

**Economics 492**  
**Using Economics: Real-World Economic Analysis**  
**Section 3: MW 2-3:15pm (C248 Clark)**

**Prof. Stephan Weiler****Office****Hours:**

**C329 Clark**  
**491-5538 or [Stephan.Weiler@colostate.edu](mailto:Stephan.Weiler@colostate.edu)**

**MW 3:15-4**  
**and by appt.**

*Class materials available on RamCT*

**COURSE OVERVIEW AND OBJECTIVES:**

As economics majors, you have learned a number of tools and skills over your years at CSU. Surprisingly, some of these tools can actually be useful in real life. This class will add a few final tools and allow you to use your toolbox to explore economics in Colorado through team research projects, while also demonstrating how/why work such as yours can be used in economic analysis. We will be working closely with the state demographer's office to develop information that the state and localities will use in understanding counties' economic base and local assets, as well as the implications of these foundations for each county's economy. You will draw from your micro, macro, and other subfield backgrounds that you've developed over years as CSU economics majors. The course thus aims to both reinforce the tools you have learned, as well as understand their real-world relevance. Regular class briefings and roundtable research workshops will be integral parts of the course.

**READINGS:**

All class materials will be made available on-line via RamCT, with critical data sets emailed to you directly. The state demographer's website should be your overall starting point at <http://www.dola.state.co.us/dlg/demog/index.html>. Documentation for the key Base Analysis is your first reading assignment, with a useful summary in your Key Documentation folder under *LEIFA Project Overview* and a more complete description under *LEIFA Project Details* through your RamCT Web Links.

**RESEARCH PAPER/PRESENTATION:**

The principal focus of this course is the team research papers and presentations applying economic analysis to the present and future features of Colorado county economies. In conjunction with the demographer's office, the groups will evaluate and refine local data, provide a structure for understanding the local economy, and use the findings to give your own assessment of the implications of a county's economic base and local assets.

**WEDNESDAY BRIEFINGS:**

Each Wednesday, roundtable workshops will feature weekly progress reports and directions by/for each small team, and will generally serve as a forum for collaborative discussions on research problems and prospects. The workshops will begin with rotating group presentations on Colorado economics news items relating to your focal county. In the spirit of these project workshops, Wednesday classes will meet in the Clark computer lab (C141), as well as some Monday classes.

**GRADING:**

Grades will be based on the final project paper (40%), research presentation (25%), class/workshop participation (25%), and performance on the economics Assessment Test (10%) which will be available on RamCT during Week 14. Letter grades may be supplemented by a "+" for particularly strong performance in a particular grade range; the "-" will not be used.

**SCHEDULE:**

**Monday**

**Wednesday**

**Week 1:**

**MLK Holiday  
Intro**

**Week 2:**

**Group Organization  
Data, Docs, and Go!**

**Week 3:**

**Export Base: Basics & LQ  
Workshop**

**Week 4:**

**Export Base: Basics & LQ  
Workshop**

**Week 5:**

**Jim Westkott – Snr Demog  
Workshop**

**Week 6:**

***Regional Assets  
Workshop***

**Week 7:**

**Entrepreneurship in CO  
Workshop**

**Week 8:**

***Assessi  
ng  
Implic  
ations***

**Works  
hop**

**Week 9:**

**Sand Dunes example  
Workshop & Prstn  
Assignments**

**Week 10:**

**Workshop  
Workshop**

**Week 11:**

**Papers Due  
Student Presentations**

**Week 12:** **Student Research Presentations**

**Week 13:** **Student Research Presentations**

**Week 14:** **Student Research Presentations**

**Week 15:** **Student Prstns** **Wrap-Up**