
Unofficial Course Description
EBGN 403 – Economics Field Session
Summer 2018

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Course Objectives: Students will see what people with training in economics do in the real world. At the end of the field session, students will be able to answer questions about professional economists including: How do they apply economic models and methods to do their jobs? How do they communicate the economics to their stakeholders? How does the stuff we do in the classroom translate into a variety of business and government organizations? (NOTE: These are the objectives that were communicated to the hosts.)

Site visits: We will be visiting several corporations and government agencies during our field session.

- You are responsible for your own transportation and parking. We can discuss carpooling opportunities.
- You are expected to behave professionally at all times and to dress appropriately (business casual).
- You will be on time. By on time, I mean 10 minutes early!
- Any absences must be pre-approved and will require significant make-up work.
- You will not use cell phones, tablets, laptops, music players, or any other devices during the site visits.
- Any violation of professional decorum will result in the loss of a full letter grade.

Grading System: Grades will be based on participation and writing assignments.

Participation will be assessed not only on attendance at the site visits, but also on your level of engagement. You should be paying attention to the speakers, taking notes, asking questions and participating in any discussion or activities that our hosts initiate.

Pre-visit assignments will require you to do some research to acquaint yourself with the host. You should explore websites, annual reports, research reports, profiles of key personnel, etc. You should think of this research as preparation for a job interview. You are not only getting familiar with the activities of the host, but you are also analyzing how they use economics. You are trying to see how you can connect your skills and training as an economist at the Colorado School of Mines to the business or government agency that we are visiting. You will prepare a report (250-word minimum) on what you find that is interesting and applicable to you. In addition, you will also write at least three questions that you would like to ask during the visit. These reports are due on Canvas at 8:00 PM on the evening before each visit.

Post-visit assignments will give you a chance to reflect on what you learned during the visit. You will prepare a report of at least 500 words on each visit. You may want to consider questions like the following: How did your research match up with what you heard and saw? What was surprising? Who really impressed you? What would you have to learn to be a valuable part of the organization? These reports are due on Canvas at 8:00 PM on the Sunday following each visit (that is, on Sunday, 5/20, for the first week's visits and on Sunday, 5/27, for the second week's visits).

For the **Blog assignment**, each student will write one blog post following our summer field session visits. The post will provide an overview of where we visited, what the company/agency does, who we spoke with, what we learned, and how it relates to your experience at Mines.

Additionally, the summer field sessions serves as an opportunity for you to **research jobs and internships** in the field of economics, not only at the companies that we visit. Each student will be required to find 5 opportunities or programs that provide internships or full-time job opportunities and are of interest. You will be responsible for preparing a resume (general) and a cover letter (targeted to one of these opportunities). You will have your cover letter and resume reviewed by someone in career services.

Finally, you will write a **report** on your reflections on the entire experience describing what you learned, what you liked and disliked, comparing the hosts and your experiences and providing suggestions for the next time we offer this kind of field session. This report will be at least 750 words and will be due on June 4.

You are responsible for all class announcements, reading assignments and material discussed in class.

The course grades will be determined using the following weights and a standard 100 point scale with A: 92% and greater, A-: 90% to less than 92%, B+: 88% to less than 90%, B: 82% to less than 88%, B-: 80% to less than 82%, C+: 78% to less than 80%, C: 72% to less than 78%, C-: 70% to less than 72%, D+: 68% to less than 70%, D: 60% to less than 78%, F: less than 60%..

- Participation 40 percent
- Pre-visit writing 20 percent
- Post-visit writing 20 percent
- Blog Assignment 5 percent
- Job Application Preparation 5 percent
- Summary reflection 10 percent

Cheating and Plagiarism: Cheating in any form is not tolerated. Refer to CSM’s policy on cheating and plagiarism in the syllabus for details about definitions and sanctions.

Proposed Visit Schedule (other group meetings will be announced on Blackboard and via email)

Date	Time	Site
Wednesday, 5/16	9:00AM-11:45AM	COBank 6340 S Fiddlers Green Circle, Greenwood Village, CO 80111
	1:30PM-3:30PM	Newmont Mining Corporation 6363 S Fiddlers Green Circle, Greenwood Village, CO 80111
Thursday, 5/17	9:00AM-11:30AM	Governor’s Office of State Planning and Budgeting/Governor’s Office of Policy 200 E. Colfax Ave, Denver, CO, 80203
	2:00PM-3:30PM	Platts Analytics 1800 Larimer St Denver, CO 80202
Monday, 5/21	10:00AM-12:00PM	Yes Energy 1877 Broadway St Suite 606, Boulder, CO 80302
Tuesday, 5/22	9:30AM-11:30AM	City and County of Denver – Economic Development Office Webb Building, 201 W Colfax 7 th Floor, Denver, CO 80203
	1:30PM-4:30PM	Xcel Energy 1800 Larimer St Denver, CO 80202
Thursday, 5/24	11:00AM-12:00PM	Career Services Meetings
	1:00PM-4:30PM	Lockheed Martin 12257 S Wadsworth Blvd, Littleton, CO 80127

Note: This is not the official syllabus. The syllabus is subject to change. All announcements will be posted on Blackboard. You should check regularly for changes to the schedule and course requirements.