

**14.33**  
**Economics Research and Communication**  
**Fall 2007**

Class meets in E52-232  
TTh 10:30-12:00n

Instructor:  
Sara Fisher Ellison  
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E52-274b  
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E52-201  
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1. **Course Description and Prerequisites:** This course will guide students through the process of forming economic hypotheses, gathering the appropriate data, analyzing them, and effectively communicating their results. All students will be expected to have successfully completed 14.30 and 14.32 (or their equivalents) as well as courses in basic microeconomics and macroeconomics. Students may find it useful to take at least one economics field course and perform a UROP before taking this course, but these are not requirements.
2. **Texts:** The “suggested” texts are *Writing Economics* by Neugeboren and Jacobson and *Doing Economics* by Greenlaw. The first is not available for purchase, but you can borrow a copy from me. The second is available on Amazon, but it seems awfully expensive to me. I don’t think it makes sense for most of you to buy it. Other texts you might want to consult are *A Guide for the Young Economist* by Thomson, *The Practice of Econometrics: Classic and Contemporary* by Berndt, *Elements of Style* by Strunk and White, *Stata* manuals, and *The MIT Undergraduate Journal of Economics*. The first two of these should be available in reserve at Dewey Library. All five of them can be borrowed from me.
3. **Requirements:** Your grade will be based on full participation in all aspects of the course. This includes attendance and participation in class (10%), attendance at required office hours and completion of assigned tasks for those office hours (15%), the assignment and short paper (20%), two presentations (10%), and the proposal and two drafts associated with the main project (45%). There will be no exams, and nothing will be due during finals week.

For the short paper, you will be given the choice of two topics on which to write a six-page report. We will provide data sets and suggested techniques for both of the choices. The main project will consist primarily of a fifteen-page written report based on original economic research that you perform over the course of the semester. In addition to handing in the report near the end of the semester, you will be required to deliver a five

minute presentation to the class on your preliminary idea, hand in a one-page written proposal, hand in a rough draft, and deliver a 15-20 minute presentation to the class on your research near the end of the semester.

#### 4. Schedule:

Date	Activities	Location	Assignments
9/06	Intro to course	E52-232	
9/11	Two topics	E52-232	Assignment due
9/13	Computer help session	E52-232	
9/18	Writing an economics paper	E52-232	
9/25	~ ~ ~ ~	~ ~ ~	<b>Short paper due</b>
9/27	Preliminary presentations+	E52-232	
10/02	Preliminary presentations+	E52-232	
10/01-10/12	Required office hours with Prof. Ellison	E52-274b	Draft of data section due
10/15	Required office hours	E52-201	Draft of intro due
10/16	~ ~ ~ ~	~ ~ ~	<b>Rewrite due</b>
10/22	Required office hours	E52-201	Draft of results due
10/29	Required office hours	E52-201	Draft of conclusion due
11/05	Required office hours	E52-201	
11/15	Giving a talk	E52-232	<b>Paper due</b>
11/27	Presentations*	E52-232	
11/29	Presentations*	E52-232	
12/04	Presentations*	E52-232	
12/06	Presentations*	E52-232	
12/11	Presentations*	E52-232	<b>Rewrite due</b>

+You will be required to attend one of the two preliminary presentation days (presumably the one at which you are presenting).

\*You will be required to attend three of the five presentation days.

### 14.33 Policies

1. You are permitted, in fact encouraged, to discuss all course material with other students in the class. However, you must, obviously, hand in your own individual papers. Discussion with others is intended to clarify ideas, concepts, and technical questions, not to derive group papers.
2. In fairness to students who complete assignments on time, students failing to hand in the proposal or assigned section drafts on time will receive no credit for that assignment. We will accept late papers, but their grades will be penalized a half a letter grade a day for lateness. You may turn in assignments during lecture on the day they are due, if there is a lecture. Alternatively, they may be placed in a designated box that will be set out outside E52-274a until 4:30 pm. Do not leave assignments in the professor or T.A.'s office or mailbox.
3. Cheating or academic dishonesty in any form will not be tolerated and will result in swift punitive action. This includes but is not restricted to copying material from other students, lying, or plagiarizing from any source. See <http://web.mit.edu/writing/Special/plagiarism.html> for clarification on what constitutes plagiarism. Any student found to have cheated or behaved unethically or dishonestly will be given a grade of F on the assignment involved and referred to the appropriate disciplinary committees within MIT for further action.