Students in this course will prepare a report for the City of Seattle regarding the impact of the City’s Minimum Wage Ordinance on workers, businesses, and the labor market in general. The report will be based on original research to be conducted over the course of the quarter. Students will be assigned to one or more of the following teams:

- Data analysis team
- Worker/Employer Interview team (English)
- Worker/Employer Interview team (Spanish)
- Worker/Employer Interview team (Mandarin)
- City Hall Insider team

Teams will first work to design and secure approval for a research protocol pertaining to their activities. The approval process will involve the University of Washington Human Subjects Division (HSD). Given the requirement for rapid turnaround, all research activities must qualify for "exemption" from review by the University’s Institutional Review Board (IRB). During the week that protocols are being screened for exemption, all team members will participate in price data collection, extending a data series that began in calendar 2015 when the City's minimum wage was $11/hour.

For the majority of the quarter, teams will collect and analyze data, with an eye towards producing a written report and oral presentation by the end of the quarter. A first draft of the report will be due in the 9th week of class, and an oral presentation to City stakeholders will occur in the 10th week. Revisions of the written report will be due no later than the regularly scheduled final exam period for the course.

Student performance in the course will be assessed by the following criteria:

- Completion of human subjects research certification (pass/fail; 5% of final grade)
- Acquisition of exemption from human subjects review (pass/fail; 10% of final grade; grades assigned at group level; individuals participating in multiple groups assigned a weighted average of group grades)
- Oral presentation to City stakeholders (15% of final grade; grades assigned at group level; individuals participating in multiple groups assigned a weighted average of group grades)
- Written report (40% of final grade; grades assigned at group level; individuals participating in multiple groups assigned a weighted average of group grades)
- Confidential performance evaluation by teammates (25% of final grade; individuals participating in multiple groups assigned a weighted average)
- Participation (5% of final grade)
Course personnel/contact information

Instructor: Jake Vigdor
324 Parrington Hall
(206)616-4436
jvigdor@uw.edu
Office Hours: Tuesdays 10:30 AM - 12:30 PM

**Session 1: Introduction to Human Subjects Research**

Jan 8, 9:30am - 12:20pm

**Calendar**  PB AF 608 H: Capstone Project Seminar

**Location**  Parrington 306

**Details**

Agenda for the day:

- Determine assignments to working groups
- Topics in human subjects research
- Infamous moments in the history of research
- Core principles
- Federal Regulations
- The role of the IRB
- Delimiting capstone project research: exemption
- Charge to the working groups: completing UW IRB application to be screened for exemption.

**Minimum Wage Teach-In**

Jan 15, 9:30am - 12:20pm

**Calendar**  PB AF 608 H: Capstone Project Seminar

**Location**  Parrington 306

**Details**  Reading List:


- Sabia, J.J. (2014) "[The Minimum Wage: No Feature, All Bugs.](#) (Links to an external site.)"
**Group Workday**  
Jan 22, 9:30am - 12:20pm  
**Calendar**  [PB AF 608 H: Capstone Project Seminar](#)  
**Location**  Parrington 306

**Group Workday**  
Jan 29, 9:30am - 12:20pm  
**Calendar**  [PB AF 608 H: Capstone Project Seminar](#)  
**Location**  Parrington 306

**Group Workday/Guest Speaker**  
Feb 5, 9:30am - 12:20pm  
**Calendar**  [PB AF 608 H: Capstone Project Seminar](#)  
**Location**  Parrington 306  
**Details**  David Rolf (SEIU) will join us from 11 AM until noon.

**Group Workday/Guest Speaker**  
Feb 12, 9:30am - 12:20pm  
**Calendar**  [PB AF 608 H: Capstone Project Seminar](#)  
**Location**  Parrington 306  
**Details**  Anthony Anton (Washington Restaurant Association) will join us from 10 to 11.

**Group Workday**  
Feb 19, 9:30am - 12:20pm  
**Calendar**  [PB AF 608 H: Capstone Project Seminar](#)  
**Location**  Parrington 306

**Group Workday/Guest Speaker**  
Feb 26, 9:30am - 12:20pm  
**Calendar**  [PB AF 608 H: Capstone Project Seminar](#)  
**Location**  Parrington 306  
**Details**  Mary Dye (R - 9th District, Washington House of Representatives) will join us from 11 until
Preliminary Presentations
Mar 4, 9:30am - 12:20pm
Calendar  PB AF 608 H: Capstone Project Seminar
Location  Parrington 306

Presentation to City Officials
Mar 11, 9:30am - 12:20pm
Calendar  PB AF 608 H: Capstone Project Seminar
Location  TBA