

Preliminary Term Paper Guidelines and Structure of the Research Proposal
ECNS 491

Paper: This paper will take the form of an extensive literature review and will cover an area of the students choosing. While the topic of interest is up to the student, it must be ok'd by me beforehand. Any topic within the broad arena of the economics of crime and risky behaviors is fair game.

The goal of the paper will be to achieve the following:

- 1.) Clearly state the topic of interest and why the chosen area of research is important from a policy perspective.
- 2.) Choose, at minimum, 3 published articles in reputable economics journals to review and critique.
 - Each article's question of interest, empirical methods, and results should be clearly summarized
 - Each article should be critiqued. What are the strengths and flaws of each? How could they be improved upon?
- 3.) Based on your article review, what is the state of the literature? What do we know, in general, about the particular relationship of interest? What are the major questions that are still unanswered? Where do you think future research on this topic should focus?

Research Proposal Template

I. Introduction. A clear, concise statement of the relationship of interest. In a paragraph (or two), convince the reader why this is interesting and important.

II. Very brief literature review. Briefly discuss the relevant research you have found thus far (these need to be from reputable economics journals).

III. Summary. Briefly summarizes what we know about the particular relationship of interest based on the articles you have identified.

Student presentations:

I expect the student presentations will be interesting for all of us. When you give your presentation, I expect you to come well prepared to explain your project. When other students are presenting, I expect you to be a good member of the audience. I do not expect problems with attendance, but I am quite serious about it. I reserve the right to reduce your paper grade if you fail to attend other students' presentations, and I can also ask final exam questions related to students' presentations. More details will be given regarding the exact format I will require of the presentations. But, I am guessing that most will find it useful to use PowerPoint.

Timeline:

Feb. 1 st	One page research proposal due.
Last 2 weeks of semester	Student presentations of papers.
April 27th	Papers due. Exact guidelines for papers will be given at a later date (e.g., page length, required figures/tables, etc.)