Course Objective:
This seminar is designed to provide a critical overview of research in the area of financial institutions. Although the focus of the course will be on the microeconometrics of financial institutions research, both theoretical and empirical papers will be examined. We will discuss approximately 60 papers, which will be assigned weekly throughout the semester. Students must be prepared to discuss, in detail, these papers during class time.

Presentations:
Each student is required to present approximately 10 papers in class throughout the semester. The presentations should summarize the paper: its main assumptions, conclusions, and methodological innovations, if any. You should comment extensively on the paper’s strengths, namely the magnitude of its contribution to the literature and its importance in the sub-field of financial intermediation to which it belongs. It is equally important to be critical and point out any flaws or shortcomings in the paper. Questions to ask are: i) did the paper fulfill its promises?; ii) are the assumptions realistic?; iii) are the analytics correct?; iv) are the results an immediate consequence of the assumptions or did we really learn something from the analysis that was not obvious at the outset?; and finally, but most importantly v) how does the paper advance our knowledge or understanding of a well-defined phenomenon or class of phenomena, or alternatively, does it provide us with a new normative framework to attack a new set of problems?

Some additional notes:
- Papers will be assigned weekly by the professor.
- Presenters must prepare a short summary (no longer than 1½ PAGES) of the presentation/paper for each classmate. [Note: screen shots of PowerPoint presentations are NOT acceptable.]

Examinations:
The mid-term and the final exam will be ‘comprehensive’ type examinations.

Research Paper:
Students will conduct a literature review of a current topic centered on financial intermediation. The literature review will culminate in a research proposal. A properly prepared research paper will: i) identify a relevant research topic, ii) include an exhaustive review of literature relevant to the research topic, iii) outline basic research methodologies that will be used to empirically examine the research topic, and iv) include a data section that identifies sources of data required to
perform the empirical tests. [Note: Although the proposed methodologies and data sections must be included, no data need be collected and no empirical tests are required.]

The paper should include the following sections:

a. Abstract
1. Introduction
2. Literature review
3. Research proposal (including basic proposed methods and data requirements)
   A. Bibliography

The literature review paper is expected to be independently done and is due on the last regularly scheduled class (December 5th).

Grading:

Your course grade will be determined as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mid-term Exam</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Paper</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paper Critiques/Presentations</td>
<td>30%</td>
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Emergency Procedures:

Southern Illinois University Carbondale is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for study and work. Because some health and safety circumstances are beyond our control, we ask that you become familiar with the SIUC Emergency Response Plan and Building Emergency Response Team (BERT) program. Emergency response information is available on posters in buildings on campus, on the BERT’s website at www.bert.siu.edu, the Department of Public Safety’s website www.dps.siu.edu (disaster drop down) and in the Emergency Response Guidelines pamphlet. Know how to respond to each type of emergency.

Instructors will provide guidance and direction to students in the classroom in the event of an emergency affecting your location. **It is important that you follow these instructions and stay with your instructor during an evacuation or sheltering emergency.** The Building Emergency Response Team will provide assistance to your instructor in evacuating the building or sheltering within the facility.

University policy dictates that I include a link to this “Syllabus Attachment”:
http://pvcaa.siu.edu/_common/documents/Syllabus_Attachment.pdf