Senior Thesis: Paper Proposal

Spring 2021

This assignment is due on Wednesday 3 February at 11:59 PM. You **must** submit your proposal in Microsoft Word format so that we can use "track changes" to provide comments. Submit your proposal by email to the course TA.

Remember: This is one of several major assignments that must be submitted on time. A late assignment will result in a reduction of your course grade by one letter grade; no exceptions. You must discuss any modifications to the due date with us well in advance.

Details

Your proposal should be around 500—1000 words, and must include the following sections:

- Title

- Proposed Research Topic and Research Question

- Relationship to the Literature

- Research Method

- Potential Data Sources

- Feasibility, Expected Outcomes, and Potential Pitfalls

Please include a properly-formatted list of references. By this point, you should have identified 3-5 academic journal articles related to your thesis topic, as well as one or more potential data sources. As before, your research question should be well-posed and the proposal should be clear what would constitute an answer to that question. In terms of motivation, make sure to explain why any person with a basic understanding of economics would find your topic interesting. For related literature, discuss what is already known about your topic. You can also use the related literature to support claims you need to make for your argument that are not directly related to your research method. For the research method, you do not need to get into detail, but explain whether you plan to use regression analysis, difference-in-differences, panel data models, regression discontinuity, etc. For data

sources, you need not have begun working with the data, but you should describe the source of the data, what sorts of information it contains, and how you might use it.

This proposal does not need to be perfect. It just needs to give us a very clear sense of what you want to study and what you have figured out so far.