

Dissertation Workshop II
ECON 9515
Fall 2017 – Spring 2018
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Office: AYS 436
Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11:00am-12:00pm

Prerequisite: Econ 9510

Catalog Description

This course is designed to help students who are far along in the dissertation process to learn the skills associated with presenting original research. Students will learn how to organize their presentations, how to handle and respond to criticism of their work while presenting and how to organize their time to make an effective talk.

Course Objective

This course is intended for economics PhD students who are in their final year before graduation and who are embarking upon the job market. Students shall enroll for the course in both the fall and the spring semester of their final year in the program.

The focus of this course will be on preparing for the economics job market. Students will prepare their job market application packet materials, including a cv, website, and cover letter. Students will practice writing and presenting their job market paper, and prepare for interviews and campus visits.

Course Materials

Required Text

"A Guide And Advice For Economists On The U.S. Junior Academic Job Market," by John Cawley, available online here: <https://www.aeaweb.org/joe/>

This pdf document describes in great detail the process of the job market for newly-minted economics PhDs in the US. This document should be read straight through at the beginning of the year, and referred back to frequently through the course of the job market.

The document is periodically updated, though not necessarily every year. The most recent version is for the 2016-2017 academic year and was updated approximately December 2016.

Additional Materials

In addition to the Cawley guide, there are other resources available that are helpful for job market candidates.

Other Economics Job Market Guides

Although the Cawley guide has the most detailed information on the job market process, there are other guides available.

Jacobson, S. (2015), How to Learn to Stop Worrying and Love the Job Market. *Southern Economic Journal*, 81: 843–863.

This is another guide, similar to the Cawley guide, offering additional perspective. Note: the author, Sarah Jacobson, was a graduate of GSU's economics PhD program.

Guides on Writing Economics Research Papers

Don Fullerton's [general](#) and [specific](#) guidelines for writing research papers. In particular, see the six-paragraph formula for writing an introduction, on p. 2 of the general guidelines.

McCloskey, D. "[Economic writing](#)." *Economic Inquiry* 23, no. 2 (1985): 187-222.

John Cochrane's "[Writing Tips for PhD Students](#)."

Thompson, William. *A Guide for the Young Economist: Writing and Speaking Effectively about Economics*. MIT Press (2001).

Guides on Giving Presentations in Economics

Better Presentations: A Guide for Scholars, Researchers, and Wonks by Jonathan Scwabish, Columbia University Press, 2016.

Resources on Economics in General

As a PhD student, you have spent the last several years becoming an expert on a very specific topic in economics. But, it is also a good idea to keep updated on big, general topics related to economics. This is probably why you became interested in economics in the first place. Interviewers will want to know that you are interested in and can intelligently discuss issues in economics that are not directly related to your research area.

One such resource is the *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, available free online here: <https://www.aeaweb.org/journals/jep>. This is a quarterly journal written by and for PhD economists. But, the articles are not cutting-edge research. Rather, they are reviews and syntheses of cutting-edge research designed to be understood by economists outside of the area of expertise.

Some general-interest (non-academic) books related to economics that it might be good to read or know about (there are undoubtedly more):

The Worldly Philosophers by Robert Heilbroner.

Akerlof, George A., and Robert J. Shiller. *Phishing for phools: The economics of manipulation and deception*. Princeton University Press, 2015.

Economics Rules by Dani Rodrik

Hamermesh, Daniel S. 1992. "The Young Economist's Guide to Professional Etiquette." *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 6(1): 169-179.

Course Structure

The course does not have a regular meeting time and place. Beginning in the summer before the academic year, we will meet approximately every three to four weeks.

Rough Schedule of Meetings and Topics (Subject to Change – Meeting times and locations will be announced in advance)

June – Introductory meeting

Early July –JOE, research statements, teaching philosophies, cover letters

Late July – JMP introduction and abstract

Early August – Presentation introductory slides

Late August – CVs, websites

Early September – JOE listings

Late October – Interviews

Week before Thanksgiving – Mock interviews

Each student will have a 60-minute slot and conduct a mock (practice) job interview with GSU faculty members.

Weeks after Thanksgiving, before holiday break – Practice job talks

Each student will have a 90-minute slot to present the final run through of the JMP. Note that this is *in addition to* the practice talk that will be given in the beginning of the semester in Dissertation Seminar I.

Early January – Feedback on ASSA, Flyouts

Late February - Scramble