Economics Dept.
Senior Thesis Program

April 3, 2019
Ec Advising Team
Goals for Today

1) Overview of All Things Thesis
2) Tips to make the most of the next ~6 weeks
WHAT is a Thesis?

thes·sis  /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 Thesis?

- Major, exciting intellectual endeavor
- Deeply explore something YOU are curious about
- Draw together 3 years of tools, training, knowledge to answer YOUR question
- Good for grad school!
- Good for not grad school!
- Truly understand what “research” entails
“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?
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

Tip #1: Think about your potential areas of interest. Read, explore, talk with others!
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!

**Tip #2:**
Come up with a list of at least 7 profs who are relevant for your topic(s) of interest.

**Tip #3:**
Schedule a meeting with at least 3 profs before you leave campus in May.
Ec 985

- **Required full-year Thesis Research Seminar**
- Led by Instructor
- 10-12 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 Interest form
- Advice sheet
- Previous thesis titles
- Sortable Thesis Advisor sheet

(details on Ec Thesis page)
Details

- Funding
- Stata
- Libraries
- Human Subjects and IRB  (2 training sessions left: April 15, May 2)
- Escape hatch
- AM/Ec

(details on Ec Thesis page)
Important Dates

Spring 2019

- **5/2**: Lunchtime Poster Session, Class of 2019 Ec Theses
- **5/10**: Submit the “Thesis Interest Form”

Fall 2019

- **First week**: Thesis Registration Meeting
- **Add/Drop deadline**: Must have thesis advisor
- **March 12, 2020**: SUBMIT FINAL THESIS!
Final Thoughts...

- It’s an adventure!
- We’re here for you.
  - Ec Advising OH, Prof. Miron, Ec House Tutors, Dani Doyle, newly-thesised Seniors

Tip #4:
Listen to your wise, experienced, amazing senior peers (and your concentration advisors). 😊
“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.**”

--Ec Thesis Alum

LET THE ADVENTURE BEGIN!