

**Constitutional Political Economy Workshop**  
**ECON 895-001**  
**Spring 2021**  
**Asynchronous**

**Professor Christopher J. Coyne**  
**Department of Economics**  
[ccooyne3@gmu.edu](mailto:ccooyne3@gmu.edu)

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

This course is a PhD-level research seminar intended for select students who are currently engaged in original scholarship and research. The main goal is to provide students with the opportunity to develop their research skills culminating in a research project that will serve as part of their dissertation. Instructor permission is required for registration in this course.

**LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

Upon completion of this course, you will have improved:

1. Your ability to produce original academic research
2. Your ability to present your research in a clear and concise manner
3. Your ability to provide constructive feedback in written and spoken form in a seminar format

**REQUIRED MATERIALS:**

Given that this course is focused on your original research, there are no required materials outside of the weekly papers which will be circulated prior to our meeting.

**SCHEDULE OF COURSE EVENTS:**

I will be in touch over email to coordinate the schedule of class events and the final schedule of papers will be circulated once finalized.

**GRADING AND ASSIGNMENTS:**

Your grade will be based on weekly comments submitted by the weekly deadline (50%) and a final paper (50%). Each student's paper will be circulated prior to the meeting via email. You are expected to read the paper prior to meeting and submit questions and comments regarding the paper over email. These comments should be constructive with the intention of helping the author improve the quality of the paper. I will share your comments, along with my own detailed comments with the paper author.

You must submit a final version of your paper at the end of the semester which will be graded based on the overall quality of the research. Papers should be double-spaced with conventional font size and margins and consist of original thinking. Literature reviews, summaries of the readings, extensively paraphrasing or quoting others, etc. are, therefore, not permitted. Your paper should look like, read like, and 'feel' like an academic journal article.

The grade of your paper will be determined based on the potential of your paper for publication in an academic journal. An “A” paper will be one that is close to being ready for submission. A “B” paper is one that has potential but requires significant work prior to submission. A “C” paper is one which lacks the potential, even with significant work, for submission. Late final papers will not be accepted and will receive a grade of 0.

**SPECIAL ACCOMODATIONS:**

If you require any special accommodations, please see me immediately following the first class so that we can work together to make sure that you have what you need to succeed in this course.

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:**

It is expected that students adhere to the George Mason University Honor Code as it relates to integrity regarding coursework and grades. The Honor Code reads as follows:

To promote a stronger sense of mutual responsibility, respect, trust, and fairness among all members of the George Mason University community and with the desire for greater academic and personal achievement, we, the student members of the University Community have set forth this: Student members of the George Mason University community pledge not to cheat, plagiarize, steal and/or lie in matters related to academic work.” More information about the Honor Code, including definitions of cheating, lying, and plagiarism, can be found at the Office of Academic Integrity website at <https://oai.gmu.edu>