

Spring 2022

**ECON 490 - ECONOMICS CAPSTONE**

**COURSE SYLLABUS \***

<b><u>Professor:</u></b>	<b>K. J. Kleinjans (she/ her/hers)</b>
<b><u>Office Hours:</u></b>	T & Th 4:00-5:00 pm (starting on 2/3) & by appointment
<b><u>Office:</u></b>	SGMH 3339
<b><u>E-mail:</u></b>	<a href="mailto:kkleinjans@fullerton.edu">kkleinjans@fullerton.edu</a>
<b><u>Response time:</u></b>	Within one business day

The best way to reach me is by email. We will use the Canvas course site in this class and I will also send you emails. Check both regularly and often.

\* 1/18/2022. This syllabus is subject to change. Any changes will be posted on Canvas.

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***The first two weeks of classes will take place during class time on Zoom.***

***Please use this Zoom link: <https://fullerton.zoom.us/j/82799937267>.***

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**IMPORTANT NOTE**

*Dear Students:*

*We are living in times of hardship, uncertainty, and loss. Many of you have gone through the most difficult times in your lives. In May, 83% of my students told me that a close family member or friend had become ill from covid-19. One out of four students had covid-19 themselves, and several had been in the emergency room, on oxygen, and on ventilators. And one out of three students lost a loved one to covid-19. Many of my colleagues did, too.*

*Returning to campus is a relief but is also scary. Rest assured that we are doing what we can to keep you safe (see more below under Safety). I am there for you - do not hesitate to talk to me or email if you need support. While I am not a trained therapist, I care deeply about you and may be able to help you in many things big or small. If I am unable to help you, I can direct you to people who can. See also <http://itwebstg.fullerton.edu/canvassupportresources/> for a new website containing some of this information. This website will be updated throughout the semester.*

***If you need help right away, reach out to our crisis phone service for students, available 24/7: CAPS (657)278-3040.***

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## **SAFETY ON CAMPUS AND IN THE CLASSROOM**

*To keep everyone safe on campus, we require everyone to be fully vaccinated and boosted as of February 7 or when eligible. Those who are not yet fully vaccinated or have applied for and been granted medical or religious exception are required to get tested weekly. See <http://coronavirus.fullerton.edu/> (Links to an external site.), <https://coronavirus.fullerton.edu/booster-related-and-virtual-instruction-student-faq/> (Links to an external site.), Presidential Direction No. 22 (Links to an external site.), your portal, and your email for more information.*

*Everyone is required to wear a mask that fully covers mouth and nose at all times when inside, except for those who are alone in a private space or eating and drinking.*

*In the unlikely case that a student does not comply with the vaccine or mask mandate, the Dean of Students will be informed and appropriate actions will be taken, which may include suspension or expulsion.*

*To keep everyone safe in the classroom, no eating of any kind will be allowed. If you need to drink something, make sure to pull up your mask again immediately after taking a sip.*

### **Course Description**

Econ 490 provides a capstone experience for undergraduate economics majors. Students demonstrate facility with economic theory and quantitative methods in class discussions, written work, and presentations, including policy briefs, research articles, and independent research.

### **Course Objectives**

The goal of this course is to enhance and deepen students' skills and proficiencies that one would expect in a well-trained economics major. This includes the understanding and application of economic concepts; the ability to access, use, and interpret economic literature and data; the understanding of the role of assumptions in arguments; the use of theoretical and empirical evidence to form and evaluate an economic argument; the ability to analyze and evaluate policy options based on economic theory and data; the critical understanding and evaluation of news and other media reports; coherent and effective oral and written communication about economic issues; and the creation of new knowledge.

### **Prerequisites**

The prerequisites for this class are: ECON 310, ECON 320, and ECON 340; plus at least one of the following: ECON 440, ISDS 361B, or a 400-level Economics elective.

You should be taking this class in your last semester of studies.

### **Course Materials**

There is no textbook. Course materials will be announced in class and posted on Canvas.

## **Course Format**

This is a synchronous course, that is, we will meet during the assigned class time. We will meet in person and on campus, in the assigned classroom. The class will be partially flipped, which means that you will prepare some of the material on your own and we will use some of the class time to answer questions, for further discussion, and hands-on work. In case circumstances change and we have to pivot to meeting on Zoom, use the Zoom link on the Canvas course site. Note that all meetings will be synchronous (that is, taking place during the official class time) and that Zoom meetings may be recorded.

