

Colorado State University

Spring 2021

*Economics 793
Dissertation Development Seminar*

**MW 2:30-3:45
C337 Clark**

Stephan.Weiler@colostate.edu

**Stephan Weiler
C329 Clark (491-5538)
Office Hours:
MW 1:30-2:30 and by appt.**

OVERVIEW:

This course will help you develop a set of topics, bibliographic and data sources, as well as an analytical framework to structure your evolving dissertation ideas at whatever stage your research happens to be. Together, these components are designed to pave your way towards your dissertation proposal and its defense, which are the twin core goals of the course. The class will move between one-on-one work with the instructor, a rotating set of partners, and whole-class workshops that will allow you to understand and appreciate a wider variety of research interests and approaches. In addition, we will have regular informal discussions on academic, teaching, and/or research careers, as well as a formal guest lecture on the job market itself.

STRUCTURE:

The semester will be devoted to developing research topics, bibliographic and data sources, and a detailed presentation-structured outline of a 3-paper dissertation which can provide the basis for your dissertation proposal. You are expected to spend about six hours per week outside of class developing your work in these sequential stages, with virtually all class time devoted to helping you with each step of this process. The instructor will use the first four Mondays to briefly review the development of four of his own research papers as examples, particularly the path from the source/s of the original idea to a concrete research agenda to ultimate publication.

WORKSHOPS:

Roundtable workshops will feature weekly progress reports and directions by/for each individual research project, and will generally serve as a forum for collaborative discussions on research problems and prospects.

GRADING:

Grades will be based on the Topic Proposal (10%), Bibliographic and Data Sources (10% each), Rough Outline (20%), Final Outline and its Presentation (30%), and Class Participation (20%), including written feedback for your classmates' Final Presentations. Accommodations are made for students with disabilities in conjunction with the [Resources for Disabled Students](#). The course will adhere to the Academic Integrity Policy of the Colorado State University General Catalog and the Student Conduct Code.

COVID:

Please utilize the [COVID Reporter](#) to report symptoms, if you have a positive test, or been exposed to a known COVID contact. If you know or believe you have been exposed or are symptomatic, it is important for the health of yourself and others that you report it through this reporter. You will not be in trouble or penalized in any way for reporting. If you report symptoms or a positive test, you will receive immediate instructions on what to do and CSU's Public Health Office will be notified. Once notified, that office will contact you and most likely conduct contact tracing, initiate any necessary public health requirements and/or recommendations, and notify you if you need to take any steps. For the latest information about the University's response, please visit the [CSU COVID site](#).

SCHEDULE

	<u>Monday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>
Week 1:	MLK Day 1/18	Intro/Roundtable 1/20
Week 2:	Theory: LoDo Games 1/25	Workshop 1/27
Week 3:	Theory: Info Value-Added 2/1	Topic Proposal Slam 2/3
Week 4:	Empirics: National Parks 2/8	*Topic/s Proposal Due 2/10
Week 5:	Empirics: Entrepreneurship 2/15	Workshop 2/17
Week 6:	*Bibliographic Sources Due 2/22	Bib Sources Prstns 2/24
Week 7:	*Empirical Model & Data Due 3/1	Model & Data Prstns 3/3
Week 8:	*Outline Draft Due 3/8	Review Outline Draft 3/10
Week 9:	Workshop & Schedule Prstns 3/15	Final Outline Prep 3/17
Week 10:	*Final Outline Due 3/22	Student Presentation 3/24
Week 11:	Student Presentation 3/29	Student Presentation 3/31
Week 12:	Student Presentation 4/5	Student Presentation 4/7
B R E A K		
Week 13:	Student Presentation 4/19	Student Presentation 4/21
Week 14:	Student Presentation 4/26	Student Presentation 4/28
Week 15:	Student Presentation 5/3	Job Market Talk 5/5