1. ___New Course or ___X__ Revision of Existing Course

2. Course prefix and number: ____ECN5960 ________________________________

3. Short title: ____Economics Graduate Forum ______________________________

4. Long title: ____Economics Graduate Forum ______________________________

5. Hours per week: 2__ Class ___0__ Lab ___2__ Credit

6. Terms: __x__ Fall __x__ Spring ___Summer ___On demand

7. Initial term: ___X__Fall ___Spring ___Summer Year: __2017___

8. Catalog course description: ___(2-0-2) F, S. With guidance of a faculty advisor and up to three faculty members, 1-3 students research a current issue in economics, write a research paper, and make an oral presentation to a panel of graduate faculty. ___

9. Course attributes:

   General education component: ____NONE ________________________________

   ___Cultural diversity ___Honors ___Writing centered ___Writing intensive ___Writing active

10. Instructional delivery

    Type of Course:

    ___Lecture ___Lab ___Lecture/lab combined ___X__ Independent study/research ___Internship ___Performance ___Practicum/clinical ___Other, specify: ______________________

    Mode(s) of Delivery:

    ___X Face to Face ___Online ___Study Abroad ___Hybrid, specify approximate amount of on-line and face-to-face instruction____________________

11. Course(s) to be deleted from the catalog once this course is approved: ____NONE___________

12. Equivalent course(s): __NONE__________________________________________

   a. Are students allowed to take equivalent course(s) for credit? ___Yes ___No

13. Prerequisite(s): ___12 semesters hours of graduate credit in economics ___

   a. Can prerequisite be taken concurrently? ___Yes ___X__ No

   b. Minimum grade required for the prerequisite course(s)? ______

   c. Use Banner coding to enforce prerequisite course(s)? ___X__ Yes ___No
d. Who may waive prerequisite(s)?

  _X_ No one   _  Chair   ___Instructor   ___Advisor   ___Other (specify)

14. Co-requisite(s): 

15. Enrollment restrictions

  a. Degrees, colleges, majors, levels, classes which _may_ take the course: ___M.A. Economics Students

  b. Degrees, colleges, majors, levels, classes which _not_ take the course: Non-ECN students

16. Repeat status: _X_ May not be repeated   _  May be repeated once with credit

17. Enter the limit, if any, on hours which may be applied to a major or minor: ___

18. Grading methods: _X_ Standard   ___CR/NC   ___Audit   ___ABC/NC

19. Special grading provisions:

  ___Grade for course will _not_ count in a student’s grade point average.

  ___Grade for course will _not_ count in hours toward graduation.

  ___Grade for course will be removed from GPA if student already has credit for or is registered in:

  ________________________________________________________________

  _X_ Credit hours for course will be removed from student’s hours toward graduation if student already has credit for or is registered in: ECN 5960 in a prior semester

20. Additional costs to students:

  Supplemental Materials or Software _X_ NONE

  Course Fee  _X_ No   ___Yes, Explain if yes

21. Community college transfer:

  ___A community college course may be judged equivalent.

  _X_ A community college may _not_ be judged equivalent.

Note: Upper division credit (3000+) will _not_ be granted for a community college course, even if the content is judged to be equivalent.
Rationale, Justifications, and Assurances (Part I)

1. **_X_** Course is required for the major(s) of **M.A. Economics Students who choose the non-thesis option to satisfy the requirements of the M.A. Degree**
   ___Course is required for the minor(s) of ______________________
   ___Course is required for the certificate program(s) of ______________
   _ _ _ Course is used as an elective

2. **Rationale for proposal** : ___This is an existing course that we wish to upgrade from the current 1 semester hour to 2 hours to make research experience deeper and more enriching for students.___

3. **Justifications for (answer N/A if not applicable)**
   Similarity to other courses: N/A
   Prerequisites: 12 semester hours of graduate study.
   Co-requisites: N/A
   Enrollment restrictions: N/A
   Writing active, intensive, centered: Active

4. **General education assurances (answer N/A if not applicable)**
   General education component: N/A
   Curriculum: N/A
   Instruction: N/A
   Assessment: N/A

5. **Online/Hybrid delivery justification & assurances (answer N/A if not applicable)**
   N/A

Model Syllabus (Part II)

Please include the following information:

1. **Course number and title**
   ECN 5960: Economics Graduate Forum

2. **Catalog description**
   (2-0-2) F, S. With guidance from a faculty advisor and up to three faculty members, 1-3 students research a current issue in economics, write a research paper, and make an oral presentation to a panel of graduate faculty.

3. **Learning objectives.**

   *Learning objective categories (University Learning Goals for Graduate Programs):*
   * Depth of content knowledge (CK)*
   * Critical thinking and problem solving skills (CT)*
   * Effective oral and written communication skills (OWC)*
   * Advanced scholarship through research or creative activity (RCA)*
a. Students will learn to research a current issue of high economic significance by assembling and organizing literature in a comprehensive manner. (CK, CT, RCA)
b. Students will develop a statistical model to understand relationships between the variable(s) being explained and the factors affecting them. (CK, CT, RCA)
c. Students will apply econometric tools to numerically estimate the model and accurately interpret the results obtained. (CT, RCA)
d. Students will write a comprehensive paper that will include details of their work starting from Introduction and going through all the stages up to Conclusion. They will learn to make cogent arguments to justify model selection and methods chosen for model estimation. (CK, CT, OWC, RCA)
e. Students will practice oral communication to present their research effectively, provide clear answers to questions of the audience, defend their work where justified, and accept constructive comments as necessary, all in a clear interactive fashion. (OWC)

4. Course materials.
No textbook. Books, articles, and audio and video resources will be as determined by the Graduate Forum advisor, committee members, and Forum students.

5. Weekly outline of content.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Content</th>
<th>Assignment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1-2</td>
<td>Formulate Research Question(s), Write Preliminary Introduction</td>
<td>Present and Discuss with Advisor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-5</td>
<td>Comprehensive Literature Review</td>
<td>Present and Discuss with Advisor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Formulate Statistical Model</td>
<td>Present and Discuss with Advisor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7-8</td>
<td>Collect and Organize Data for Analysis</td>
<td>Present and Discuss with Advisor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9-10</td>
<td>Estimate Model and Obtain Results</td>
<td>Present and Discuss with Advisor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11-13</td>
<td>Write Research Paper</td>
<td>Present and Discuss with Advisor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Submit Paper to Grad Forum Committee</td>
<td>Present and Discuss with Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Present Research to Economics Dept.</td>
<td>Defend Graduate Forum Research</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

6. Assignments and evaluation, including weights for final course grade.
Evaluation will be based on student interaction with the Forum advisor and committee members as well as on the quality of Forum defense. This last item will be evaluated based on the achievement of learning goals developed by the Department of Economics. The course grade will be determined by the Forum advisor in consultation with the committee members.

7. Grading scale.
Students will be evaluated based on the average score on a total of 20 items grouped in four categories of the assessment of learning as given below:

Scale:
4 Highly Competent
3 Competent
2 Minimally Competent
1 Not Competent

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Research</th>
<th>Writing Competency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
8. Correlation of learning objectives to assignments and evaluation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>Presentations to Advisor and Committee</th>
<th>Forum Defense</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CK</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CT</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OWC</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RCA</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Date approved by the department or school: October 1, 2016
Date approved by the college curriculum committee: November 4, 2016
Date approved by the Honors Council (if this is an honors course):
Date approved by CAA: Not applicable
CGS: December 6, 2016