

BOSTON COLLEGE  
Department of Economics

Ec 497  
Senior Thesis Research  
Fall 1998

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Office Hours: M 2-3, W 1-2, Th 3:15-4

This seminar is for students writing honors theses in economics. The course serves three purposes. First, the seminar provides background information on how to write a thesis. Second, it provides structure to the thesis-writing process, affording students the opportunity to make presentations of their work and receive feedback. Finally, the seminar allows thesis writers the opportunity to meet together as a group and benefit from each other's insights.

### Meetings

We will meet today and next week to discuss the structure of a thesis, hear from each of you about your proposed research project, and set up the schedule for presentations in November. You should by now have received a commitment from a faculty member to serve as your adviser. You also should have a relatively specific idea of your topic. Part of the process of writing a thesis involves focusing your topic, so don't be too concerned if your proposed research is a bit vague.

I will have office hours from 9:30 to 10:30 on the days we do not meet. Each of you should plan to stop by and fill me in on your progress during October. I'll also be checking with your advisers to make sure all is going well.

### Presentations

The presentations in November will be about 20 minutes in length. A suggested format is described in the handout on developing a thesis proposal.

### Deadlines

Students must provide their advisers and me with a draft of their thesis proposal at the latest by the Friday before Thanksgiving, November 20. You should, of course, be handing in material and receiving feedback from your advisers throughout the semester. Advisers will then return comments to students after Thanksgiving, and students are to revise their draft and turn in a final version to their advisers and me by the last day of classes, December 8. Note that your progress during the Fall semester will determine whether you are allowed to continue the thesis during the Spring semester.

### Grading

You will receive a letter grade for the Fall semester, based primarily upon your thesis proposal but also based upon your presentation to the group and your participation in the seminar.