

ECO 217
Issues & Opportunities in
Economics II
Fall 2018
Wednesday, 1:00 - 1:50 PM
201 Winslow Hall

Course overview: ECO 217 consists of weekly meetings of second-year economics students. This cohort-building course provides students with an introduction to economics research, researchers, and research methods; an understanding of linkages between career pathways and economics research, and opportunities to collaborate with peers and develop professionally. Pass/Fail grade only.



Credits: 1

Prerequisites: Economics/Financial Economics Major

Course Delivery Method: In-person instruction, hybrid timing, Blackboard Learning Management System

Instructor

Professor Kathleen P. Bell

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Winslow 302

Student Hours: Monday (3:00-4:30 PM), Wednesday (3:30-5:00 PM), and by appointment. I welcome you to contact me by email outside of class and student hours to arrange an appointment. I will respond to student e-mails during standard work hours, Monday through Friday, between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Instructional Materials and Methods: Students will complete reading and video assignments made available on the course Blackboard site. No textbook required.

Course Goals

- (1) Introduce students to economics research and research methods used by economists;
- (2) Excite students about the significance of economics research & researchers;
- (3) Improve awareness of the numerous professional career pathways for economics researchers;
- (4) Help students develop an understanding of the responsible conduct of research and issues related to human subjects research;
- (5) Strengthen the undergraduate student cohort within the School of Economics

Instructional Objectives

- (1) Students successfully complete course assignments;
- (2) Students actively contribute to course discussions, in-class activities, and cohort-building exercises
- (3) Students successfully navigate and contribute to the online learning environment;

Student Learning Outcomes

By successfully completing this course, students will:

- (1) acquire knowledge of research and research methods that will guide their future research, course selection, and professional development;
- (2) achieve certified training in the protection of human subjects;
- (3) gain proficiency locating, interpreting, and discussing economics research and data;
- (4) be familiar with career pathways for economics researchers;
- (5) increase connections with other students in the second-year cohort.

Assignments: I designed the in-class and preparatory assignments to engage students to participate actively in the course and learn the material. By completing assignments and trainings and participating actively in class activities, you will achieve the course learning outcomes.

Reading & Video Assignments: I expect you to complete preparatory reading or video assignments prior to class. I have found that doing this work before class improves the way students engage with course material and enhances student performance on in-class assignments. I make these assignments accessible to students via the course Blackboard site.

In-class Assignments: You will regularly complete in-class assignments. Students missing class will receive a grade of 0 for the associated missed in-class activity. Please alert Dr. Bell of conflicts prior to class (see absence/tardiness policy below).

Online Protection of Human Subjects Training: You will successfully complete the Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI) web-based training on the protection of human subjects made available by the University of Maine (<https://umaine.edu/research-compliance/human-subjects/required-training-protection-human-subjects/>)

You will complete this training and share a paper or digital copy of your certificate with me (Professor Kathleen P. Bell) by **October 24, 2018**. Please note the due date of this assignment because I do not accept late work unless students have an authorized excuse (see absence/tardiness policy below).

Grading and Course Expectations

ECO217 grading is Pass/Fail. To achieve a Pass, you will:

- (1) earn an average passing letter grade (A, B, C, D) on course in-class assignments; and
- (2) successfully complete the web-based CITI protection of human subjects training.

Your final letter grade on the course in-class assignments will be the average of multiple assignment grades. Successful completion of the human subjects training (i.e. obtain a certificate) is required by 24 October 2018.

Course Website

We will use the course website on BlackBoard to share key resources, communicate course announcements, access preparatory assignments, and engage in discussions. You can access BlackBoard multiple ways, including through your mycampus portal (mycampus.maine.edu). Additional resources about BlackBoard can be found at UMaine's Information Technologies web page (www.umaine.edu/it/). If you run into problems with Blackboard, reach out to informational technology staff by phone (207.581.2506) or visit them in person at 17 Shibles Hall. I expect you to visit the course Blackboard site and check your @maine.edu email-address frequently.

