

Economics 8209
PhD Research Methods
Fall 2006

Department of Economics
University of Colorado Boulder

James Markusen
Economics 210
Office hours: T-Th 9-11
Phone: 2-0748

Randall Walsh
Economics 105
Office hours: M-W 10-12
Phone: 2-4599

General Details

This course will be team taught by Jim Markusen and Randy Walsh.

Course Objectives

The purpose of this course is to push you into the process of conducting original research in economics. Although the course is called “research methods”, it is only partly a course in econometric applications, theoretical modeling, or library searches. Most of the course is in fact a “learn-by-doing” introduction to economic research. By the end of the first semester, we expect that you will have prepared and defended an extensive literature review, initial modeling, and proposal for your third-year research paper. During the process, you will have many opportunities to think, write, and speak analytically and critically.

The third-year research paper that you will research and write during this academic year will ideally serve as a key analytical chapter for your dissertation, to be completed in the following year. By the end of the academic year, you should thus have a principal chapter for your thesis

the term, and his task has been made much more difficult with Professor Markus going on leave.

Part 1: Understanding Elements of Research

Walsh and Markusen will give lectures during approximately the first two weeks. We are not setting too rigorous a schedule, since we are both new to this and want to be flexible as contingencies arise. The class will be required to read some recent published papers *before the lectures* and to discuss them in class. The intent will be to begin to understand the nature of a research project and paper, including the basic elements of research: Approximately August 29 to September 14.

Markusen and Venables, "Multinational Firms and the New Trade Theory", *Journal of International Economics* 46 (1998), 183-204.

Carr, Markusen and Markus, "Estimating the Knowledge-Capital Model of the Multinational

