

BOSTON COLLEGE
Department of Economics

EC 498 Senior Thesis Research
Spring 2003
Class: T & Th 9:00 Carney 203
<http://www2.bc.edu/~murphyro>

Professor Bob Murphy
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Honors Thesis Seminar

Purpose of Course: This seminar serves as the organizational framework for students writing senior honors theses. 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 gives thesis writers the opportunity to meet together as a group and benefit from each other's insights.

Meetings: We will meet today to get an update from each of you about your research and to set up the schedule for presentations in April.

Office Hours: I have scheduled office hours from 1:15-2:15 on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Each of you should plan to either stop by and fill me in on your progress or update me via e-mail as the semester proceeds. I'll also be checking with your advisers to make sure all is going well.

Presentations: The presentations in April will be about 30 minutes in length. Let me know if you plan to use a powerpoint presentation, and I will provide the projector and, if needed, a laptop computer for your use.

Deadlines: Students should have a draft of their thesis available when giving their presentation. The final date for turning in your thesis will be the last day of classes, April 29. In some cases, your adviser may want you to turn it in earlier, so please check with your adviser concerning their expectations. Also, those of you in the College Honors Program or doing Scholar of the College projects may have earlier deadlines.

Texts: No texts are required for the course, but, as in the Fall semester, I urge you to read a copy of *The Elements of Style*, by William Strunk and E.B.White, which is available in most book stores. This little book is a very useful (and famous) guide to writing clearly and concisely. Another helpful guide is *The Writing of Economics*, by D. McCloskey, Waveland Press, 1999, which I have ordered at the Boston College Bookstore.