

**Economics 8219: Research Methods 2**

**Spring 2016: Syllabus**

detailed abstracts. In class the group members will go over the edits in detail with the group and author and discuss how the author may improve his or her work.

4. *Short presentations*: Students will make 2 short (15 or 20 minute) conference-style presentations of their research, involving (1) detailed abstract; (2) data methods/setup

### **Due Dates**

All due dates are listed on the schedule above and repeated below. Please send them to your group members (where relevant) and to me by 5 pm on the due date. I would also like you to put a hard copy in my mailbox by 5 pm on the due date. The final papers/proposals are due on April 28, the last day of our class. Email it to me and put a hard copy in my box that day.

Summary of due dates:

- |   |          |
|---|----------|
| 1. Detailed abstract (group and KM)           | Jan. 28  |
| 2. Revised abstract (KM)                      | Feb 4    |
| 3. Draft of methods section(s) (group and KM) | Feb 22   |
| 4. Revised methods section(s) (KM)            | March 10 |
| 5. Extended results draft (group and KM)      | March 31 |
| 6. Final papers (KM)                          |          |

The purpose of these 15- or 20-minute presentations is to give you practice at a short conference-style talk, which will be very helpful going forward. **All students are expected to attend all presentations.** Especially important in these talks is the first five minutes, in which you must lay out in clear and concise terms your motivation, your research question, and its contribution to the literature. Include stylized facts, a key graph or two (data presentation), and an example or two if you can find them. The remainder of the time is devoted to the body of what you want to discuss, including primary research methods, any key theoretical findings, data, key results, and any central messages to learn from the work. This task will be straightforward (but good practice) when you present a working paper from the literature. But when you present your abstract, most will not have completed research to discuss. In that case the remaining 15 minutes can be managed in one of the following ways.

- A. If you have preliminary theoretical or empirical results, go ahead and present them just as you would at a conference.
- B. If you are doing empirical research and do not yet have results, lay out the empirical model and/or your identification strategy and any biases and statistical problems you expect to have to deal with, such as endogeneity, selection issues, etc. and how you would deal with them. If you have data but not results yet, generate a descriptive analysis to describe the quality of your data and the key variables you expect to use for identification. This may well take the form of a data plot and graphs. You may also want to discuss problems you are facing or expect to face.
- C. If you are doing a theory paper and do not yet have results, spend your time motivating your model with further stories, facts, case studies, and so on that convince the audience that your model has important implications for analyzing a real economic problem. You should be in a position to present the model's basic setup and problems you are facing in solving the model. Be clear on the contribution you are making, what model(s) you are extending, and how it will help understand the problem.
- D. If you have no real model or results to discuss, perhaps you can talk (speculate in an informed way) about how your presentation would be organized, slide by slide. That is, you can discuss ideas such as "this slide will contain my model assumptions, which must address the following factors." "The next slide will contain Proposition I, which will be a statement or empirical hypothesis about idea X." "The next slide will graph outcome Y as a function of model parameters A and B." Or "the next slide will have a table of my basic OLS results, then the next will have fixed-effects results, then results broken down into industry or country types." Even in this minimal case, however, your abstract and motivation should be very clear about what your research question is and why it is interesting, and how you can analyze it.

In the presentations the class will observe conference-style rules, which means we will interrupt



In consultation with the primary advisor(s), students are responsible for scheduling the remaining faculty members to serve on the comprehensive exam committee. You are also responsible for booking a room if you do not present during class time.

### **University Policies**

University policies regarding classroom behavior are available at <http://www.colorado.edu/policies/student-classroom-and-course-related-behavior> and [http://www.colorado.edu/studentaffairs/studentconduct/code.html#student\\_code](http://www.colorado.edu/studentaffairs/studentconduct/code.html#student_code)

Standard regarding the student honor code are at <http://www.colorado.edu/policies/honor.html> and at