

Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur

Department of Economic Sciences

New Course Proposal

1. Course No: ECO736

2. Course Title: Project review

3. Per Week Lectures: 0 (L), Tutorial: 0 (T), Laboratory: 9 (P), Additional Hours: 0

4. Duration of Course: Full Semester Course

5. Proposing Department: Economic Sciences

6. Other Departments which may be interested:

7. Other faculty members interested in teaching the proposed course: Prospective supervisors

8. Proposing instructor: DPGC Convener

9. Level of the course: PhD (first year)

10. Course Description: The course is designed to allow students to do an intensive literature review on their area of interest, and initiate discussions with their prospective supervisors and present their work.

A) Objectives: The main objective of this course is to let PhD students start the literature review for their thesis at an early stage (before completing their comprehensive examination). Additionally, this course helps the student get feedback on their tentative research questions and pinpoints their question of interest at an early stage. This course will help a PhD student set up a regular schedule for their work, build rapport with their prospective supervisor and maintain a routine of meetings with their prospective supervisor. By the end of this course, a PhD student will have learnt how to write a paper that is acceptable for publication in a peer-reviewed journal, by going through multiple peer-reviewed papers and preparing their own literature review paper. The student will also present their literature review to a committee who will provide feedback on both their presentation skills and possible research questions for their thesis.

B) Contents:

Each PhD student will be evaluated by their prospective supervisor (henceforth referred to as supervisor) based on the frequency of meetings, the reports submitted and a presentation.

Evaluation has 3 main components – meetings, reports and presentations:

- Each student must have at least one meeting per week with their supervisor (excluding semester breaks). Duration of the meeting will be decided by the supervisor (but should be at least 50 minutes). The topic of discussion of each meeting will also be decided by the supervisor, and the broad areas of discussion may include (but is not limited to) the student's research area of interest, papers recommended for the literature review, discussion about said papers, any guidance material on presenting and writing papers, etc. The supervisor will evaluate the student based on their interactions, their progress and regularity of these meetings.
- The student will also be evaluated on a set of reports submitted throughout the semester. All reports must be submitted to the supervisor to evaluate. The reports must also be cc-ed (or if hard copy, submitted with supervisor's signature) to the instructor in charge to record that the student has met the deadlines for the reports:
 1. The first report must include the title of the project, the supervisor's name and a brief (1 page or 500 words) outline of the research area of interest. If the student has already started working on the project in the previous semester, they must include what has been done up till now and what their tentative plan is. The report must be submitted on or before the last date of dropping a course for that semester. If the report is not received within the deadline, the student will be deregistered from the course.
 2. A mid-semester report must be submitted by the student, detailing their progress up till then (1 page or 500 words). The deadline for submission will be the last day of mid-semester exams for that semester.
 3. An end-semester report must be submitted that includes the literature review by the student. The report must be a maximum of 8 pages (including graphs and figures). The deadline for submission will be the last date of end-semester exams for that semester.
- A short presentation of the literature review (12 minutes presentation+3 minutes Q&A) by the student at the end of the course will be evaluated by a 2-member review committee. The 2-member review committee will include (1) the prospective supervisor, and (2) either the DPGC or another faculty member (if there are overlaps in positions). The presentation will be jointly evaluated by the student's review committee. The presentation should ideally take place within the week of submission of the final report.

C) Prerequisites: NA

D) Short summary for including in the Courses of Study Booklet: This course allows a PhD student to start working on their thesis at an early stage (before completing their comprehensives) by reviewing the literature of their research area/question of interest. The students additionally get feedback on their research ideas during regular meetings with their prospective supervisor and learns how to write and present a literature review paper. This course also helps students set up a routine for their PhD, by learning how to manage time for meetings and work.

Dated: 16th October 2025

Proposer: Sarani Saha

DPGC Convener:

The course is approved/not approved

Chairman, SPGC

Dated: