Economics Dept.
Senior Thesis Program

September 4, 2018
Ec Advising Team
Today

- What, Why, How
- Documents, Details, and Dates
- Misc thoughts
WHAT is a senior thesis?
thesis /ˈTHēsis/
noun
A dissertation on a particular subject in which one has done original research, as one presented by a candidate for a diploma or degree.

Source: Dictionary.com

- Unique contribution to knowledge
- Like a journal article
WHY write a senior thesis?
Someone told you to

All the cool kids are doin’ it

You want high honors

It will look good on a resume
Deeply explore something YOU are curious about
Emotional State

Time

5:01pm today

5:01pm 3/14/19

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“For most of college I was an executor: you gave me a textbook to read or a problem set to do, and I could spit it out for you. Given the inputs, I could produce the outputs.

But it wasn't until I wrote a thesis that I started asking the questions myself, deciding for myself what inputs I needed... There's a confidence that comes with it that I never had before.”
HOW to write a senior thesis?
Thesis? where are you?
Topic

▪ What are you curious about?
▪ What would you like to understand better?
▪ What papers/topics/classes have you enjoyed?
▪ What do you disagree with?
▪ What excites you in current events?

▪ Not too broad, not too narrow
▪ Browse journals, old theses
▪ TALK to people
Advisor

- You must have one.
- It will take time.

**Strategy**

1) Get names (use sortable thesis advisor list)
2) Visit OH or email them
3) Arrange meetings
4) Be reasonably prepared
5) Don’t give up!
Ec 985

- Required full-year Thesis Research Seminar (see website)
- Led by Instructor
- ~12 peers per seminar
- Weekly meetings in different formats

**Ec 985 goals**

- Provide structure, support, feedback
- Foster steady progress
- Aid transition from *student* to *scholar*
documents, details, dates...
Documents

- Thesis Guide
- Thesis Registration form
- Advice sheet
- Previous thesis titles

(details on Ec Thesis page)
Details

- Grades & Honors
- Human Subjects and IRB
- Funding
- Libraries
- Stata
- AM/Ec
- If the road is too rocky...

(details on Ec Thesis page)
Important Dates

- **9/6 (Thurs), 12pm**: Enter Ec 985 lottery.

- **10/9**: You **must** have an advisor. Submit registration form by 4pm.

- **12/11**: Fall semester thesis draft due.

- **March 14, 2019**: SUBMIT FINAL THESIS!
Final Thoughts...

- It’s an adventure!
- We’re here for you.
“...your intellectual capabilities, your energy, and your persistence are all far greater than they were just a few years ago. Most importantly, they are also far greater than you probably understand them to be...

The real reason for every student to write a senior thesis, I believe, is ... to learn something of what you are now capable of accomplishing.

Whatever you do next—whether you work... or go to... graduate school—you will find challenges put before you... having an awareness of what you are now capable of doing will be an invaluable asset.”
“It was painful at times, and to be honest, I was almost ready to give up... but we pushed through. I am so glad I got to do this.”
LET THE ADVENTURE BEGIN.