ECON 589: SEMINAR IN DYNAMIC ECONOMICS

FALL 2019

1 Organization

1. This is a repeatable 1.5-unit course. It is my intention to offer this course every semester going forward.

2. We meet seven times during the semester: Aug. 26 (organizational meeting), Sep. 16 and 30, Oct. 21 and 28, and Nov. 11 and 25 (all Mondays). The classroom is Seigle 205.

3. In each class, there will be one main paper, but two presenters: one will present the main paper and the other will present background materials on the main paper. Each student will present once or twice during the semester. Students are free to choose the main paper they present, in consultation with me.

2 Expectation

1. The primary goal of the course is to give students opportunities to practice summarizing/discussing other researchers’ papers in a critical manner. The presenter is expected to use his/her own judgment to structure the presentation, rather than closely follow the structure of the paper. It is not the job of the presenter to “defend” the paper being presented. A secondary goal of the course is to give students exposure to a broad spectrum of high-quality research in broadly-defined macroeconomics. Last but not least, students get to practice asking and answering questions in a seminar-like setting.

2. A preliminary version of the presentation slides must be submitted to me one week before the scheduled presentation. I will review the slides and request revisions, usually in an in-person meeting.

3. All students are required to read the main paper to be presented prior to each meeting. I do not expect you to read the papers carefully, but you should be able to describe the main question, the methods by which the question is answered, and the main findings of the paper. Active class participation during other students’ presentations are strongly encouraged.

4. The final grade will be based on your presentation and class participation.