

SEMINAR, ECON 493
Department of Economics
St. Francis Xavier University
Fall 2018

Instructor: Teng Wah LEO

Time Blocks and Location: X7/X8 (Tuesday & Thursday, 2:15 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.), BB305

Office Hours: Monday, 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.; Wednesday, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.; Friday, 11:15 a.m. to 12:15 a.m.

Objective: The course is designed to provide students with the requisite skills for the development of a viable research idea, and the writing of an academic article. To assist students in the development of an idea that they can use towards their honours thesis, or major paper, faculty members will be invited to present topics that are of contemporary concern in economics, and the social sciences, and which are relevant to their expertise. This is supplemented by external invited speakers to provide maximum exposure to all the various possibilities within economics. Students are required to actively participate in the seminars, and each faculty member will have their own assignment which the students must fulfill for completion of the course.

Evaluation:

1. 25% – 4 × Assignments

Required Text: The requisite readings will be determined by the faculty.

Course Outline:

- Week 1: Development of Research Idea
- Week 2:
 1. Writing of *Introduction* of an academic paper.
 2. Talk on “Alienation & Segmentation Between Latent Classes of American Household Income Distributions, 1977-2015” by Dr. Teng Wah Leo on the 14th September 2018.

- Week 3:
 1. Students present their research idea, and submit the *Introduction* by the 21st September 2018.
 2. Recruitment Talk by Bank of Canada on the 21st September 2018.
- Week 4: Talk on “Focality of Truth-telling” by Dr. Norovsambuu Tumennasan of *Dalhousie University* on the 28th September 2018.
- Week 5: Writing of *Literature Review* by Dr. Fraser Summerfield
- Week 6: Talk on “The Shifting Scully Curve: International Evidence from 1871-2016” by Dr. Fraser Summerfield on the 12th of October 2018.
- Week 7: Talk on “The Massive Expansion of Western Fast-food Restaurants and Children’s Weight in China” by Dr. Weina Zhou of *Dalhousie University* on 19th October 2018.
- Week 8: Writing of *Empirical Results* by Dr. Brandon Malloy.
- Week 9: Talk on “Evolving Attitudes on the Economic Impact of Immigrants: Evidence from the European Social Survey” by Dr. Brandon Malloy on 2nd November 2018.
- Week 10: Writing of *Conclusion* by Dr. Teng Wah Leo.
- Week 11: “How to structure a presentation given time constraints.” by Dr. Teng Wah Leo.
- Week 12: Topic of Discussion to be determined by Dr. Greg Tkacz.
- Week 13: Talk on “Payments Data, Machine Learning and Nowcasting GDP” by Dr. Greg Tkacz on 30th November 2018.

On the Issue of EQUITABLE LEARNING: Since we will be discussing various topics, some of which may be sensitive to some students, I hope everyone will heed the following advice on conduct. “*Everyone learns more effectively in a respectful, safe and equitable learning environment, free from discrimination and harassment. I invite you to work with me to create a classroom space – both real and virtual – that fosters and promotes values of human dignity, equity, non-discrimination and respect for diversity*”.