Course Policies

Absence/Tardiness Policy: While attendance is not required, students missing class will receive a grade of 0 for missed in-class assignments. If students need to miss class or reschedule the submission of their web-based training assignment, they must have an authorized excuse. I understand that extenuating circumstances arise that can make meeting course requirements difficult. Unfortunately, illnesses, death in the family or other difficult events are part of life. Such events are unwelcomed and because I understand how difficult these times are, if you contact me within 24 hours of the event and provide documentation, I will work with you to reschedule an assignment due date.

Campus Policies

Academic Honesty Statement: 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 statement: If you have a disability for which you may be requesting an accommodation, please contact Student Accessibility Services, 121 East Annex, 581.2319, as early as possible in the term. Students who have already been approved for accommodations by SAS and have a current accommodation letter should meet with me (Professor Kathleen P. Bell) privately as soon as possible.

Course Schedule Disclaimer (Disruption Clause): 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 frame. In that event, you will be provided an addendum to the syllabus that will supersede this version.

Observance of Religious Holidays/Events: UMaine recognizes that when students are observing significant religious holidays, some may be unable to attend classes or labs, study, take tests, or work on other assignments. If they provide adequate notice (at least one week and longer if at all possible), these students are allowed to make up course requirements as long as this effort does not create an unreasonable burden upon the instructor, department or University. At the discretion of the instructor, such work could be due before or after the examination or assignment. No adverse or prejudicial effects shall result to a student's grade for the examination, study, or course requirement on the day of religious observance. The student

shall not be marked absent from the class due to observing a significant religious holiday. In the case of an internship or clinical, students should refer to the applicable policy in place by the employer or site.

Sexual Violence Policy

Sexual Discrimination Reporting. The University of Maine is committed to making campus a safe place for students. Because of this commitment, if you tell any of your teachers about sexual 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. Behaviors that can be “sexual discrimination” include sexual assault, sexual harassment, stalking, relationship abuse (dating violence and domestic violence), sexual misconduct, and gender discrimination. Therefore, all of these behaviors must be reported.

Why do teachers have to report sexual discrimination?

The university can better support students in trouble if we know about what is happening. Reporting also helps us to identify patterns that might arise – for example, if more than one victim reports having been assaulted or harassed by the same individual.

What will happen to a student if a teacher reports?

An employee from the Office of Sexual Assault & Violence Prevention or the Office of Equal Opportunity will reach out to you and offer support, resources, and information. You will be invited to meet with the employee to discuss the situation and the various options available to you.

If you have requested confidentiality, the University will weigh your request that no action be taken against the institution’s obligation to provide a safe, nondiscriminatory environment for all students. If the University determines that it can maintain confidentiality, you must understand that the institution’s ability to meaningfully investigate the incident and pursue disciplinary action, if warranted, may be limited. There are times when the University may not be able to honor a request for confidentiality because doing so would pose a risk to its ability to provide a safe, nondiscriminatory environment for everyone. If the University determines that it cannot maintain confidentiality, the University will advise you, prior to starting an investigation and, to the extent possible, will share information only with those responsible for handling the institution’s response. The University is committed to the well-being of all students and will take steps to protect all involved from retaliation or harm.

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/>

Course Outline*

Week	Class Sessions	Content Themes
1	05 September	Introductions & course overview
2	12 September	What is research? Who does and uses research? Career pathways involving research
3	19 September	Research process in economics
4	26 September	Different types of economics research & researchers
5	03 October	Responsible conduct of research – ethics, rules, misconduct, and conflicts of interest
6	10 October	Responsible conduct of research – protection of human subjects and data management
7	17 October	Overview of empirical economics research methods
8	24 October	No in-person class – Evaluating economics research (reminder human subjects training due 24 October)
9	31 October	Economics in action – observational studies
10	07 November	Economics in action - experiments
11	14 November	Economics in action – simulation models
12	28 Nov	Data collection and analytics (and why economics majors can make strong data scientists)
13	05 Dec	Communicating economics research
14	12 Dec	No class – Study for finals, do well in your other courses

No final examination in ECO 217

* This outline reflects my initial planning for the course. To support your success and the course goals, I may adjust dates and content. The course BlackBoard website will be updated to reflect such changes. *