

ECON 191B: SENIOR ESSAY SEMINAR

WINTER 2022

Professor Emanuel Vespa
Email: evespa@ucsd.edu
Office hours: By appointment

Class Meetings

Lecture Section: Thu 5-7:50pm
Location: SEQ244

Course Overview

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

Schedule

The two mandatory group meetings are on Week 8 and 9.

Date	Class type	Assignment
Week 1	One-on-one meetings	
Week 2	One-on-one meetings	
Week 3	One-on-one meetings	
Week 4	One-on-one meetings	
Week 5	One-on-one meetings	
Week 6	One-on-one meetings	Rough draft due
Week 7	One-on-one meetings	
Week 8	Group Meeting	Presentations
Week 9	Group Meeting	Presentations
Week 10	One-on-one meetings	
Finals Week	No class	Draft Due