

Topics in Economic Research I
China Center for Economic Research, Peking University
Fall 2006

Course Requirement

Instructor:

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Teaching Assistant:

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Description:

This course exposes graduate students to various topics in frontiers of economic research. Students are expected to attend regularly seminars held in CCER. Each student is also required to write up two critical reviews of seminar papers.

Evaluation:

1. Attendance (40%)

(1) All enrolled students are required to attend center-wide seminars designated by the Center as “must attend”. This requirement will be announced in advance of the occurrence of such seminars.

(10%)

(2) Each enrolled student is required to attend at least 70% of seminars in the CCER Seminar Series on Economic Theory and Policy, Fall 2006. For this part, attendance rate below 70% will result in a score of zero. Attendance rate of 70% will yield 70 points. Beyond that, every 5% increase in attendance rate will lead to an additional 5 points. (30%)

2. Discussion (15%)

Active discussion and question raising during seminars are encouraged.

3. Critical Reviews (45%)

At the end of the semester, each student is expected to submit two critical reviews on two seminar papers up to their own choice. The instructor will randomly select and evaluate one from the two reviews. This means that you have to work hard on both reviews to be guaranteed a good score.

The reviews should be written in English (they are good chances for you to practice English writing). Each of the reviews should be double-spaced and have 5~8 pages.

The reviews should contain the following materials.

(1) A brief summary of the papers’ contributions, methodology, and findings.

(2) Critique of the papers, including their methods, models, econometric work, data, interpretation of results, etc.

(3) Suggestion on how to improve the papers and how to conduct future research.

The emphasis of the reviews should be placed on (2) and (3).