

PUB POL 810
Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy
University of Michigan

Fall Semester 2015
Professor Elisabeth R. Gerber
Friday 11:30-1:00, 3240 WH

Course Description

The Ford School of Public Policy's Ph.D. seminar is a year-long required course for first and second year students in the joint Ph.D. program. The course is intended to provide opportunities for professional development, cohort building, and interdisciplinary learning/interactions across the three participating disciplines of economics, political science and sociology. The course meets for 1.5 hours, seven times per semester. During the fall semester, students will read working papers written by Ford School faculty. Teams of students from multiple disciplines will be assigned to discuss and facilitate class discussions on each paper. During the winter semester, advanced Ph.D. students will present their job market papers, with teams of students from the class again serving as discussants and discussion leaders.

Assignments: Each student will be assigned as a discussant for one paper per semester. For those sessions, students are responsible for working with their co-discussant to develop a set of comments and questions/discussion points, to be submitted in writing 24 hours before the class. Students not assigned as discussants on a given paper are required to submit at least one question for the author to an online site prior to the class.

Grading: Grading will be based on attendance, participation, and written comments for the two assigned papers.

Tentative Schedule

Fall 2015

Week 1 (9/11): Introductions, general discussion

Week 3 (9/25): Elizabeth Bruch

Week 5 (10/9): Dean Yang

Week 7 (10/23): Rick Hall

Week 9 (11/6): TBD

Week 11 (11/20): John Ciorciari

Week 13 (12/4): Kevin Stang

Registration: Each student should register for a 1-credit course (PP810) each semester and should plan to devote approximately 2-3 hours preparing for each class session.

Resources:

<https://chrisblattman.com/2010/02/22/the-discussants-art/>

https://www.aeaweb.org/committees/cswep/PDFs/top10_list.pdf

<http://duckofminerva.com/2007/01/role-of-panel-discussant.html#>

<http://sites.utexas.edu/ecoadvising/files/2012/05/ESP-Tips-on-being-a-good-discussant1.pdf>

Accommodations:

If you believe you need an accommodation for a disability, please let me know at your earliest convenience. Some aspects of this course may be modified to facilitate your participation and progress. As soon as you make me aware of your needs, we can work with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities to help us determine appropriate accommodations. I will treat any information you provide as private and confidential.