

Professor Julie Cullen

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Office hours: By appointment, request via email

## **Economics 191B: Senior Essay Seminar, Winter 2021**

### **Structure of the course**

This is the second quarter of the two-quarter course sequence. Grades are assigned for the full 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

***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, and feel free to adjust the order to whatever flows best for your context. 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 get individualized help with your write-ups from the *Writing Hub* (<https://writinghub.ucsd.edu/for-undergrads/index.html>).

### Course schedule

Week	Dates	Activity
1	Jan 4	<b>One-on-one meetings</b>
2	Jan 11	<b>One-on-one meetings</b>
3	Jan 18	<b>No meeting</b> Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday
4	Jan 25	<b>Group meeting</b> Student research updates
5	Feb 1	<b>Group “hang”</b> Join for voluntary group office hours
6	Feb 8	<b>Group meeting</b> Writing Hub “clarity and style” workshop <b>Assignment</b> Submit current draft (by Feb 3 11:59pm)
7	Feb 15	<b>No meeting</b> Presidents’ Day holiday
8	Feb 22	<b>Group “hang”</b> Join for voluntary group office hours
9	Mar 1	<b>Group meeting</b> Student presentations
10	Mar 8	<b>Group meeting</b> Student presentations
	Mar 12	<b>Assignment</b> Final draft due by 11:59pm