr. 11 & 13 - NO CLASS: WORK WEEK

Week 12: Apr. 18 & 20 - NO CLASS: PROGRESS MEETINGS

Week 13: Apr. 25 & 27 - NO CLASS: WORK WEEK

Week 14: May 2 & 4: - **FINAL PRESENTATIONS**

**Research paper final: Due May 2**

Week 15: May 9 & 11: - **FINAL PRESENTATIONS**

Final Exam Week: Monday, May 15, 2:45 – 4:45