## **Note on Covid-19**

At the time of this writing, all in-person classes are scheduled to take place in person starting on February 7, on campus, and during the official class times. Should this change, we will pivot again to meeting on Zoom, at the official class times. If this happens, you will need to turn on your video for all classes and have a functioning microphone and speaker (see more below). Should this happen, I will inform you on Canvas, through an email/ announcement, and if possible in person. Make sure to frequently check <http://coronavirus.fullerton.edu/>.

## **Required Technology**

You will need a laptop/ computer, webcam and microphone for this class. You will need this for at least one assignment, the first two weeks of classes, and also in case we need to pivot to Zoom meetings. Since this may happen on a very short notice, make sure that your technology is set up and working.

We will use Flipgrid, google-docs, and polling in this class. All of these are very intuitive, and you can always ask me if you have any questions.

If you do not have a computer and/ or need help with WIFI access, and for any other issues with IT or tech, contact the Student IT Helpdesk at <http://www.fullerton.edu/it/students/helpdesk/index.php>.

## **Zoom To-dos and Etiquette**

Before you log into the Zoom meeting, make sure that you have the latest version of Zoom.

Once logged in, confirm your first and last name are correct, otherwise your attendance will not be recorded. You can rename yourself by going to the three dots in the upper right-hand corner in your own window and click on rename. Preferably, also post a profile picture.

You may use your name of choice if it differs from your name in the course roster (but let me know so that I can link you to the correct record).

During a Zoom meeting, you are required to turn on your camera. If this is an issue for you for whatever reason, talk to me as soon as possible and we will figure something out. Mute your microphone unless you are speaking. It is easy to forget that people are able to see you, so do not forget and behave accordingly. Whenever possible, I will have the videos of all participants visible on my screen, and your classmates will be able to see you as well. If at all possible, sit at a desk or table. If that is not possible, make sure that you can easily access the computer controls so that you can quickly respond to questions, polls, etc.

Note that I will be recording some or all of the Zoom meetings and may post some of them for the class or individual students.

Sometimes there are glitches in Zoom - for example, you may be sent to a different meeting. If something like this happens, log out of Zoom, log back in, and click on the link for the course or office hours.

Note that you can switch between seeing the speaker and all participants on the upper-right hand corner by switching between Gallery View and Speaker View.

### **Class Etiquette and Netiquette**

This is an upper-level class that requires close attention. ***In order to not distract yourself or others, You are required to turn off your phones and laptops before entering the class.*** If your class meets in a lab, note that you are not permitted to use the classroom computers during class. You are expected to arrive on time and stay for the entire class period. If you are going to be late on a particular day or have to leave early, for a valid reason, please let me know in advance.

This class requires active participation, in and outside of class: be present and participate. Attendance of all class sessions is mandatory. Contact me ahead of time if either poses difficulties for you. Be kind to each other – these are trying times for everyone, so let's treat each other with respect and compassion. To learn more about Netiquette, click on [this link](#) and also see the pdf file provided on Canvas.

### **Notable Dates**

First class meeting: Tuesday, 1/25

Spring Recess: 3/29 & 3/31

Last class meeting: Thursday, 5/12

### **Course Organization**

Econ 490 is an assignment-based course, designed to help you improve your skills as an economist. This means that we will cover the material you need to know in the context of each assignment.

There are four assignments, all of which contain several parts. With very few exceptions, deadlines are on Sunday.

Canvas is organized by module. The modules in this class are organized in chronological order so that you have everything you need at the time you need it, including course materials, assignment instructions, and reminders. You can also access assignment submission links and instructions under Assignments on the left-hand-side navigation.

There is a pinned discussion Q&A discussion board where you can look for answers and submit questions to me and your classmates. Please contact me by email if you have questions that only pertain to yourself.

During scheduled office hours, I will be available to meet in my office - no appointment required.

## **Tentative Schedule**

This class is divided into roughly four parts:

Week 1: Introduction to the course and the class.

Weeks 2-7: Learning of skills and information to become a better economist (= complete your assignments).

