

ECON 8209-001: Research Methods

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Class Schedule: TTh 9:30 – 10:45 am in ECON 5.
Office Hours: T 10:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. and by appointment.

Course Goals

The purpose of this course is to transition you into the research phase of your doctoral studies. The primary goal is that you end this semester with a research proposal that includes:

- a) a well-specified research question;
- b) a literature review that explains the innovation and contribution of the proposed research;
- c) the proposed methodology (theoretical and/or empirical).

Course Content

The semester will consist of 6 activities:

- 1) **Introductory lectures and exercises:** lectures on: What is research? Where does research come from? How do I pick and work with articles? What do I need to know now about the job market for economists? What makes a good literature review? What makes a good presentation? Students will be assigned general literature reviews and one published paper to read and discuss. Students will also make practice presentation slides for

proposed topic and make a 20-minute presentation to the class. Ideally, the literature review will start with a well-specified research question around which you organize your literature review.

- 4) **Proposed methodology:** Students will write a 3 to 5 page paper describing the methodology (theoretical and/or empirical, as appropriate) that will be used to answer the research question. Students should strive to be as specific as possible (e.g. actual equations). They will make a 20-minute presentation of the methodology to the class.
- 5) **Final presentation and proposal:** Students will use their literature review and methodology papers, and the feedback they received during the semester, to write a final proposal of 8 to 12

