ECNS 569: Empirical Research Design
Spring 2017 Syllabus

Logistics
Time: 11-11.50pm, Fridays
Classroom: LA 401
Instructor: Katrina Mullan
Office hours: Tuesday 2.30-3.30pm; Thursday 10.30-11.30am; or by appointment
Email: katrina.mullan@umontana.edu
Phone: (406) 243-4655
Liberal Arts Building, Rm 412

Recommended reading:

Course Description and Learning Outcomes

The objective of this course is to develop your skills in the process of conducting research, in order to help you prepare for, or complete, your Masters thesis. This will include choosing a topic, defining a research question, reviewing relevant literature, selecting appropriate data and methods, structuring the thesis, and drawing conclusions. For those who have yet to form a thesis committee, it will also be a setting in which to begin thinking about your project ideas.

On successful completion of this course, you should understand:

- The characteristics of a research question that both meets the requirements for a Masters thesis and is feasible to answer within one year of research.
- The importance of justifying the relevance of your research question within a broader field of inquiry.
- How to conduct an analytical literature review to determine how previous work can inform your analysis, and what your own analysis can contribute.
- Where to find publicly available sources of macro and microeconomic data, in the United States and internationally.
- How to recognize and adopt the academic voice of economists.
- The conventions of citation, documentation and formal presentation appropriate to economics.

Assignments and Grading

Assignments will be set approximately every other week. These will mainly consist of analysis of the structure or content of papers and articles in economics, short pieces of writing, or presentation of ideas to the rest of the class. (50% of total grade)
You will be required to attend all departmental research seminars, and prepare a ½ page written summary of the research presented. This summary will be due at the next class after the seminar. (25% of total grade).

As this class will involve sharing past and current experiences of the research process, there will also be a grade for overall attendance and participation in class discussion. (25% of total grade)

**STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**

Whenever possible, and in accordance with civil rights laws, The University of Montana will attempt to provide reasonable modifications to students with disabilities who request and require them. Please feel free to setup a time with me to discuss any modifications that may be necessary for this course. For more information, visit the Disability Services for Students website at [http://www.umt.edu/disability](http://www.umt.edu/disability).

**ACADEMIC CONDUCT**

All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or a disciplinary sanction by the University (for more details on Student Conduct Code, go to: [http://life.umt.edu/VPSA/student_conduct.php](http://life.umt.edu/VPSA/student_conduct.php)). Students are expected to do their own work in their own words, without seeking inappropriate assistance in preparing for or completing exams or assignments. I require that you will work to uphold high standards of integrity.