Economics 191A/B  2016-17
Senior Essay Seminar

2015 Webpage
http://econweb.ucsd.edu/~rstarr/191WebpageFall2015/

What it is
Honors Seminar for writing a senior essay, developing original research in economics. Two quarters.

You’ve spent 15 years learning what other people think --- it’s time to have some ideas of your own!!

What we do
Meet twice a week. Lectures: how to write, library resources. Student presentations: literature review, preliminary draft, first draft, final essay. Confer with expert faculty. Confer with Prof. Starr.
Application for admission to Econ 191AB

Submit a 1 to 2 page application essay, 400 – 1000 words. Describe your research topic. What it is. Why is it interesting? Do you need data? What? Do you have a hypothesis? Can you test it? What results do you expect? What questions do you hope to investigate? Theoretical? Applied? You are not locked in to this topic --- but it should demonstrate your economic curiosity and insight.
2015/16 topics

• Does Income Inequality Damage Social Cohesion?

• The Economic Reform In Vietnam In 1989: “Shock Therapy” Or Gradualism?

• Modeling Free Agent Contracts for Position Players in Baseball

• Consumers’ Willingness To Pay (WTP) for Environmentally Friendly Products:
  Premiums on Low-Priced vs. High-Priced Goods

• Analysis of Immigrant Income Trend from 1980 to 2014

• Welfare Effects of Refugees vs. Economic Immigrants in the United States

• Player Compensation and Team Success in the National Hockey League

• Impact of Crime Rate on Housing Prices
• Investment in Internet Finance Products-----Profitability of Peer-to-Peer Lending Loans

• An Industrial Organization Approach to Profitability in Women's Soccer

• Using Fuzzy Logic to More Accurately Test Technical Analysis
Here’s what a successful 2011 graduate says.

Why I recommend taking Econ 191A/B:

If you're thinking about pursuing grad school in economics (or any other quantitative field), taking this class is a no-brainer because in it, you'll build solid research experience and data analysis skills, which is what grad schools want to see. A handful of my 191 classmates went straight into Economics PhD programs after they graduated, and having this class to talk about in their interviews gave them a big boost.

If you're leaning towards working in industry or consulting, this class is also a no-brainer. It's unique in that you're free to explore whatever industry or topic you're interested in. That means, if you want to work at Google, pick a topic that's relevant to Google. Then, put it on your resume and talk about it in your interviews. Not many candidates will have that kind of knowledge and experience, so it'll really set you apart. That was my experience when I interviewed at consulting firms, and also something I looked for when I interviewed candidates for that firm years later.

If you don't know what you want to do after you graduate, this class is a great opportunity to explore something you think you might be interested in (which you should be doing anyway, so why not get class credit for it?).

Finally, and perhaps even most importantly, 191 gives you an opportunity to connect with professors that are fun to talk to and can help you out on your journey. I graduated five years ago, and I'm still in contact with several professors that I connected with over my 191 paper. One of them wrote me the letter of recommendation that got me an interview at the firm I worked at post-UCSD and another still sends me job openings, even years later. The relationships that 191 can help you cultivate will be invaluable.

So sign up for the class!

Allison Noel, April 22, 2016