ECONOMICS 4484 (Boldt) --- Spring 2015 (February 19, 2015 version)

COURSE TITLE: Seminar in Economics. Any changes to the syllabus will be announced in class and an updated syllabus will be posted on CourseDen. Lecture notes will also be made available in CourseDen.
INSTRUCTOR: David Boldt dboldt@westga.edu, Office Phone: (678) 839-4771

OFFICE HOURS: M-F 8:30am-10:45am, M,W 4:30-5:15pm, and other times by arrangement. Please feel free to contact me by e-mail also.

REQUIRED BOOKS (UWG Bookstore):

OTHER READINGS/RESOURCES (provided on CourseDen (under “Readings”), in-class, or via the Internet):
3) The Third Great Wave, The Economist, October 4, 2014
8) Simple Pricing (Ch. 6, Managerial Economics, Froeb, McCann, et. al, 2014)
9) Selected TED Talk videos (available at www.ted.com)
11) Other TBD materials

PREREQUISITES: Economics 2105, 2106 and Senior Status

EXPECTED LEARNING OUTCOMES:
The senior seminar is a capstone course for economics majors. This course requires that economic majors integrate and synthesize what they have learned in other economics courses. The course places significant emphasis on writing and oral communication skills. Specific objectives include:

- Comprehension of microeconomic concepts and the application to decision making (LG8)
- Comprehension of alternative macroeconomic approaches and request to current policy issues (LG7)
- Possess a basic knowledge of international economics concepts (LG9)
- Development of oral and written communication skills (LG1)
Preparation for graduate or professional studies or job search after graduation

Note: A complete list of the learning goals (LG) for the Economics Department can be found at the department web site (http://www.westga.edu/econ/index_12904.php)

ACADEMIC POLICIES:
Please carefully review the information in the link below concerning the American with Disabilities Act, UWG Email Policy, UWG Credit Hour Policy and the UWG Honor Code.
http://www.westga.edu/assetsDept/vpaa/Common_Language_for_Course_Syllabi.pdf

During the semester, students in this course will generally spend 150 minutes per week of direct faculty instruction in the classroom. As a guide, students should expect to spend about 300 minutes per week outside the classroom on various assignments, reading the textbook, and in studying the course material.

ASSESSMENT:
Learning objectives are assessed based on your performance on the following:

Examinations- During the semester, there will be three in-class examinations (in addition to the Exit Exam). Exam#1 will count for 22 percent of the grade, Exam#2 will count for 22 percent, and Exam#3 will count for 12 percent. In total, these in-class exams will count for 56 percent of your grade.

Formal Oral Presentation- Each student will be making three presentations in class. The first two presentations will be short presentations (about 2-3 minutes each). See the Course Outline for a description of these presentations. You will also be required to turn in a one-page typed summary of each of these presentations. In the more formal presentation, each student will summarize results of a research project. The presentation may be on a current topic or on a topic developed in another economics class. The research may be either quantitative or qualitative in nature. I need to know the topic of your presentation by March 10 at the latest. Presentation dates will be assigned on a first-come, first-serve basis. Using presentation software, you will summarize the key results of your research. You will also need to include references for your research. The slide presentation should contain no more than 8 slides. Be sure to forward me a copy of the slideshow by 10 am of the day in which you will be making your presentation. The presentation should be about 10 minutes long. Factors impacting the grade include organization/content, knowledge/preparedness, quality of slides, and presentation flow/tone of voice/eye contact. Due to the tight scheduling of presentations, I will be unable to move your presentation to another date unless there is an emergency situation. These presentations will count for 16 percent of the course grade.

Exit Exam---Students will take an “exit exam” as part of this seminar course. This exam will test your knowledge of four areas of economics: microeconomics, macroeconomics, international economics, and basic business/economics statistics. The exam is scheduled for March 27. I anticipate devoting one class prior to the exit exam for review. This examination will be graded by a committee of economics faculty. This examination will count for 10 percent of your grade. No notes or other materials may be brought into this exam.

Class Participation and Discussion--- This portion of your grade will be based on contributions to class discussion, quizzes, short presentations/assignments, responses to student/guest speaker
presentations, and class attendance. Class participation will count for 15 percent of your grade. There are no makeups for missed in-class assignments, quizzes or other activities.

