

AEM 7650: Development Microeconomics Graduate Research Seminar
Spring 2009

Instructor:

Chris Barrett
315 Warren Hall
255-4489
cbb2@cornell.edu

Course time, location and website:

Tuesdays 8:40-9:55
Warren 360
<http://blackboard.cornell.edu/>

Course description: The seminar provides a forum for graduate students writing an MS or PhD thesis in development microeconomics to present and get feedback on their research ideas and preliminary results. Priority for speaking slots is given to students I supervise; but others are always welcome. Students in their second year or beyond (whether in a MS or PhD program) are expected to present a seminar once each semester. At a minimum, this should be extended notes about their emerging thesis or, better yet, a draft paper. A schedule of presentations is posted on the course Blackboard site.

All presenters must distribute a copy of their paper or discussion notes to the whole group no later than 5 PM on the Friday preceding their seminar in order that everyone has enough time to read it and mark it up before the discussion. Student presenters are responsible for emailing their paper (or notes) to everyone using the Communications/Send Email/All Users option in the Blackboard site. I post the papers to the Course Documents folder on the course Blackboard site.

All participants are expected to attend all other seminars, to read and mark up the draft paper in advance of the seminar, then to give the presenter written comments after the seminar (in addition to oral remarks offered during the discussion). This ensures that all presenters get substantive edits that will help their rapid progress towards completing publishable papers and acceptable thesis chapters.

In addition to getting comments on the substance of the talk, presenters also get feedback on the presentation itself. Each week the following week's presenter is responsible for taking notes on the aesthetics of the presentation and offering constructive criticism on slides, speaking style, etc. during the final five minutes of the seminar period (i.e., providing feedback on the cosmetics of the talk rather than the content of the talk). In the last seminar of the semester, the first week's presenter fulfills this function.

Presenters are responsible for picking up any audio-visual equipment they need for their presentation. There is a projector available in Warren 360. Email me or Erin Lentz (ecl4@cornell.edu) if you want to borrow my portable LCD projector.

Evaluation: Grades are S/U only. Audits are permitted.

Readings: Some useful background readings are also posted on the course Blackboard site. These are not required.

Tentative Schedule for Fall 2009

August 25	Annemie Maertens
September 1	Not available
September 8	Hope Michelson
September 15	Pin Chantarat
September 22	Possibly open
September 29	Not available
October 6	Brian Dillon
October 13	ISS workshop on economic mobility in developing countries
October 20	Marc Rockmore
October 27	Sudha Narayanan
November 3	Kira Villa
November 10	Asare Twum-Barima
November 17	ISS workshop on institutions and poverty traps
November 24	Namtip Chawanote
December 1	Corey Lang
December 8	Aurelie Harou
December 15	Felix Naschold