Research Seminar

Syllabus

Office Hours: Professor Duncan: TR 3:00-4:00pm.

Email: Professor Duncan: brian.duncan@ucdenver.edu

Course Homepage: I will be posting course announcements, lecture notes, and other handouts on Canvas. Please visit the site frequently to stay up to date.

Course Format: This is a "hybrid" course. Individual advising meetings with Professor Duncan will happen either in-person or remotely via zoom. Group meetings (including midterm and final presentations) will be conducted in-person unless instructed otherwise.

Textbook: No textbook is required for this course. I will provide reading material to help you through the process of writing a research paper.

Learning Outcomes (LO): The goal of this class is to guide students through the process of conducting rigorous analytical research in economics. Throughout the semester, students will meet in groups to discuss their ongoing research projects, meet individually with the instructors, and defend their results.

Class Participation: Students will meet individually with Prof. Duncan, in small groups, and with the entire class. Students are required to attend all scheduled individual and group-based meetings. Students are also required to participate in group discussions and to thoroughly read all the assigned preparatory material. Failure to attend, prepare and actively participate will detrimentally affect the student's grade.

Department Seminars: There are several department seminars scheduled for the fall semester. The Department seminars are generally held on Friday's at 2:15-3:45pm. The seminar schedule is posted on the department's web site and around the Economics Department office. Every student is required to attend the department seminars. Failure to attend will detrimentally affect the student's grade.

Grades: Grades will be based on the student's attendance (at group meeting, individual meetings, and at department seminars), participation in class discussions, midterm seminar presentation, Maser's paper, and Master's paper defense.

Description of Capstone Course Letter Grades:

"A" Outstanding achievement. The student's performance demonstrates full command of the material covered in the MA program and his or her Masters paper and seminar presentation exhibits a high level of originality, creativity and/or scholarly potential that far surpasses course expectations.

"A-" Excellent achievement. The student's performance demonstrates full command of the material covered in the MA program and his or her Masters paper and seminar presentation exceeds course expectations by completing all requirements in a superior manner.

"B+" Very good work. The student's performance demonstrates average to above-average comprehension of the material covered in the MA program and his or her Masters paper and seminar presentation exceeds course expectations.

"B" The student's performance demonstrates understanding of the material covered in the MA program at an acceptable level and his or her Masters paper and seminar presentation meets course expectations.

"B-" Student performance demonstrates some understanding of the material covered in the MA program and his or her master's paper and/or seminar presentation meets the minimum course expectations.

Master's Defense: All MA students must pass a Master's paper defense in order to graduate. A student's ECON 6073 final seminar presentation also serves as his or her Master's paper defense. Earning a B- or better in ECON 6073 and passing the Master's paper defense are two separate requirements for the MA degree in economics. It is possible for a student to earn a B- or better in ECON 6073, but "conditional pass" or "fail" the Master's paper defense. A student who conditionally passes the Master's paper defense will be given clearly defined requirements for passing, which must be completed to the satisfaction of the examination committee within four months. A student who fails the Master's paper defense <u>may</u> be granted a second defense, which must be completed by the end of the next academic semester.

Resources & Deadlines: The University of Colorado Denver offers several resources to support its students, such as the Disability Resources and Services Center and the Counseling Center. Information on these services and on the Fall 2023 academic calendar can be found here:

https://www.ucdenver.edu/student/calendars/academic/fall

I am committed to following all university guidelines, provide equal access as required by federal law, and to develop strategies for your success in this course.

Academic Policies: All students are required to read and follow the academic policies:

https://clas.ucdenver.edu/faculty-staff/content/academic-policies

Academic Dishonesty: Students are required to know, understand, and comply with the CU Denver Academic Dishonesty Policy as detailed in the Catalog and on the CLAS website. Academic dishonesty consists of plagiarism, cheating, fabrication and falsification, multiple submission of the same work, misuse of academic materials, and complicity in academic dishonesty. If you are not familiar with the definitions of these offenses, go to https://clas.ucdenver.edu/faculty-staff/policies-procedures/handling-academic-dishonesty/definition-academic-dishonesty. This course assumes your knowledge of these policies and definitions. This course assumes your knowledge of these policies and definitions. Failure to adhere to them can result in possible penalties ranging from failure of this course to dismissal from the University; so, be informed and be careful. If this is unclear to you, please ask me.

AI Policy: ChatGPT and other AI resources are valuable tools for brainstorming, researching, finding information on your topic, and proofreading. I encourage you to explore the benefits and limits of this technology.

However, copy-pasting entire sentences generated by AI and claiming them as your own is academic dishonesty. Any writing that is found to be generated by AI, and submitted as your own, will be given a 0% grade. I will be using software provided by Canvas and the software GPTZero to check for percentage of writing generated by AI. This percentage should be 0%.

