

Anca Ioana Sirbu

I plan to implement a system of guest speakers for the (upper-division) classes that I am teaching. This will allow my students to have a deeper understanding of the topics taught by offering them different perspectives, as well as the opportunity to interact with professionals, community leaders and organizations,

The criteria on which the choice of speakers is based:

- i. The area of expertise and/or activity is tightly connected to the topics presented in this course.
- ii. The guest speaker represents a local institution where students could work in the future and/or they could have an internship.

In particular, for Winter 2015 for my Money and Banking (Econ 311) class I had two guests, corresponding to two distinct parts of the course: banks' management and central banking and the conduct of monetary policy respectively. In both cases students' feedback was very positive. I intend to continue this project and possibly extend it to speakers from other universities and institutions beyond Bellingham.

It is a priority for me to make the students understand the applicability of the topics learned and also show them how they could use this knowledge to better serve their community (by understanding its necessities and philosophy better).