

Of SYLLABUS FOR ECONOMICS 9940  
WORKSHOP IN EXPERIMENTAL ECONOMICS  
PROFESSOR JAMES C. COX

Spring 2020

**REVISED MARCH 2020**

**Hello Students:** During the rest of the spring semester, we will follow the plan we discussed during our last in-person class meeting on March 12<sup>th</sup>. As we discussed, the plan for going forward is Skype conferences to implement the same workshop activities virtually that we would ordinarily have implemented by in-person meetings in the ExCEN laboratory or the classroom.

**Communication:** During the AYS meeting of chairs and directors on March 11, the AYS IT staff informed us that GSU does not have enough capacity for us to use Webex for virtual conference style presentation, discussion and class experiments, which is as you know the heart of the learning approach used in our PhD workshop. Therefore, I decided to use Skype, which along with email connectivity can support these learning activities.

Before March 12<sup>th</sup>, I sent email to everyone with my Skype address and asked all of you to send me invitations. By March 13<sup>th</sup>, I had established Skype connectivity with all of you. And, of course, you have had my email address ([jccox@gsu.edu](mailto:jccox@gsu.edu)) since the beginning of the fall semester (and continuing this semester).

**Ensuring continuing virtual connectivity:** On Monday, **March 30, 5:15 pm** (EDT) I will initiate a Skype call with all of you to ensure there are no problems with connectivity. If there are problems, Kevin Ackaramongkolrotn, ExCEN Associate Director, IT (email: [krawee@gsu.edu](mailto:krawee@gsu.edu)) will be available by email or phone to help you solve them. On subsequent class meeting days, please be available for a Skype call at least 5 minutes before the scheduling start time for a virtual class.

**Schedule:** The schedule for the rest of the semester will follow procedures that will allow us to achieve the learning objectives of this workshop. The schedule has two parts.

**Virtual Schedule Part 1:**

Tuesday, March 31, 5:15 pm (EST): Experiment demonstration and conference-style presentation led by Dr. Todd Swarthout.

Thursday, April 2, 5:15 pm (EST): Conference-style presentation led by Professor Glenn Harrison.

Tuesday, April 7, 5:15 pm (EST): Conference-style presentation led by Professor Vjollca Sadiraj.

With the above presentations, we will follow our usual procedure: I will send you email attachments with files for background paper reading and the presenter's (Power Point or other) class notes before the day of the presentation.

## Virtual Schedule Part 2:

Topics for class virtual meetings for April 9, 14, 16, 21, and 23, beginning at 5:15 pm (EST) will adhere to the original schedule: these are the days on which you present your own research topics and conduct pilot experiments. Following long-established precedent in my classes, I will first give students the opportunity to allocate the available days using any allocation mechanism that has unanimous consent. If this first approach does not work (it always has in the past), I will randomly allocate the available days. Please send me the **presentation schedule before 5 pm on March 31**.

Preparation to conduct your pilot experiment virtually will require some creativity but it is doable. Procedures for conducting your pilot experiment can be worked out in advance by consulting with me by email, Skype, and phone. Any IT or Skype problems can be addressed by Kevin Ackaramongkolrotn, ExCEN Associate Director, IT (email: [krawee@gsu.edu](mailto:krawee@gsu.edu)).

**Virtual Office Hours:** For the rest of the semester, I will be available for virtual office hours any weekday between 10 am and 6 pm if you provide 24 hours advance notice ([jccox@gsu.edu](mailto:jccox@gsu.edu)). Without advance notice, I *may* be available during these days and times. As in normal times, if you have document(s) you want me to read before our meeting, please send them as email attachments at least 24 hours in advance.

I will be available the same as I would be in normal times to converse about your research topic (and other topics) and provide specific suggestions and ideas. I invite you to contact me. If I don't hear from you, I will contact you to initiate discussion of your research and help keep it on track.

**Content below** is the same as the original syllabus.

Econ 9940 is a workshop in experimental research. This workshop is intended to:

- Initiate and support dissertation research by PhD students
- Encourage PhD students to work and interact with several faculty members on a regular basis
- Integrate pilot experiments and research seminar presentations in experimental economics by resident faculty, dissertation-stage graduate students, and visiting scholars into the workshop research experience
- Provide an institutionalized venue for weekly interaction among PhD students, resident faculty, and visiting scholars working on experimental research
- Prepare PhD students to write and submit research papers for professional journal review

### Prerequisite

The prerequisite for this workshop is Econ 9340 or permission of the instructor.

### Workshop Requirements

Workshop requirements include: regular attendance and active participation in discussions of research; participation in laboratory pilot experiments and discussion of experimental designs and protocols; development and presentation of the student's own ongoing research; leading discussions of papers related to the student's research topic; and interaction with resident faculty, other graduate students, and visiting scholars.

A completed research paper by the end of the semester is required. This paper should include a detailed experimental design, subject instructions, and results from a pilot experiment run in the workshop.

### Course Grades

The course grade will be based entirely on the student's research paper. This paper is due on Friday, May 1<sup>st</sup>.

### Workshop Scheduling

The workshop will meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 5:15 – 6:30 p.m. and possibly other days and times to accommodate schedules of guest lecturers.

The meetings will be devoted to: (a) presentations of research in progress by graduate students registered for the workshop, graduate students at an advanced stage of their dissertation work, resident faculty, and visiting faculty; (b) discussions of published research articles and working papers; and (c) meetings in the experimental economics laboratory for development work on experimental designs and protocols.

### Office Hours and Contact Information

The instructor's office is room 456 of the AYSPS building, 14 Marietta Street. His office hours are 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays and other times by appointment made in class or by sending email to [jccox@gsu.edu](mailto:jccox@gsu.edu).

### Course Readings

Course readings will be journal articles, working papers, and draft materials for experimental research projects under development. These readings will be selected by participating students, resident faculty, and visiting faculty.

### Learning Outcomes

By the end of the semester, a student:

1. should have made substantial progress on a dissertation research project involving laboratory or field experiments; and
2. should have learned how to make written presentations of his/her research project in a form appropriate for submission to academic journals.