

Econ 496: Undergrad Teaching Assistant

Economics Department – UNC at Chapel Hill

Spring 2011

Instructor Information:

Mike Aguilar

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Office Hours: T,R 3:30pm-5:00pm, or by appointment

Pre-requisites:

Econ 410, 420; Overall GPA \geq 3.5; Instructor approval

Course Description:

This course has three goals: 1) To allow those enrolled in the class to solidify their understanding of the principles of economics, 2) To allow those enrolled in the class to gain experience teaching, and 3) To assist those students currently enrolled in Econ 101 to learn the principles of economics via peer-to-peer education.

Students enrolled in this 496 course, referred to as TA's, will work towards these goals by supplementing the lectures hosted by UNC faculty who teach Econ 101. TA's will work in teams of two to lead weekly meetings with Econ 101 students. The venues for these meetings are either recitations sections or help sessions. The recitation-sections are of a standard format: Econ 101 students register for a recitation along with their lecture; TA's follow the lesson plan provided by their lead instructor to supplement the lecture in various ways. The help sessions are open ended tutoring-style sessions set in a group environment.

Course Requirements:

Enrollment in this course commits the TA to two semesters of teaching, either in the form of leading recitation sections or help-sessions. Each semester of teaching begins with a comprehensive training regimen, which is detailed below. In addition, TA's must attend Econ 101 lectures for each semester during which they are registered for this course. Upon satisfactory completion of this commitment, the TA is eligible to receive three graded credit hours. Note: The two semesters of service need not be contiguous.

Teacher Training: At the beginning of each semester, TA's complete a roughly 3 hour training session hosted by UNC faculty. The session covers such topics as "Introduction to Teaching at UNC", and "Active Learning". This training session is complemented by mock teaching sessions, wherein an experienced faculty member reviews a sample lesson hosted by each team of TA's. Both pieces of this training must be completed each semester, regardless of the TA's experience.