

SS498C Senior Thesis in Economics

COURSE OVERVIEW

The spring semester of the Economics Thesis Program consists of working with a faculty advisor (meeting every 1-2 weeks) during the spring semester to write a thesis. A typical thesis is organized like an article in an economics journal and will use data to identify the causal effect of a phenomena or policy (or test a theoretical prediction in a novel way). Students will present their thesis to the faculty (and visitors) on Projects Day (typically ~1 hour presentation that includes fielding challenging questions from faculty).

Because of the high-level of academic rigor that is expected of a thesis, it will likely be ***much more challenging*** than projects you have worked on in other classes. As such, it requires a great deal of discipline and hard work and may not be for everyone.

You will receive an Honors in Economics (Economics with Thesis/Honors), if you graduate with:

- 3.0 in the Core
- 3.5 in the major
- 1 additional elective (Senior Economics Thesis I: Research Methods in the fall)
- Senior Thesis II in the spring
- There is no GPA requirement to participate in the thesis program.

GRADING

Assignment	Points	Percent
Projects Day Presentation	400	40%
Final Thesis	500	50%
Thesis 1-Pager + 5-min Video	100	10%
TOTAL	1000	100%

ECONOMICS THESIS DIRECTOR

Alex Smith, Ph.D.

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SCHEDULE (TENTATIVE)

JAN 22	GROUP MEETING with Thesis Director (Semester Overview)
JAN-APR	<i>Regular weekly (or bi-weekly) meetings with Advisor.</i>
FEB 3	GROUP MEETING with Thesis Director (Presenting Economic Research)
FEB 22	SUBMIT presentation slides (with Tables/Figures) to Thesis Committee (Thesis Director, Advisor, and First Reader).
FEB 24	MEET with Thesis Committee to discuss progress/next steps.
MAR 19	SUBMIT full draft for peer review to Thesis Director
MAR 26	SUBMIT 2 peer referee reports to peers and Thesis Director
APR 2	SUBMIT complete draft (with Tables/Figures) to Thesis Committee (Thesis Director, Advisor, and First Reader).
APR 7	MEET with Thesis Committee to discuss progress/next steps.
APR 13-17	<i>Peer Mock Presentations</i>
APR 21	MOCK PRESENTATION with Thesis Advisor & Outside Viewer
APR 27	SUBMIT Final Draft of Thesis to Thesis Committee
APR 29	PROJECTS DAY PRESENTATIONS!
11-May	SUBMIT Thesis summary (1 pager + 5-min video) and cleaned dataset/code (public-only)