Resume --- A professional resume must also be turned in by the end of the term (April 17). Please follow the format outlined by Career Services. This will count for 3 percent of your grade.

Extra Credit Possibilities: These can be earned by attending/participating in up to two approved extra credit opportunities. Approved options are listed below. Other options will be announced during the semester.
  - RCOB BB&T Lecture on date TBD.
  - Participate in a career services sponsored activity (job fair, interview day,

To receive credit, you must submit a "response paper" summarizing the event (with your feedback also).

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Economics 4484---Tentative Course Outline Spring 2015 (updated 2/19/15)

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<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>TOPIC</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan 6</td>
<td>Introduction to Course/Overview of Economic Naturalist (ECON Naturalist, Ch. 1)</td>
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<td>Jan 8</td>
<td>Pricing Issues in Economics (ECON Naturalist, Chs. 2, 4) and the Simple Pricing article (available on CourseDen)</td>
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<td>Jan 13</td>
<td>Incentives in Economics (Read: When and Why Incentives (Don’t) Work to Modify Behavior, available on CourseDen). Be sure to read this article prior to class so you are prepared for a quiz/discussion.</td>
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<td>Jan 15</td>
<td>Information Economics, Signaling and Behavioral Economics (ECON Naturalist, 7, 9, 10). Also listen to the Freakonomics podcast on Online dating (<a href="http://freakonomics.com/2014/02/06/what-you-dont-know-about-online-dating-a-new-freakonomics-radio-podcast/">http://freakonomics.com/2014/02/06/what-you-dont-know-about-online-dating-a-new-freakonomics-radio-podcast/</a>). Be prepared for discussion/quiz.</td>
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<td>Jan 20</td>
<td>Short Presentation #1. Each student will pose a question about an “oddity” that they encounter. You will then need to explain an answer in economic terms. You will need to turn in a short (about one-page) typed summary also.</td>
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<td>Jan 22</td>
<td>View the Mind Over Money video and read the Marketplace of Perceptions article. Be prepared for a quiz/discussion.</td>
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<td>Jan 27</td>
<td>Guest Speaker: Lauren Johnson, UWG Career Services (resume writing, job search tips, etc.)</td>
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<td>Feb 3</td>
<td>Exam#1</td>
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Part II  World Economy, Deficits, Monetary Policy, etc.

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<th>DATE</th>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 5</td>
<td>No Class (Read the article The Third Great Wave) and Ch. 8 (Econ Naturalist)</td>
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<td>Feb 10</td>
<td>World Economy. Be prepared for a quiz/discussion on assigned readings for Feb. 5.</td>
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<td>Feb 12</td>
<td>World Economy/TBD</td>
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<td>Feb 17</td>
<td>Short Presentation #2 (Current Macroeconomic conditions in a country other than the U.S.). Please tell me the country you will be discussing by Feb 3. Be sure to talk about GDP growth, the employment situation and inflation. Other major economic issues impacting the country should be addressed also. Turn in a one-typed summary of your presentation also.</td>
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Feb 19 Deficits-class handouts
Feb 26 Guest Speaker: Michael Stone, Milestone Investment Management LLC
Mar 3 Monetary Policy (Part I)
Mar 5 Guest Speakers: Amy Velasquez (Attorney, Specialist in Immigration Law) and Claude Gilbert (Wells Fargo)
Mar 10 Monetary Policy (Part II). Be prepared for a discussion/quiz on the Bernanke and Meltzer articles on the Federal Reserve
Mar 12 Exam #2
Mar 14-22 Spring Break

Part III Student Research Presentations/Weekly Economic Commentaries/Exit Exam/Final Exam, etc.
Mar 24 Micro/Macro Review
Mar 26 Exit Exam
Mar 31 Guest Speaker/Student Research Presentations (TBD)
Apr 2 Guest Speaker/Student Research Presentations (TBD)
Apr 7 Guest Speaker/Student Research Presentations (TBD)
Apr 9 Guest Speaker/Student Research Presentations (TBD)
Apr 14 Guest Speaker/Student Research Presentations (TBD)
Apr 16 Guest Speaker/Student Research Presentations (TBD)
Apr 21 Exam #3 (11:00 am). Exam topics will include The Invisible Heart, Weekly Economic Commentaries, and other assigned readings.