

ECON 4398 - 13695
Independent Study (Independent Study)

ALL STUDENTS TAKING ANY INDEPENDENT [STUDY COURSE](#) FROM ME IN ANY SEMESTER WILL PRINT-OUT THE POSTED SYLLABUS FOR THE COURSE BEFORE ATTEMPTING TO ENROLL FOR IT. THEY WILL TAKE IT WITH THEM TO FILL OUT THE PETITION USING THE INFORMATION IN THE SYLLABUS AND THE EXACT WORDING BELOW.

Students who take Econ 3351 or my Econ 4389 course may also take my Economics 4398 - Special Problems in Development in which they will add three of the assigned choices which they did not use for the regular class.

Students who take my Econ 4389 course may also take my Economics 4398 - Special Problems in Development in which they will add the two assigned choices which they did not use for the regular class and Engineers of Victory: The Problem Solvers Who Turned The Tide in the Second World War by [Paul Kennedy](#) , Random House (January 29, 2013).

Those taking Econ 3351 will add The Taste of War: World War II and the Battle for Food by [Lizzie Collingham](#), Penguin, 2012, the assigned choice which they did not use for the regular class and either a book to be assigned or the articles on dairy and cattle production by Judith L. Capper (sometimes listed as Jude Capper) at Washington State University (see below). Being considered as the book to be assigned (but not ordered) is: The Girls of Atomic City: The Untold Story of the Women Who Helped Win World War II by Denise Kiernan, Touchstone (March 5, 2013).

This course will be offered only to those who need three hours to graduate in December or in May 2014.

In each of my courses this semester, I am using a book on World War II. Students taking my Econ 4298 or my Econ 4398 will be required to read both of them. These are not courses in World War II. From these books in writing your papers, use only the minimum factual information about the war in order to explain the larger point of the books. Namely for the Collingham book, it is the importance of food production in conflicts between nations and for the Kennedy book, it is the importance of science, technology and creative innovation for nations to succeed in international conflict. In other words, what do we learn from them about succeeding in a globalized world? Important note - war is a zero or negative sum game where there are both winners and losers. Globalization can have competitions or conflicts that are win/lose but it can also have competitions that are win/win or lose/lose. What do we learn from these books about different kinds of competition and how to succeed in them? From the Kiernan, we learn the importance of government created infra-structure.

There are a limited number of topics on which students will do their papers. They correspond to topics that students taking my courses in Fall 2013 will do research for class presentation. Students taking 3351 or 4398 will be required to work with the group in class doing the presentation and be part of the presentation unless they have a course conflict. More details on presentation and topics will be provided, posted and sent out to all students registered for my courses. Updated guidelines for writing papers will be posted. URL for the guideline posting will be emailed to all students on the 1st day of class and again on the 1st day after the course [registration](#) is complete.

Topics for 4389 are:

- Trends in Food Safety over the last 100 years or so.
- Trends in Technology in Food Production, Preservation, Preparation and Nutrition over the last 100 years or so.
- Biotechnology in Agriculture - Yields, Safety (in production and consumption), Environmental Impact and Benefits (ex. Vitamin A enhanced rice).
- Trends in Global Poverty and Hunger since 1950.
- Trends in Global Life Expectancy since 1950.
- Trends in Global Population since 1950.
- Trends in Global Infant and Child Mortality Since 1960.

Project Topics for 3351 are:

- Trends in Global Food Production since 1960
- Trends in Global Poverty and Hunger since 1950.
- Trends in [Global Life](#) Expectancy since 1950.
- Trends in Global Population since 1950.
- Trends in Global Infant and Child Mortality Since 1960.
- Neglected Tropical Diseases (there is an online journal covering that topic among other sources).

CREDIT WILL BE GIVEN ONLY TO THOSE WHO [ENROLL](#) IN THE Fall 2013 SEMESTER.

In filling out the petition to take the course write the following: "Taking Econ 3351 or Econ 4389 - The student will read three additional books and add 30 pages to their total page requirement for Econ 3351 or Econ 4389. The papers are expected to cover the selected topics in greater depth."

Another option is: "Taking Econ 3351 or Econ 4389 and participating in a class project - The student will read three additional books and then do a 30 page paper which brings together the presentations of her or his group. The paper is expected to cover the group project topic in greater depth particularly."

Students taking my 4389 class may search out the articles on dairy and cattle production by Judith L. Capper (sometimes listed as Jude Capper) at Washington State University and email the titles and URLs to me for permission to use them rather than an assigned book.