Weeks 8-12: Focus on your research project, Assignment #4. We will cover additional related material during class meetings.

Weeks 13-15: Research project presentations.

In addition, throughout the semester, we will have guest speakers and individual meetings.

For assignment due dates, go to the Due Dates and Assignments Overview page on Canvas.

On the Canvas home page of this course, I will post a short-term calendar with specific schedule information and an overview of the tasks that you should be working on during those weeks.

*Due dates and a detailed timeline will be discussed in class and posted on Canvas.*

## **Course grading**

Graded work in Econ 490 consists of the following:

Assignment #1 (post and responses): 5%

Assignment #2 (paper and in-class presentation; seminar attendance and write-up): 10%

Assignment #3 Group Project (interim report, paper and in-class presentation): 25%

Assignment #4 (paper with staggered due dates and in-class presentation): 50%

Professional Conduct and Engagement 10%

Total: 100%.

Be advised that I will be using plus/minus grading. Final scores may be graded on a curve. There is no final exam and no extra credit. Due dates are binding.

Please refer to the *Due dates and Assignment Overview* Canvas page for an overview of the assignments with due dates, and the separate assignment instructions for detailed information.

Assignment instructions will be discussed in class, posted in the respective course module, and also be available via the Assignment link on the left-hand side navigation in Canvas.

I will give written feedback on Canvas. Make sure to also read comments I make directly in your submissions (click on the Feedback button on your submitted assignment page).

**Professional Conduct and Engagement** includes attendance, prompt response to emails, submission by or before due dates, preparation for class, frequency and quality of contributions, active participation during break-out sessions, and proper class and Zoom etiquette and netiquette.

## **Course Drop Policy**

During the first week of the course, you are required to participate or you may be dropped from the course. Attend both class meetings from start to finish, complete the Questionnaire (the link is on

Canvas) and the first part of Assignment #1, and pick a Nobel laureate for Assignment #2 by their due date. If you have any challenges with these tasks during the first week, notify me as soon as possible so that we can get you started.

### **Grade Appeals**

If you believe a mistake has been made in the grading of your work, please bring it to my attention. Questions regarding the grading of the work must be presented to me in writing no later than one week after the graded assignment or feedback has been distributed. The request must include a description of the problem and why you think the assignment should be graded differently. Whenever I am asked to re-grade, I will re-examine the entire assignment, not just the issue you identified. As a result of re-grading, your score may increase or decrease.

### **Late Work Policy and Absence from Class**

Unless otherwise noted, there is no extension of due dates. Attendance of all in-class sessions is mandatory. Exception of these and other policies as stated in the syllabus are at the discretion of the instructor. I evaluate all requests on a case-by-case basis and will not discuss students' granted exceptions with other students in the course.

### **Academic Integrity**

Students are expected to adhere to the standards of academic integrity that govern students at CSUF. Students who violate CSUF standards of academic integrity are subject to disciplinary sanctions, including failing the course and other disciplinary action. Since dishonesty in any form harms the individual, other students and the university, policies on academic integrity will be strictly enforced. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, getting outside help for individual work unless explicitly permitted, and the use of illegally posted information on external websites. Talk to me if you have questions. For more information, see <http://www.fullerton.edu/integrity/student/AcademicIntegrityResources.php>.

### **Academic Accommodations**

Students requiring accommodations for special needs must contact the Office of Disability Support Services in UH 101, phone: 657-278-3117. See also <http://www.fullerton.edu/DSS>. Please talk to me during the first week of class.

### **Emergency Policies**

Please see here for details: <http://prepare.fullerton.edu>. In the event that an unexpected emergency disrupts normal campus operations or causes the University to close for a prolonged period of time due to circumstances such as an earthquake I will contact you by email and post on Canvas how the class will proceed. In case email does not work, please call the Economics Department at 657-278-2228 for further instructions.

## **Assessment**

*The programs offered at the College of Business and Economics at Cal State Fullerton are designed to provide every student with the knowledge and skills essential for a successful career in business. Since assessment plays a vital role in the College's drive to offer the best, several assessment tools are implemented to constantly evaluate our program as well as our students' progress. Students, faculty and staff should expect to participate in assessment activities. In doing so, the College is able to measure its strengths and weaknesses, while continuing to cultivate a climate of excellence in its students and programs.*