

Research Methods and Thesis Design-ECNS 488
The University of Montana
Fall 2016
SYLLABUS

INSTRUCTOR: Professor Kellenberg
CLASS HOURS: 9:30-10:50 AM, TTh
CLASS LOCATION: Schreiber Gym 303
OFFICE HOURS: T & Th 1:00-2:00 PM (or by appointment)
OFFICE LOCATION: Liberal Arts 404
TELEPHONE: 243-5612
EMAIL: Derek.Kellenberg@mso.umt.edu

Note: The following syllabus defines the rules and important dates for the semester; however, I reserve the right to make changes if the need arises.

Prerequisite: Senior or graduate status and an Economics major.

General Description: This course is designed to help you begin the process of writing your senior thesis. By integrating the knowledge and skills you have developed in your economics courses, you will refine your skills of accessing, summarizing and communicating economic information both orally and in writing. You will further your understanding of economic theory, discourse and statistics as we examine how economists make their arguments and present their work on a wide range of economic topics.

Texts:

McCloskey, Deirdre, *Economical Writing*, 2nd ed., Prospect Heights, IL: Waveland Press, 2000.

Course Goals: This course has three primary goals:

- (1) to have students develop and write a successful senior thesis proposal;
- (2) to solidify and enhance students' oral and written communication of quantitative and analytic material; and
- (3) to help students avoid some of the pitfalls and roadblocks often encountered in starting a senior thesis.

Grades: Your overall class grade will be based on your performance on 6 assignments as well as daily attendance and participation in class exercises and presentations. The breakdown of the overall class grade is as follows:

Attendance/Participation	25%
Assignment #1	5%
Assignment #2	10%
Assignment #3	10%
Assignment #4	20%
Assignment #5	30%

A Word on Cheating and Plagiarism: Do not do it! All students are expected to abide by the University of Montana Student Conduct Code. Any violators of the Student Code of Conduct will be subject to punishment as outlined in the Student Code. For more information on the Student Code of Conduct please consult the following website:

http://www.umt.edu/vpsa/policies/student_conduct.php

Students with Disabilities: If you are a student with a disability who will require reasonable program modifications in this course, please meet with Disability Services for Students in Lommasson 154 for assistance in developing a plan to address program modifications. If you are already working with Disability Services, please arrange to meet with me during my office hours to discuss reasonable modifications that may be necessary. For more information, visit the Disability Services website at <http://www.umt.edu/disability>.

Classroom Policies: I reserve the right to ask you to leave the classroom for the day if I perceive that you are being disruptive in any way to me or others in class. I view disruptive behavior to include things like talking on a cell phone, texting, tweeting, emailing, surfing the web, reading a newspaper or doing crosswords puzzles during class time. ***Cell phones must be put away (out of sight and ringers turned off) at all times.***

Course Drop Policy: The last day to request to drop the course is October 31, 2016. After October 31, I will only sign a drop slip if you have one of the documented circumstances approved by the university to drop by petition. *Documented justification is required for dropping courses by petition.* Some examples of documented circumstances that may merit approval are: accident or illness, family emergency, or other circumstances beyond the student's control. The fact that you may not be doing well in the course *is not* a circumstance that will merit approval.

Recent Senior Thesis Paper Titles

- Labor production on the PGA Tour
- The effect of alcohol use on income
- Effects of travel in the National Basketball Association
- National identity as a determinant of corruption's impact on growth
- NFL player performance and player salaries
- Comparison of Well-Being of Black and non-Blacks in South Africa
- Creating Excess Returns in US Equity Markets Using Debt Spreads
- The Effect of Redistricting on Voter Turnout
- Would improved targeting of the Raskin Program increase nutrition levels among Indonesia's poor?
- The value of foreign language study within the U.S. labor market
- Does choice of major effect how much you borrow? Evidence from the University of Montana
- Is Government Intervention Efficient in the U.S. Broadband Market?
- The effects of land titling on agricultural yields in Paraguay
- Exploring Treatment Failures: An Empirical Analysis of Institutionalization in Children's Mental Health

- **Fall 2016 Schedule for ECNS 488**

	Tuesday	Thursday
Week 1: 8/30 &– 9/1	Introduction	Economical Writing Read: McCloskey chapters 1-19
Week 2: 9/6 & 9/8	Read: McCloskey chapters 20-31	Kate Zoellner- Mansfield Library (Room 283) “Electronic Resources”
Week 3: 9/13 & 9/15	Kate Zoellner – Mansfield Library (Room 283) “Citation and Plagiarism”	Assignment #1: Finding Interesting Topics
Week 4: 9/20 & 9/22	***Writing Center*** Summarizing Journal Article	***Writing Center*** Synthesizing Literature Workshop
Week 5: 9/27 & 9/29	Assignment #2: Article Presentations (12 5-minute article presentations)	Assignment #2: Article Presentations (11 5-minute article presentations)
Week 6: 10/4 & 10/6	Assignment #3: Thesis Statement In class evaluations	No Class
Week 7: 10/11 & 10/13	No Class	No Class
Week 8: 10/18 &10/20	Assignment #4: Pre-Proposal Due (No Class -Individual appt.’s with the Writing Center)	No Class (Individual appt.’s with the Writing Center)
Week 9: 10/25 & 10/27	No Class	***Writing Center*** Proposal Draft Workshop
Week 10: 11/1 & 11/3	No Class Individual Thesis Advisor appointments	No Class Individual Thesis Advisor appointments
Week 11: 11/8 & 11/10	Election Day (No Class)	No Class Individual Thesis Advisor appointments
Week 12: 11/15 & 11/17	Four Proposal Presentations	Four Proposal Presentations
Week 13: 11/22 & 11/24	No Class	Thanksgiving Holiday (No Class)
Week 14: 11/29 & 12/1	Four Proposal Presentations	Four Proposal Presentations
Week 15: 12/6 & 12/8	Four Proposal Presentations	Assignment #5: Thesis Proposal Due Three Proposal Presentations
Week 16: Starting 12/12	Finals Week --No Class	