

Economics 444: Honors Seminar

Macalester College
Department of Economics
Fall 2009
MWF 3:30-4:30 p.m.

Professor Raymond Robertson

Carnegie Hall 310C
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Course Description: This course helps you complete the draft of your honors thesis. The course provides support for writing, research methods, and data analysis.

Course Text: Strunk, William, and White, E.B. The Elements of Style, 4th edition. Occasional handouts will supplement the text.

Grading: You will receive a letter grade for the class. The letter grade will be based progress on your thesis (that is, submission of sections of your thesis on schedule and the quality of your draft at the end of the semester), attendance, and support of your peers in the form of constructive comments and feedback. There are no exams.

Paper: The goal is to get a viable draft of your honors thesis. Nearly all of your energy, therefore, should be spent working on the thesis. My role is to help you overcome obstacles that you encounter during the semester, provide examples and some inspiration, and to facilitate the support of your peers.

Date	Topic	Events
Wed Sep 09	Overview and Goals	
Fri Sep 11	The Honor's Proposal Defense	
Mon Sep 14	The Honor's Proposal Defense	
	I. Topics and Committee	
Wed Sep 16	Gary Krueger	Topic Finalized
Fri Sep 18	Karine Moe	
Mon Sep 21	Sarah West	
Wed Sep 23	Amy Damon	
Fri Sep 25	J. Peter Ferderer	
Mon Sep 28	Liang Ding	
	III. Literature	
Wed Sep 30	Presentations and Discussion	
Fri Oct 02	Presentations and Discussion	
Mon Oct 05	Presentations and Discussion	Finalize Committee
Wed Oct 07	Presentations and Discussion	
	IV. Theory	
Fri Oct 09	Working Through Theory	Lit Review Draft Due
Mon Oct 12	Examples of Theory	
Wed Oct 14	Connecting Theory to Empirics	
Fri Oct 16	Presentations and Discussion	
Mon Oct 19	Presentations and Discussion	
Wed Oct 21	Presentations and Discussion	
Fri Oct 23	Presentations and Discussion	
	V. Working with data	
Mon Oct 26	Review Common Data Problems	Theory due
Wed Oct 28	Review Common Data Problems	
Fri Oct 30	Fall Break	no class
Mon Nov 02	Telling Stories with Sum Stats	
Wed Nov 04	Sum Stats and Tests	
Fri Nov 06	Stata: Estimation	
Mon Nov 09	Stata: Graphs	Sum Stats Due
	VI. Analysis	
Wed Nov 11	Checklist for Empirical Papers	
Fri Nov 13	Linking Theory to Estimation	
Mon Nov 16	Robustness	
Wed Nov 18	Presentations and Discussion	
Fri Nov 20	Presentations and Discussion	
Mon Nov 23	Presentations and Discussion	
Wed Nov 25	Presentations and Discussion	
Fri Nov 27	Thanksgiving	
Mon Nov 30	Writing Workshop	Drafts Due
Wed Dec 02	Writing Workshop	
Fri Dec 04	Discussant Comments	
Mon Dec 07	Discussant Comments	
Wed Dec 09	Discussant Comments	
Fri Dec 11	Discussant Comments	
Mon Dec 14	Thesis Draft to Committee	