However you look at it, the prospect of human-caused climate change presents an enormous policy challenge that has been the subject of intense international debate for almost 30 years. While uncertainty persists regarding many features of the problem, the possibility of dire consequences cannot be ruled out. Meanwhile, despite numerous efforts to reduce emissions of carbon dioxide and other heat-trapping greenhouse gases, global emissions continue to increase at a rate of several percent per year. The field of economics provides powerful conceptual and empirical tools for understanding the key policy obstacles and for devising a response that addresses these obstacles in a realistic way. In this class, students will work together in groups to survey and analyze various central considerations in the economics of climate change. The course will culminate in a poster-sharing session in which students share with each other the findings of their research.

Instructor: Prof. Terry Iverson
Prerequisites: Senior status, ECON 304, 306 and 335 (or concurrent registration)
Section 2, CRN 12604: 10-10:50AM MWF, ONLINE
Section 4, CRN 13887: 2:00-2:50PM MWF, EDDY 200
ECON 492 – Senior Seminar, Section 3  
Spring 2021 – *Economics in the News*

Economic models can provide important insight into a variety of recent newspaper headlines. For example, models of human capital help us better understand why Felicity Huffman bribed admissions counselors at USC. International trade models are useful for identifying who wins and who loses in a trade war with China. Tax incidence models can help inform policies that mitigate climate change. In this class we will apply many of the basic models you have learned in your intermediate macro and micro courses to investigate a wide range of economic topics “in the news.”

Instructor: Dr. Martin Shields
Prerequisites: Senior status, ECON 304, 306 and 335 (or concurrent registration)
Section 3, CRN: 11872: 11:00-12:15 TR, Clark C146
ECON 492 – Senior Seminar, Section 5  
Spring 2021 - *Using Economics: Economic Impacts of COVID-19 in Colorado*

The focus of this senior seminar will be looking at some of the economic impacts of COVID-19 in the State of Colorado. You will be utilizing the skills you have developed as economics majors to conduct research on some specific effects of the pandemic with the goal of producing a report with policy implications.

Initially we will work as a whole in terms of identifying issues, familiarizing ourselves with various data sources, and doing some background reading on what economists have been writing about the effects of the pandemic. Through this initial exploration you will choose your research topic and form working groups of 3-4 people who will be working on a given topic.

Suggestions for topics include things like the effect of the pandemic on workers in CO, perhaps differentiated by gender and race/ethnicity, the effect on small businesses, the effect of certain sectors of the state economy such as agriculture, tourism, etc., the effect on the state budget, the effect on higher education in the state……. These are just some examples of what you might be interested in.

The research reports that you create will be the result of working as part of a research team. The emphasis will be on applying and developing the knowledge and tools you have acquired in the context of a data driven research project. The process will involve formulating a research question, identifying data sources, analyzing the data, and writing a professional report. Groups will present their reports to the class at the end of the semester.

Instructor: Prof. Alexandra Bernasek  
Prerequisites: Senior status, ECON 304, 306 and 335 (or concurrent registration)  
Section 5, CRN 14125: 9:30-10:45 AM TR, Eddy 212