Exceptions to the course policies may be made on an individual or class basis at the instructor's discretion. A request for an exception must be made well in advance.

Research Seminar (ECON 6073) Class Schedule

Week	Date	Tuesday	Thursday
1	August 22, 24	Group	Group
2	August 29, 31	20 min. Individual Meetings	20 min. Individual Meetings
3	September 5, 7	Group	Group - Proposal due
4	September 12, 14	20 min. Individual Meetings	20 min. Individual Meetings
5	September 19, 21	20 min. Individual Meetings	20 min. Individual Meetings
6	September 26, 28	Group	Group
7	October 3, 5	20 min. Individual Meetings	20 min. Individual Meetings
8	October 10, 12	Open Office Hours	Group Midterm Seminars
9	October 17, 19	Group Midterm Seminars	Group Midterm Seminars
10	October 24, 26	20 min. Individual Meetings	20 min. Individual Meetings
11	October 31, 2	20 min. Individual Meetings	20 min. Individual Meetings
12	November 7, 9	20 min. Individual Meetings	20 min. Individual Meetings
13	November 14, 16	Open office hours	Group - First draft due
	November 21, 23	Fall Break	Fall Break
14	November 28, 30	20 min. Individual Meetings	20 min. Individual Meetings
15	December 5, 7	Open office hours	Open office hours
16	December 12, 14	Group Final Seminars	Group Final Seminars

Note: Master's paper due by **5:00 p.m.** on **December 15**.

Research Paper Guidelines

The main objective of the Research Seminar is for students to produce a high-quality research paper. By **4:00 p.m.** on **December 15**, every student must turn in a copy of their research paper along with their data and programs (see the data availability policy below).

Every student is required to complete his or her own original research paper. Submitting what is essentially the same work for credit in multiple courses is a violation of CU-Denver's Academic Ethics Policy. In addition, students are expected to know, understand, and comply with the ethical standards of the university, including rules against plagiarism. Plagiarism is the use of another person's ideas or words without acknowledgment. The incorporation of another person's work into yours requires appropriate identification and acknowledgment. The following are considered to be forms of plagiarism when the source is not noted: word-for-word copying of another person's ideas or words; the "mosaic" (interspersing your own words here and there while, in essence, copying another's work); the paraphrase (the rewriting of another's work, while still using their basic ideas or theories); fabrication (inventing sources, data, or results); submission of another's work as your own; and neglecting quotation marks when including direct quotes.

The format of the research paper must conform to the following guidelines:

1. Papers must be typewritten (12 point font), single-sided with standard boarders. All material must be double-spaced. Pages should be numbered consecutively throughout the paper.
2. Papers should be approximately 15 to 25 pages in length, not including the appendix or tables.
3. Papers must begin with a title page that includes the title of the paper, the author's name, date, and an abstract of approximately 150 words. The abstract should clearly summarize the research question and the results.
4. All of the tables must be neat, easy to read, numbered consecutively, and clearly labeled and footnoted. Cut-and-pasted portions of STATA, SAS, EVIEWS, or RATS output may not be used as a table in the body or appendix of the paper.
5. Data definitions and sources must be reported in great detail. All variables created and used in regressions must be clearly defined and fully explained.
6. All equations must be typewritten and numbered consecutively.
7. All of the numbers in a given table should be rounded off to the same reasonable number of digits.
8. Footnotes may be used but must be numbered consecutively throughout the paper. Do not put references in footnotes.
9. All references must be listed alphabetically at the end of the paper.

Data Availability Policy

Students are expected to submit their data and programs, along with sufficient documentation to permit the replication of all results contained in their Masters' paper. To comply with this policy, students should provide at least:

1. The final data set(s) and programs used to calculate all of the summary statistics, regression output, and any other statistical analysis contained in the paper. The data files can be provided in any standard format, and the programs can be written in any standard programming language (i.e., Stata, SAS, Eviews, etc.)

2. A clear and detailed description of how the original data was obtained and what intermediate data steps were taken to create the final data set(s).

3. A description of the purpose of each data set and program.

4. All files must be submitted in a single ZIP file named "firstname_lastname.zip". The zip file should also contain an electronic copy of the paper.

Paper Advisors.

A fully developed, high-quality research paper requires many ingredients. The process of identifying a research question and cultivating it into a comprehensive research paper can be daunting. In order to guide students through the process, each student will be assigned a *primary* and *secondary* paper advisor. Either Professor Duncan or Professor Rees will serve as a student's primary paper advisor. Students must also identify a secondary paper advisor, who may be any professor willing to assist the student with some aspect of their research project. Throughout the semester, students will meet both in groups and one-on-one with their primary paper advisor. Secondary paper advisors may or may not require formal meetings with students, as they see fit.