Econ 525: Research Workshop  
Summer 2011

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Office hours  
Sunday: 12:00-1:00. Wednesday: 11:00 -12:00 or by appointment.

Meeting Time and Place  
Monday and Wednesday: 5:00-8:35 pm. Room C108 BEC

Textbook  

Course Description  
This is a very important course for all economics graduate students. The importance of this course stems from the fact that this course helps students to develop and sharpen their abilities in conducting research. The course is even more important for students who intend to take the thesis option. However, even for the students who opt for the comprehensives/fields, they should take this course very seriously as it will help them in their professional careers whether in academic or nonacademic jobs.

The aim of this course is to show students the scientific way in conducting research. From its “rough” beginning of choosing and formulating a research topic, developing research questions, choosing the adequate methodology to the actual write-up and the organization of the research paper. As we will see during the course, conducting research is not by all means an easy task. One could possess the knowledge and technical ability but will have difficulty in starting, letting alone finishing a good research piece.

There will be reading assignments from the above textbook and other sources. These readings will be discussed thoroughly in class with application on economics and economic topics. Most of these readings will be presented by students.

I expect that students who are taking this course know how to do a proper citation. Usually in economics, APA citation is used and in this course your citation should follow this method. Please check out the following link for the proper way of citing different resources.  
http://library.osu.edu/sites/guides/apagd.php
Be it a workshop, the course will be conducted as a typical one. Discussion and smart participation from all students is not only encouraged but also required! The final output of this course should be a solid research proposal that could be submitted to the department and used as a corner stone in your thesis. Throughout the semester, each student is required to present the development of his/her topic to the class. Other students should critically comment on these presentations and engage in active debate to help the presenter improving his/her research project in its various stages. This should be done during class time and outside class via Blackboard discussion tool (Details will be discussed in class). All hand-in assignments should be typed with no exception.

I have zero tolerance for academic dishonesty. In the past there have been a number of plagiarism cases. If I discover any plagiarism, the student will be severely punished and the case will be turned to the academic integrity committee at AUC for proper disciplinary action. For a list of what could fall under academic violation and possible disciplinary actions visit www.aucegypt.edu/resources/acadintegrity/

Logistics
I expect you to pay full attention to what is being said and discussed. Please remember to turn off your cell phone before stepping into the class. I expect to you to come on time. If you are more than 7 minutes late, please don’t enter the classroom.

Grading system
Participation and discussion 20%, presentations and written assignments 35%, and proposal 45%.