**ECO 217 – Issues and Opportunities in Economics II - Fall 2017**

**Time:** Monday, 12:10 – 1:00 p.m. **Location:** 201 Winslow Hall

**Instructor:** Mario Teisl, Professor and Director School of Economics

**Office:** 206 Winslow Hall **email:** [Teisl@maine.edu](mailto:Teisl@maine.edu)

**Office Hours:** I have many meetings so it is best to schedule an appointment with my Administrative Assistant, Karen Moffett (1-3154; [karen.moffett@maine.edu](mailto:karen.moffett@maine.edu) )

**Course Objectives:**

* To introduce second year students to research and research methods, as well as to help you develop your skills as a researcher
* To develop an understanding of processes, policies, and resources for researchers at the University of Maine
* To develop a fuller understanding of the field of Economics (and sub-disciplines) and current economic issues
* To help students begin their transition to becoming a professional

**BlackBoard:** We will use the ECO 217 BlackBoard Website for course announcements, distribution of readings, and course assignments. Your default Blackboard email address is your UMaine gmail address (e.g., XXX@maine.edu); please check this email address dailyduring the semester. Additional BlackBoard resources can be found at UMaine's Information Technologies web page (<http://umaine.edu/it/>). If you run into problems contact <http://umaine.edu/it/contact-us/>.

**Class Participation:** Many of our classes will consist of discussions of issues raised in the readings.  It is important that all assigned readings be done **before** the classes for which they are assigned.  Class participation is important and you are expected to be able to comment intelligently on the assigned readings.

If you are not in class then you are not participating; however, I do understand the occasional need to miss class due to illness etc. Illness or family emergencies are usually the only acceptable reasons for missing class. If such a problem arises, you need to e-mail me before class and provide a written justification (e.g., medical note) so we can discuss alternatives.

**Grading:** The course is pass/fail. A passing grade will be awarded on the basis of quiz results (there is a quiz almost every week), consistent attendance, and participation in discussion. Note that completion of the Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) sequence should qualify you to obtain RCR certification – **this certification is required** if you want to be an undergrad research assistant. **You have to have perfect attendance during the RCR portion of the course to get the certification.**

Note that there is a **mandatory assignment** to complete the online Protection of Human Subjects Training; an instruction sheet is located in the ‘week 1’ folder on the BlackBoard site. Your assignment is to successfully pass the training and either email or hand in a hard copy of your training certificate before Thanksgiving week (11/20).

