

Colorado State University

Spring 2018

*Economics 793*  
*Dissertation Development Seminar*

MW 2:30-3:45  
C307 Clark

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Office Hours:

MW 3:45-4:30 and by appt.

**OVERVIEW:**

This course will help you develop a dissertation topic, bibliographic and data sources, as well as an analytical framework to structure your evolving dissertation research at whatever stage your research happens to be. Together, these components are designed to pave your way towards your dissertation proposal. The course will move between one-on-one work with the instructor, a rotating set of partners, and whole-class workshops that will allow you to understand and appreciate a wider variety of research interests and approaches. In addition, we will have regular informal discussions on academic, teaching, and/or research careers, as well as a formal guest lecture on the job market itself.

**STRUCTURE:**

The semester will be devoted to developing a potential dissertation topic, possible bibliographic and data sources, and a detailed outline of a proposed 3-paper dissertation which can provide the basis for your dissertation proposal. The instructor will use the first four class periods to briefly review the development of four of his own research papers, particularly the path from the source/s of the original idea to a concrete research agenda to ultimate publication. Class members will work with the instructor and with a rotating group of partners to develop their topic, potential bibliographic and data sources, and detailed outlines. You are expected to spend about six hours per week outside of class developing your topic, sources, and detailed outline.

**WORKSHOPS:**

Roundtable workshops will feature weekly progress reports and directions by/for each individual research project, and will generally serve as a forum for collaborative discussions on research problems and prospects.

**GRADING:**

Grades will be based on the Topic Proposal (10%), Bibliographic and Data Sources (10% each), Rough Outline (20%), Final Outline and its Presentation (30%), and Class Participation (20%). Accommodations are made for students with disabilities in conjunction with the Resources for Disabled Students (<http://rds.colostate.edu/>). The course will adhere to the Academic Integrity Policy of the Colorado State University General Catalog and the Student Conduct Code. You can find further useful information on academic integrity at

<http://learning.colostate.edu/integrity/index.cfm>

## SCHEDULE

|                 | <u>Monday</u>                         | <u>Wednesday</u>                     |
|-----------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <b>Week 1:</b>  | <b>MLK Holiday</b>                    | <b>Intro/First Roundtable</b>        |
| <b>Week 2:</b>  | <b>Theory: LoDo Games</b>             | <b>Informal Workshop</b>             |
| <b>Week 3:</b>  | <b>Theory: Info Value-Added</b>       | <b>Topic Proposal Slam</b>           |
| <b>Week 4:</b>  | <b>Empirics: National Parks</b>       | <b>*Topic/s Proposal Due</b>         |
| <b>Week 5:</b>  | <b>Empirics: Entrepreneurship</b>     | <b>Workshop</b>                      |
| <b>Week 6:</b>  | <b>*Bibliographic Sources Due</b>     | <b>Review Bib Sources/Workshop</b>   |
| <b>Week 7:</b>  | <b>*Data Sources Due</b>              | <b>Review Data Sources/Workshop</b>  |
| <b>Week 8:</b>  | <b>*Outline Draft Due</b>             | <b>Review Outline Draft</b>          |
| <b>Week 9:</b>  | <b>Workshop &amp; Schedule Prstns</b> | <b>No Class – Final Outline Prep</b> |
| <b>Week 10:</b> | <b>*Final Outline Due</b>             |                                      |
| <b>Week 11:</b> | <b>Student Outline Presentations</b>  |                                      |
| <b>Week 12:</b> | <b>Student Outline Presentations</b>  |                                      |
| <b>Week 13:</b> | <b>Student Outline Presentations</b>  |                                      |
| <b>Week 14:</b> | <b>Student Outline Presentations</b>  |                                      |
| <b>Week 15:</b> | <b>Wrap-Up</b>                        |                                      |