

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO

Department of Economics

**ECON4309–801:  
ECONOMICS HONORS SEMINAR 1**

Fall 2016

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Instructor:	Martin Boileau
Office:	Economics 215
Office Hours:	T 14:00 to 15:30 and by appointment
Phone:	(303) 492-2108
E-mail:	Martin.Boileau@Colorado.EDU

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### Objective

The main objective of this course (and of the companion course *ECON 4339–801 Economic Honors Seminar 2*) is to help you write a successful undergraduate honors thesis in economics. A successful undergraduate thesis embodies the results of well executed, original, and significant research in economics. The thesis must show a proficient use of the tools of economics. It must contain independent and creative work (which precludes plagiarizing previous research). The thesis must be important. The judges of the execution, originality, and importance of the thesis will be your advisor and the other members of the defense committee.

The thesis must be defended by 11 April 2017 to graduate in Spring 2017. Until then, you will have to accomplish a number of tasks. These include:

1. Identify a research topic.
2. Find a willing faculty advisor.
3. Identify an interesting and answerable research question.
4. Write a review of the literature relevant to your research question.
5. Write a research proposal that describes your question, the methodology required to answer the question, and the required data.
6. Collect and organize the required data.
7. Perform the necessary analysis to answer your question.
8. Write and present a working paper version of your thesis.
9. Write the final version of the thesis.
10. Defend your thesis.

Adequate progress toward the completion of your thesis requires that you be somewhere be-

Also, you need to complete the "Registration to Graduate with Honors" form. The registration paperwork and required attachments are due in the Honors Program Office (Norlin M400M) by 3:00 p.m. on 3 October 2016. The form is available on the Honors Program web site and on the course D2L page.

## **Prerequisites and Texts**

Course enrollment is granted by the Economics Honors Program only. To be considered, the students must have a high cumulative and economics GPA. In most cases, the tools required to complete the thesis are presented in your undergraduate economics courses. Past experience however suggests a number of areas where students need further emphasis.

**Doing:** This text offers research guidelines:

Greenlaw, S.A. (2005)

## **Honors Program**

The Honors Program has a website with useful information:

<http://www.colorado.edu/honors/>

The Honors Program stores past theses. To access them:

[http://scholar.colorado.edu/honr\\_theses/](http://scholar.colorado.edu/honr_theses/)

## University Policies

You should familiarize yourself with the following University of Colorado policies:

1. If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit to your professor a letter from Disability Services in a timely manner (for exam accommodations provide your letter at least one week prior to the exam) so that your needs can be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities. Contact Disability Services at 303-492-8671 or by e-mail at [dsinfo@colorado.edu](mailto:dsinfo@colorado.edu). If you have a temporary medical condition or injury, see Temporary Medical Conditions: Injuries, Surgeries, and Illnesses guidelines under Quick Links at Disability Services website and discuss your needs with your professor.
2. Campus policy regarding religious observances requires that faculty make every effort to deal reasonably and fairly with all students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments or required attendance. See full details at [http://www.colorado.edu/policies/fac\\_relig.html](http://www.colorado.edu/policies/fac_relig.html)
3. Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. Those who fail to adhere to such behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and top-