

BOSTON COLLEGE
Department of Economics

ECON 4498 Senior Honors Thesis
Spring 2018
Class: M & W 8:30, Maloney 313
<http://www2.bc.edu/robert-murphy>

Professor Bob Murphy
Maloney 394
Office Hours: T & Th 2:00-3:00
E-mail: murphyro@bc.edu

Honors Thesis Seminar

Purpose of Course: This seminar serves as the organizational framework for students writing senior honors theses. The course serves three purposes. First, the seminar provides background information on how to write a thesis. Second, it provides structure to the thesis-writing process, affording students the opportunity to make presentations of their work and receive feedback. Finally, the seminar gives thesis writers the opportunity to meet together as a group and benefit from each other's insights.

Meetings: We will meet today to get an update from each of you about your research and to set up the schedule for presentations in April.

Office Hours: I have scheduled office hours from 2:00-3:00 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Each of you should plan to either stop by and fill me in on your progress or update me via e-mail as the semester proceeds. I'll also be checking with your advisers to make sure all is going well.

Presentations: The presentations in April will be about 25-30 minutes in length. Our room will be equipped with a projector for power point presentations. Attendance at all presentations is required unless you have a conflict that has been approved by me in advance. Part of process of doing research involves interacting with colleagues. The thesis presentations will provide you with an opportunity to receive and give comments to each other on your work and to participate in our own "research community." For your reference, I will post the schedule of presentations on the course web page.

Deadlines: Students will turn in a draft of their thesis to their adviser and to me by Friday, March 23. Students also should have a draft of their thesis available when giving their presentation. The final date for turning in your completed thesis will be the last day of classes, Thursday, May 3. In some cases, your adviser may want you to turn it in earlier, so please check with your adviser concerning their expectations. Also, those of you in the College Honors Program or doing Scholar of the College projects may have earlier deadlines.

Texts: No texts are required for the course, but, as in the Fall semester, I urge you to read a copy of *The Elements of Style*, by William Strunk and E.B.White, which is available in most book stores. This little book is a very useful (and famous) guide to writing clearly and concisely. Another helpful guide is *The Writing of Economics*, by D. McCloskey, Waveland Press, 1999.

Academic Integrity: The academic functioning of Boston College requires *academic integrity*, which in this course means that you properly attribute credit for the work of others in your class presentations and in your writing. Violations of academic integrity will be reported to your class dean and reviewed by the College of Arts and Sciences Academic Integrity Committee. You should review the University's policy on academic integrity at bc.edu/integrity. If you have questions, please consult with me and/or your thesis adviser. Also see the document entitled, "Thesis Proposal Guidelines," which is posted on the course web page, for details on a suggested format for citing others' work in your thesis.