

Professor Julie Cullen

jbcullen@ucsd.edu

858-822-2056

Office hours: By appointment, Econ 319

Economics 191B: Senior Essay Seminar, Winter 2020

Structure of the course

This is the second quarter of the two-quarter course sequence. Grades are assigned for the full two-quarter sequence. The formal requirement is to complete a research paper (typically 25-35 pages) by the end of the winter quarter.

As you craft your paper, keep in mind that a typical organization for an economics research paper that includes empirical analysis is:

Abstract: 100+ word summary of your question, strategy and conclusions

Introduction: Overview of the broad issue and your specific question; brief description of your strategy and findings; discussion of the contributions and implications; outline of the rest of the paper

Literature review: Organized discussion of the most related literatures and studies where the goal is to explain what has been done and how your study fits in; as an alternative to having a separate section, the literature review might be worked into the introduction or blended with the conceptual framework

Conceptual framework: Explain your hypothesis and the assumptions it depends on

Empirical strategy: Describe your econometric model and how it relates to the underlying theory; state how you would like the estimates to be interpreted; discuss threats to interpretation and strategies to address those

Data: Describe the data that you are using and where they come from; provide details about how key variables are constructed; include a table of summary statistics and perhaps some initial descriptive results

Results: Summarize baseline findings; rather than just presenting estimates, explain the economic significance of the magnitudes; provide additional robustness and sensitivity tests; discuss remaining qualifications

Conclusion: Once again summarize briefly the key results; discuss implications and avenues for further research

References: Include a list of citations for papers referenced in the text; make sure to fully cite the sources in your research and to fully attribute quotations (using others' written

work without citation is plagiarism and has high penalties in academics); papers will be reviewed for unattributed sources using Turnitin.com

Figures and Tables: These follow in order at the end

The above is just a guideline. Omit any sections that are inapplicable, and add others if suitable. There is also no need to write sections in order. That is, you may already be able to write-up the data section even if you do not yet know how you will frame the paper. I recommend producing all of your key results before tackling most of the write-up. Once you have your figures and tables finalized, the write-up should flow quite naturally.

Early in this quarter is a great time to **meet with faculty members** with interests related to your topic to discuss your research project. Faculty can provide useful guidance and may also serve as future references. This is also a great time to start getting help with your write-ups from the **Writing Hub** (<https://writinghub.ucsd.edu/for-undergrads/index.html>).

Course schedule

This quarter, our reserved class meeting slot is Wednesday 5:00-7:50pm in SEQUO 244. The two mandatory group meetings are 2/26 and 3/4. All other group meetings are voluntary.

Dates	Activity
1/8	No class – Welcome back from the holiday break
1/15	No class – Work independently on your projects
1/22	One-on-one paper conferences in Econ 319
1/29	One-on-one paper conferences in Econ 319
2/5	No class – Dinner at Mustangs and Burros
2/12	No class - Rough draft due (submit via TritonEd website)
2/19	Non-mandatory class “hangout”
2/26	Student presentations (25 minutes each, including discussion)
3/4	Student presentations (25 minutes each, including discussion)
3/11	No class – Work independently on your projects
3/13 (Friday)	Final draft due (submit via TritonEd website)

Course websites

<https://canvas.ucsd.edu/courses/9221>

<https://sites.google.com/site/ec191cullen/home>