

Seminar

ECO-4903 | Spring 2024

Dr. Alfonso Rodriguez

Course Overview

The main objective of this senior seminar is to introduce and develop among participants the experience needed to critically read, evaluate, present, and discuss primary research in the field of Economics.

Contact Information

I can be reached via e-mail at arodr002@fiu.edu. Please include in the e-mail subject line the course number, in this case ECO4903. Otherwise, your e-mail will, most likely, end up in my spam folder.

Do not message me through Canvas as I do not check the Canvas Inbox, I only check me email.

I will hold office hours on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7:00AM – 7:50AM, in my office, DM313A. I will also be available, if the need arises, by appointment.

So, If you are having issues with the course material and/or need to meet with me one-on-one please stop by during office hours or contact me so we can schedule a meeting, either in person or via Zoom.

Grades

Grading is based on the following:

- 40% - Oral presentation of assigned readings (30 minute presentation, with 5 minutes for questions).

Presentations should cover the assigned reading in depth.

All presentation will be graded based on how well they answer the following questions:

- What is the main issue? What is the story that is being told?
 - Analysis of the evidence being used to support the issue/story.
 - Is evidence credible?
 - Are there faults with the evidence that stand out to you, if so what are they?
 - Report the key findings.
 - What are the main results?
 - What are the key assumptions necessary for the results?
 - Are these assumptions testable?
 - Do you have issues with these assumptions?
 - What are the implications of the results?
 - Any critical comments of the assigned reading?
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- 10% - Class participation.
- Grading of participation will inevitably be carried out on a rather crude scale. During class discussions, there will be ample opportunity for all members of the class to fully participate. Students who are not participating will be invited to contribute by means of direct questions related to the paper(s). If you have read the papers, and thought seriously about the implications of the work, you will have no problem with this part of the requirements. Understand that

being a passive observer and not participating in class discussions will earn you zero credit.

- 30% - Literature review.

The literature review needs to critically analyze the body of work covered throughout the semester. It should thoroughly summarize, classify, and compare the articles covered in the course. The literature review is due on 4/18/2024, at the beginning of class.

- 20% - Final exam.

Final exam questions will be based on the readings assigned throughout the semester. It will take place on 4/18/2024.

Academic Misconduct

Please read over and be aware of [FIU's Code of Academic Integrity](#). Any violation thereof constitutes academic misconduct and may result in disciplinary action including, but not limited to, a failing grade, disciplinary probation, or expulsion from the university.

Accommodating Disabilities

If you have a disability and need assistance, please contact the [Disability Resource Center](#). Upon contact, the Disability Resource Center will review your request and contact me in order to make arrangements for assistance.