**Class Calendar**

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| August 28  Week 1 | **Topic:** The importance of syllabi and professionalism. UMaine conduct code; some definitions;  **Reading assignment:** syllabus; information and power; Reliability & validity |
| September 4 | **Labor Day** – Have fun! |
| September 11  Week 2 | **Topic:** Responsible Conduct ofResearch (RCR): Sec.1 - Shared values  *Rules of the Road* (Professional self-regulation, Government regulation; Institutional policies; Personal responsibility)  *Research Misconduct* (Federal definition and policies; Institutional policies; Putting it into perspective)  **Reading assignment:** RCR Section 1; ethics for economists; ask not for whom..; Why I am leaving Goldman Sachs; making the grade; the ethics trap |
| September 18  Week 3 | **Topic:** Planning research;  **Reading assignment:** research planning; logic model; LMfront; Chap 1 & 3 air univ; facilitating interdisciplinary work  **Quiz:** Section 1 of RCR |
| September 25  Week 4 | **Topic:** RCR: Section 2 - Planning research  *Protection of Human Subjects* (Federal regulations and definitions; IRB membership and deliberations; Training; Continuing responsibility; Ethical issues) *Welfare of Lab Animals* (Rules, policies, guidelines and definitions; Institutional organization; Federal and voluntary oversight; Principles for the responsible use of animals in research; Broader responsibilities)  *Conflicts of Interest* (Financial conflicts; Conflicts of commitment; Personal and intellectual conflicts; Reporting and managing significant conflicts)  **Reading assignment:** Section 2 of RCR  **Quiz:** Planning research |
| October 2  Week 5 | **Topic:** Sampling and external validity; Threats & ways to improve external validity; Probability & nonprobability sampling  **Reading** **assignment:** external validity; sampling3; Chap 4 air univ;  **Quiz:** Section 2 of RCR |
| October 9 | **Fall break** – Study for remaining mid-terms then have fun! |
| October 16  Week 6 | **Topic:** Measurement and construct validity  **Reading** **assignment:** construct validity; measurement validity types; idea of construct validity; convergent and discriminant validity; threats to construct validity; pattern matching for construct validity; construct validity summary  **Quiz:** External validity and sampling |
| October 23  Week 7 | **Topic:** Measurement and reliability  **Reading** **assignment:** reliability; true score theory; measurement error; theory of reliability; types of reliability  **Quiz:** Measurement and construct validity |
| October 30  Week 8 | **Topic:** Internal validity  **Reading assignment:** internal validity; establishing cause and effect; single group threats; regression to the mean; multiple group threats; social interaction threats; types of designs; Establishing Cause & Effect; Classifying Experimental Designs  **Quiz:** Measurement and reliability |
| November 6  Week 9 | **Topic:** Analysis and conclusion validity; Threats & ways to improve conclusion validity; Reporting results; Evaluating and reviewing research;  **Reading assignment:** analysis; conclusion validity; threats to conclusion validity; improving conclusion validity; statistical power; correlation; data preparation; descriptive statistics; inferential statistics  **Quiz:** Internal validity |
| November 13  Week 10 | **Topic:** RCR: Section 3 - Conducting research  *Data Management Practices* (Data ownership, collection, protection and sharing; Future considerations)  *Mentor and Trainee Responsibilities* (Basic responsibilities; Research environment; Supervision and review; Transition to independent researcher) *Collaborative Research* (Roles and Relationships; Management; Different settings)  **Reading assignment:** Section 3 of RCR  **Quiz:** Analysis and conclusion validity |
| November 20 | **Turkey week – take a breather** |
| November 27  Week 11 | **Topic:** RCR: Section 4 - Reporting/reviewing research  *Authorship and Publication* (Authorship; Elements of a responsible publication; Practices to be avoided)  *Peer review* (Meeting deadlines; Assessing quality; Judging importance; Preserving confidentiality)  **Reading assignment:** RCR Section 4+5  **Quiz:** Section 3 of RCR |
| December 4 Week 12 | **Last week of class**  **Quiz:** Section 4 of RCR |

Highlighted readings are found at: <http://www.socialresearchmethods.net/kb/contents.php>

Trochim, William M. The Research Methods Knowledge Base, 2nd Edition. Internet WWW page, at URL: <<http://www.socialresearchmethods.net/kb/>> (version current as of October 20, 2006).

Academic Integrity: Academic honesty is very important. It is dishonest to cheat on exams, to copy term papers, to submit papers written by another person, to fake experimental results, or to copy or reword parts of books or articles into your own papers without appropriately citing the source. Students committing or aiding in any of these violations may be given failing grades for an assignment or for an entire course, at the discretion of the instructor. In addition to any academic action taken by an instructor, these violations are also subject to action under the University of Maine Student Conduct Code. The maximum possible sanction under the student conduct code is dismissal from the University.

Students with disabilities: Students with disabilities who may need services or accommodations to fully participate in this class should contact the Director of Disability Services in 121 East Annex, (voice) 581-2319, (TTY) 581-2325 as early as possible in the semester.

Unanticipated disruption: In the event of an extended disruption of normal classroom activities, the format for this course may be modified to enable its completion within its programmed time. In that event, you will be provided an addendum to the syllabus that will supersede this version.

Sexual Discrimination Reporting: The University of Maine is committed to making campus a safe place for students. Because of this commitment, if you tell a teacher about an experience of sexual assault, sexual harassment, stalking, relationship abuse (dating violence and domestic violence), sexual misconduct or any form of gender discrimination involving members of the campus, your teacher is required to report this information to the campus Office of Sexual Assault & Violence Prevention or the Office of Equal Opportunity.

If you want to talk in confidence to someone about an experience of sexual discrimination, please contact these resources:

For confidential resources on campus: Counseling Center: 207-581-1392 or Cutler Health Center: at 207-581-4000.

For confidential resources off campus: Rape Response Services: 1-800-310-0000 or Spruce Run: 1-800-863-9909.

Other resources: The resources listed below can offer support but may have to report the incident to others who can help:

For support services on campus: Office of Sexual Assault & Violence Prevention: 207-581-1406, Office of Community Standards: 207-581-1409, University of Maine Police: 207-581-4040 or 911. Or see the OSAVP website for a complete list of services at http://www.umaine.edu/osavp/