

*Economics 793*  
*Dissertation Development Seminar*

MW 2:30-3:45  
C307 Clark

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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 analytical frameworks 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 lecture on the job market itself.

**STRUCTURE:**

The semester will be devoted to developing chosen research topics into 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. As examples, the instructor will use two of the course's early Mondays to briefly review the development of four of his own research papers, 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 Introductions (10%), Bibliographic and Empirical Sources (10% each), Rough Outline (20%), Final Paper 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.

## SCHEDULE

### Monday

- Week 1: MLK Day 1/16
- Week 2: Intro/Roundtable 1/23
- Week 3: Theory: LoDo & InfoValue 1/30
- Week 4: Empirics: Parks & E'ship 2/6
- Week 5: Workshop: Refs/Mechs 2/13
- Week 6: \*Initial Refs & Mechanisms 2/20
- Week 7: \*Initial Emp Model, Data, & H<sub>0</sub> 2/27
- Week 8: Workshop 3/6

### Wednesday

- Snow Day 1/18
- Workshop: Sift Ideas 1/25
- Topic Proposal Slam 2/1
- \*Topic Introductions 2/8
- Workshop: Emp/Data/H<sub>0</sub> 2/15
- Presentations 2/22
- Presentations 3/1
- \*Outline Drafts/Review 3/8

### B R E A K

- Week 9: Workshop and Prstn Schedule 3/20
- Week 10: Workshop 3/27
- Week 11: Student Presentation 4/3
- Week 12: Student Presentation 4/10
- Week 13: Student Presentation 4/17
- Week 14: Student Presentation 4/24
- Week 15: Job Market 5/1
- Workshop 3/22
- \*Final Outlines 3/29
- Student Presentation 4/5
- Student Presentation 4/12
- Student Presentation 4/19
- Student Presentation 4/26
- Summer 5/3