

## Capstone I AY16 Program Review: Program Outcomes and Capstone Assignment Alignment

### ECONOMICS

#### Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs)

- **Content Knowledge:** Students will be able to apply economic theory and tools to better understand current issues.
- **Applied Learning:** Students will show mastery of, for example, the operation of the market system; the role of households, firms, and government in the market system and the operation of a mixed economy from an aggregate perspective.
- **Integrative Learning:** Students will be versed in a pluralistic understanding of economic issues, including Institutional, Keynesian and neoclassical economic theory, in examining economic issues such as inflation, unemployment, international trade, government finance, economic growth, and the monetary system.
- **Communication:** Students will be able to present the results of their research orally and in writing, utilizing both quantitative and qualitative approaches.

#### Capstone Assignment: ECON 401 & 402

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the EOU Instructure LMS page for ECON 401. The page title is "ECON 401, The EOU Economics Capstone I". The page content includes a section titled "The EOU Economics Capstone I" with the course code "ECON 401". Below this, there is a paragraph explaining the course and its goals. The page also features a table with links to course resources and contact information for the instructor and the EOU IT Help Desk.

The EOU Economics Capstone I	
ECON 401	
<p>We expect people graduating with a degree in economics from Eastern Oregon University will be able to compose a paper that is based on sound economic theory, rigorously argued, and effectively communicated. To ensure this expectation is met we have designed a two-course sequence, ECON 401 and ECON 402.</p> <p>In this first course of the sequence each student will develop the foundation of their paper. Specifically, by the end of the course everyone will have formulated a research hypothesis, initial literature review, and research methodology. To ensure these goals are met, the students are expected to participate in discussions and peer reviews around a common set of readings and their own contributions.</p>	
To access course syllabus, you can click here:	<a href="#">Syllabus</a>
To access course modules, you can click here:	<a href="#">Week 1</a> , <a href="#">Week 2</a> , <a href="#">Week 3</a>
	<a href="#">Week 4</a> , <a href="#">Week 5</a> , <a href="#">Week 6</a>
	<a href="#">Week 7</a> , <a href="#">Week 8</a> , <a href="#">Week 9</a>
	<a href="#">Week 10</a>
Questions about the course?	Contact me, Dr. Peter Maille, at (541) 962-3371 or <a href="mailto:pmaille@eou.edu">pmaille@eou.edu</a>
Questions about technical issues?	Contact the EOU IT Help Desk at (541) 962-3111 or <a href="mailto:helpdesk@eou.edu">helpdesk@eou.edu</a>

**The EOU Economics Capstone II**  
**ECON 402**

We expect people graduating with a degree in economics from Eastern Oregon University will be able to compose a paper based on sound economic theory, rigorously argued, and effectively communicated. To ensure this expectation is met we have designed a two-course sequence, ECON 401 and ECON 402.

In this second course of the sequence each student will build on their work of the previous term. The expectation is that each of you will participate in writing and econometric exercises, generally on a weekly basis. As a result of this participation, your economics faculty expects each of you to have

- completed an original economics research paper,
- presented the results of your research,
- provided feedback and support in the development of other economics research papers.

*Onwards!*

To access course syllabus, you can click here:	<a href="#">ECON 402 Syllabus</a>
To access course modules, you can click here:	<a href="#">Week 1, Week 2, Week 3,</a> <a href="#">Week 4, Week 5, Week 6,</a> <a href="#">Week 7, Week 8, Week 9</a> <a href="#">Week 10</a>
Questions about the course?	Contact me, Dr. Peter Maille, at (541) 962-3371 or <a href="mailto:pmaille@eou.edu">pmaille@eou.edu</a>
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## Closing the Loop Statement

In 2016, the Economics Program revised its capstone requirement from a single-term four-credit course to a set of two two-credit courses, ECON 401 and 402, over two terms. This change was made because the program faculty had discovered that majors simply could not successfully meet all the capstone requirements, including proficiency in program outcomes, in a single ten-week term. The change has been reasonably successful. The change was in many ways made to not only align the capstone with program outcomes but also to support student success. While some difficulties remain, such as majors delaying fulfilling the two-hundred level required Calculus course until working on the capstone, students do demonstrate proficiency in the current program outcomes—they accurately employ key economic concepts, they adequately apply those key concepts and integrate them with more specific concepts, and they successfully present their research both orally and in writing. It should be said that this review has highlighted the need to refine both the program outcomes and the capstone assignment itself to focus more explicitly on econometrics, whose principles have become central to the program since the outcomes were originally composed. The program faculty will be reviewing those outcomes in

AY18 to better align them with curricular requirements and current practices in the field of Economics to better prepare students for the world beyond college. In addition, the program is considering a required research methods course in conjunction with the Anthropology/Sociology Program, with a projected start date of AY20.

#### Action Plan

- 1) Revise PLOs to include econometrics.
- 2) Work with ANTH/SOC on a combined research methods course.