RES-ECON 394LI  
Life is Full of Choices: An Integrated Experience Seminar  
Spring 2015

**Class Meeting:** 1 credit  
Section 1: 11:15-12:05, Team Based Learning Classroom, Goodell 608  
Section 2: 12:20-1:10, Team Based Learning Classroom, Goodell 608

**Professor:** Dr. Julie Caswell  
223 Stockbridge Hall

**Office Hours:** Monday 4:00-5:30 PM, Tues 12:30-1:30 PM, and by appointment

**Contact Information:**  
Email: caswell@resecon.umass.edu  
Telephone 413-577-1203  
You can expect me to respond to emails or phone calls within 1 business day.

**Teaching Assistant:** Kathy Lynch

**Prerequisite:** RES-ECON 112 Computing: Foundations to Frontiers

**Required Preparation & Assignments:** Work for each week is **available on Moodle.** What will you find on the Moodle site?  
- Week by Week Modules (down the center)—Preparation & Assignments  
- Navigation (down the left side) & Tools (down the right side)

**Course Overview:**

This 1 credit course, in combination with two of your required upper-level Resource Economics option courses, fulfills the General Education Integrative Experience (IE) requirement for Resource Economics majors:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The ResEc Integrative Experience</th>
<th>Course</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Consumer &amp; Family Economics Option</td>
<td>Environmental &amp; Natural Resources Economics Option</td>
<td>Managerial Economics Option</td>
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<td>RES-ECON 394LI</td>
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<td>RES-ECON 460 &amp; 470</td>
<td>RES-ECON 471 &amp; 472</td>
<td>RES-ECON 452 &amp; 453</td>
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RES-ECON 394LI is designed to provide you with numerous opportunities to reflect on and integrate your learning and experience from the broad exposure in your General Education courses, your courses and concentration in the Resource Economics major, co-curricular activities, and from your work and other experiences.
Our 394LI Learning Goals:

During the semester, you will be doing work under three Integrative Experience learning criteria:

**Criterion 1:** “Students will reflect on and integrate their learning and experience from the broad exposure in their General Education courses and the focus in their major.”

You gain experience in real world problem solving in many of our upper-level courses. However, quite often you may feel blinded by the detail of those courses; you may find it hard to “see the forest for the trees.” Thus, Res-Econ 394LI will emphasize a true integration of your general education experiences with a resource economist’s view of problem solving.

You will reflect on your prior educational experiences and on how important that knowledge is to problem solving as a resource economist. You will reflect on your professional and career goals and how your general education experiences and Resource Economics training have furthered the development of these goals. You will learn to refine and present your career goals, as well as learn how to promote yourself as a resource economist. **Related Work:**

**Develop Your SBS Pathways Portfolio:** You have taken Res-Econ 112 as part of your core competencies in Resource Economics. Creation of a Portfolio is one of your accomplishments in Res-Econ 112. In this class, you will be updating and expanding your Portfolio to:

- Reflect on the courses you have taken at UMass to fulfill your General Education and major requirements, as well as on co-curricular activities you have participated in and your work experiences.
- Identify skills you have attained in your courses, co-curricular activities, and work.
- Explore your understanding of careers in Resource Economics and identify careers that are of interest to you.
- Identify the skills needed to succeed in the professional and career paths you have identified.
- Assess your progress toward attaining the required skill set and measure your preparedness for your chosen professional and career paths.
- Plan the remainder of your UMass curriculum so that you attain and/or hone the necessary skills.
- Identify co-curricular activities and opportunities to attain and/or hone the necessary skills.
- Refresh your professional resume, refresh or create your LinkedIn page, and refresh or create your eRecruiting profile.
- Reflect on your UMass education and its role in preparing you for your professional and personal life.

**Attend and participate in team mutual mentoring activities:** This mutual mentoring work will give you practice in integrating your education and experiences. The team activities will help you connect with other students, alumni, employers, and graduate programs, and will help you define and present yourself as a Resource Economist.

- **Active Work:** you will work in teams throughout the semester. These teams will be sounding boards for your individual work and a way to share approaches.
- **Careers in Resource Economics:** learn about connecting with alumni, employers, and graduate programs.
• **Presenting Yourself as a Resource Economist:** address the question “What is a Resource Economist” and how to show an employer you would be an asset.

• **Preparation, Communication, and Presentation:** practice effective preparation, presentation, and communication of skills and interests during an interview, and how to follow up.

**Criterion 2:** "Students will practice General Education learning objectives at a more advanced level."

Throughout the course you will be engaged in practicing General Education learning objectives at a more advanced level through developing your skills in writing and communicating. **Related Work:**

• **Interdisciplinary approach to analysis:** Resource Economists draw on knowledge and analytical techniques from multiple disciplines to address questions in our areas. Reflecting on one’s own breadth of knowledge allows the Resource Economist to better see the full extent of a problem and find, with others, alternative solutions.

• **Creative, analytical, quantitative, and critical thinking:** You will be asked to draw on your body of knowledge and strengths to define how the experience and skills from your general education are valuable to problem solving, and you will share your experiences with colleagues. You will also identify experiences from your advanced Resource Economics training that are important to problem solving.

• **Pluralistic perspective taking:** Self-reflection and team work will be central to this course. You and your teammates will work in different settings to develop this awareness and enhance your movement from self to member of society.

