

Econ 8219: Research Methods
Spring 2013 Course Syllabus (Preliminary)

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Office Hours: By appointment and after class

Class Time and location: Econ 5 Tuesday and Thursday 11:00 - 12:15pm

Course Goals

The second semester of the research methods class gives opportunities for students working on their orals proposals to discuss and present their ongoing work. By the end of the class it is expected that most students will complete the comprehensive oral exam proposal and defend it. We will also be focusing on making short conference presentations, useful descriptive statistics, and editing your own work as well as others.

Course Content

Students will participate in the following activities:

1. *Detailed Abstract of Research Proposal:* Students will be given guidelines for generating a 1-2 page detailed abstract of their research proposal. It will cover basic motivation, main research question, the contribution of their research to the literature, and perhaps key points of their methodology. I will also ask you to either include, or discuss what you would include in your “money graph” or main descriptive statistics or real life examples (if doing theory). Double space.
2. *Group Editing of Detailed Abstract:* Students will be sent draft detailed abstracts in advance of class to their group members and be expected to edit the detailed abstracts. In class the students must go over the edits in details with the group/author and the group should discuss how the author can improve their work.
3. *Short Presentations:* Students will make a short (15 minute) conference style presentation of their research. See more details below.
- 4.

papers are due on the last day of class. See below for more details regarding the guidelines for the oral comprehensive exam.

Grading

Peer Grading of edits and my class participation grade	10%
Short Presentation	15%
Final Presentation	35%
Final Proposal/Paper	40%

Tentative Class Schedule

It is possible your presentation will need to take place before the week of April 15th depending on the availability of your committee.

Due Dates

All due dates are on the calendar. When drafts are due, **please email them to your group before 11am** on the day they are due. Please also put a hard copy in my mail box by the end of the day. This allows students to use the class time to read each of the group papers. The final proposals are due the last day of class. A printed copy needs to be put in my mailbox by the end of the day and you also need to email me a copy.

1. Final Detailed Abstract: Due Jan. 29 (Tuesday). Email to me and printed copy in mail box.

Short Presentations

The purpose of the 15 min presentations are to give you practice at a short conference-style presentation. **All students are expected to attend all presentations.** The most important part of the presentation is the first five minutes, in which you are expect to lay out in very clear and concise terms your motivation, your research question, and its contribution to the literature

2) In consultation with the dissertation advisors, students are responsible for scheduling the remaining