• **Develop information and technical literacy:** You will continue to make use of your information technology training from RES-ECON 112 by developing your **SBS Pathways Portfolio**.

• **Working/communicating effectively, cooperatively, and persuasively:** This course is an active learning environment. You will interact with colleagues and develop effective and persuasive communication in situations of presenting yourself as a resource economist.

• **Understanding and evaluating consequences and implications of actions:** Resource Economics’ motto is “Life is Full of Choices.” This is the true essence of the study and the practice of resource economics. Resource Economists make decisions by weighing benefits and costs. You will have the opportunity to practice this view of analysis and see it all come together.

**Criterion 3:** "A shared learning experience for applying students' prior learning to new situations, challenging questions, and real-world problems."

You will practice your critical thinking, research, and analytical skills in individual and team work during the course of the semester. You will reflect on how your general education experiences allow you to identify and perceive problems, then further integrate and synthesize your general education training with your Resource Economics training to identify analytical strategies to address problems.
**Course Work:**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Meeting Date</th>
<th>WEEK</th>
<th>TENTATIVE TopICS—Individual &amp; Team Work</th>
<th>Points=100</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan 26</td>
<td>1</td>
<td><em>No Class During Week 1 (Classes Start on Tuesday)</em></td>
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| Feb 2        | 3    | **Integrating Your Experience**: Inventoring Your Experiences, Mapping Connections  
Individual Prep (Create and Post Your Inventory & Map)  
Team Mutual Mentoring | 8 2 |
| Feb 9        | 4    | **Integrating Your Experience**: Reflecting on Your Experiences & Communicating Connections  
Individual Prep (Reflection & Communication)  
Individual Prep (Establishing Your SBS Pathways Portfolio)  
Team Mutual Mentoring | 6 2 2 |
| Feb 17 (Tues)| 5    | **Professional Development Workshop**: Resume Update & Elevator Speech  
Individual Prep (Updated Resume)  
Individual Prep (Elevator Speech)  
Team Mutual Mentoring | 6 4 2 |
| Feb 23       | 6    | **Professional Development Workshop**: Company Research & Practice Career Fair in Class  
Individual Prep (Research on Companies/Institutions of Interest)  
Active at Practice Career Fair | 5 2 |
| Feb 25       | 6    | Attend UMass Career Blast 2015, Wed, Feb 25 (10 AM-3 PM), Campus Center Auditorium (REQUIRED) **Business Formal** | 5 |
| March 2      | 7    | **Professional Development Workshop**: Internship & Job Search Strategies & Resources + eRecruiting  
Individual Prep (Set Up & Progress Report on Profile(s))  
Individual Prep (Establish Professional Email Signature)  
Team Mutual Mentoring | 3 2 2 |
| March 9      | 8    | **Professional Development Workshop**: What About Graduate School?  
Active Participation in Workshop | 2 |
| March 23     | 9    | No class this week |            |
| March 30     | 10   | **Professional Development Workshop**: LinkedIn & Networking  
Individual Prep (LinkedIn Profile)  
Individual Prep (Top 5 in Network)  
Team Mutual Mentoring | 7 3 2 |
| April 6      | 11   | **Integrating Your Experience**: Presentation of Yourself, First Round, Including Elevator Speech **Business Formal**  
Individual Prep (Presentation) | 7 |
| April 13 | 12 | **Integrating Your Experience**: Refining Your Plan: Going Further, Filling Gaps + A Look at Interviewing Skills  
Individual Prep (Reflection on Your Plan)  
Individual Prep (Seeing Myself & Others: Reflection on Presentation)  
Team Mutual Mentoring | 3 3 2 |
| --- | --- | --- |
| April 22 (Wed)  
(No Class on Wed)  
(Presentation on April 22 or 23, Appointment by Doodle Poll) | 13 | **Integrating Your Experience**: Presentation of Yourself: Final Round, Including Elevator Speech **Business Formal**  
Individual Prep (Presentation) | 10 |
| April 27 | 14 | **Integrating Your Experience**: SBS Pathways Portfolio & Integrative Experience Going Forward  
Individual Prep (Completion of SBS Pathways Portfolio)  
Team Mutual Mentoring | 8 2 |

**Minimum Grade Guarantee**: Your grade will be determined based on the above items. To allow you to check your grade to date, I will use the following minimum grade cutoff points based on your total points: A = 94, A- = 90, B+ = 87, B = 83 B- = 80, C+ = 77, C = 73, C- = 70, D+ = 65, D = 60 and F < 60.

- Work must be submitted on time to receive full credit.
- **Active Participation in this class is required** and makes up part of your final grade. Excused absences due to extenuating circumstances (e.g., health, religious, or family matters) will be considered on a case by case basis.

**Being Here & Being a Light in the Room**: In this course, you are further developing your professional demeanor and habits. A professional demeanor includes:
- Being on time, every time.
- Being an attentive and active participant (being in the room but not present is inadequate).
- Being prepared to participate and lead in meaningful, constructive ways; being the person who people remember as making a real contribution.

**Submitting Your Work**: When submitting your work, always name your file in this format:

Your first name_Your last name_Assignment name  
(For example: Julie Caswell Resume)

**Business Formal**: During the semester you will have occasions to wear your business formal attire. Plan ahead to have your clothes here and ready to go.