

Special Topics on Research Spring 2025

PhD Program in Business, CYCU

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The purpose of this course is to guide students through the process of writing a research paper. It will begin from identifying a research question, and end at completing a conference-presentable or journal-publishable work. During the semester, students will be asked to present a personal area of interest, survey and review the works in the subject area of research, select appropriate research methodologies, collect and establish data sets for empirical analysis, empirically estimate the model, and complete the analysis and the writing of the research paper. Students will also learn how to present and discuss their own work, as well as the strategy of reading and commenting on the works of other students.

Week	Date	Contents	Remarks
1	2/20/2025 13:10-15:00	Introduction	
2	2/27	Format of writing a research paper	Hill
3	3/06	Presentation of the area of interest Literature review strategy and writing (I)	ppt lecture & reading
4	3/13	Literature review strategy and writing (II)	lecture & reading
5	3/20	Presentation of the literature review	ppt, 10 mins each
6	3/27	Selection of research methodology (I)	discussion
7	4/03	No class	
8	4/10	Selection of research methodology (II)	ppt
9	4/17	Mid-term exam week	
10	4/24	Data sources and collection (I)	discussion
11	5/01	Data sources and collection (II)	ppt
12	5/08	Estimation of the model	discussion
13	5/15	Analysis of the estimated results (I)	ppt
14	5/22	Analysis of the estimated results (II)	ppt
15	5/29	Paper writing	lecture & reading
16	6/05	Presentation and discussion of the paper (I)	ppt, both
17	6/12	Presentation and discussion of the paper (II)	ppt, both
18	6/19	Final exam week	

Grading: Class participation: 20%
Homework: 50%
Final report: 30%

Office hours: Monday 10:00 – 12:00
Tuesday 14:00 – 16:00

Hill et al. (2018), *Principles of Econometrics*

1.7 Writing an Empirical Research Paper (p. 11)

1.7.1 Writing a Research Proposal

After you have selected a specific topic, it is a good idea to write up a brief project summary, or proposal. Writing it will help to focus your thoughts about what you really want to do. Show it to your colleagues or instructor for preliminary comments. The summary should be short, usually no longer than 500 words, and should include the following:

1. A concise statement of the problem
2. Comments on the information that is available, with one or two key references
3. A description of the research design that includes: (a) the economic model, (b) the econometric estimation and inference methods, (c) data sources, and (d) estimation, hypothesis testing, and prediction procedures, including the econometric software and version used
4. The potential contribution of the research

1.7.2 A **Format** for Writing a Research Report

1. Statement of the Problem

The place to start your report is with a summary of the **questions** you wish to investigate as well as why they are important and who should be interested in the results. This introductory section should be nontechnical and should motivate the reader to continue reading the paper. It is also useful to map out the contents of the following sections of the report. This is the first section to work on and also the last. In today's busy world, the reader's attention must be garnered very quickly. A clear, concise, well-written introduction is a must and is arguably the most important part of the paper.

2. Review of the Literature

Briefly summarize the relevant literature in the research area you have chosen and clarify how your work extends our knowledge. By all means, cite the works of others who have motivated your research, but keep it brief. You do not have to survey everything that has been written on the topic.

3. The **Economic** Model

Specify the economic model that you used and define the economic **variables**. State the model's assumptions and identify hypotheses that you wish to test. Economic models can get complicated. Your task is to explain the model clearly, but as briefly and simply as possible. Don't use unnecessary technical jargon. Use simple terms instead of complicated ones when possible. Your objective is to

display the quality of your thinking, not the extent of your vocabulary.

4. The **Econometric** Model

Discuss the econometric model that corresponds to the economic model. Make sure you include a discussion of the **variables** in the model, the functional form, the error assumptions, and any other assumptions that you make. Use notation that is as simple as possible, and do not clutter the body of the paper with long proofs or derivations; these can go into a technical appendix.

5. The Data

Describe the data you used, as well as the source of the data and any reservations you have about their appropriateness.

6. The Estimation and Inference Procedures

Describe the **estimation methods** you used and why they were chosen. Explain hypothesis testing procedures and their usage. Indicate the software used and the version, such as Stata 15 or EViews 10.

7. The Empirical Results and Conclusions

Report the parameter estimates, their interpretation, and the values of test statistics. Comment on their statistical significance, their relation to previous estimates, and their economic implications.

8. Possible Extensions and Limitations of the Study

Your research will raise questions about the economic model, data, and estimation techniques. What future research is suggested by your findings, and how might you go about performing it?

9. Acknowledgments

It is appropriate to recognize those who have commented on and contributed to your research. This may include your instructor, a librarian who helped you find data, or a fellow student who read and commented on your paper.

10. References

An alphabetical list of the literature you cite in your study, as well as references to the data sources you used.

You should be aware of the rules of plagiarism. You must not use someone else's words as if they were your own. Your university may provide a plagiarism-checking software, such as Turnitin or iThenticate, that will compare your paper to millions of online sources and look for problem areas. The paper should have clearly defined sections and subsections. The pages, equations, tables, and figures should be numbered. References and footnotes should be formatted in an acceptable fashion. A style guide is a good investment. Two classics are the following:

- [The Chicago Manual of Style](#), 16th edition, is available online and in other formats.
- [A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations: Chicago Style for Students and Researchers](#), 8th edition, by Kate L. Turabian; revised by Wayne C. Booth, Gregory G. Colomb, and Joseph M Williams (2013, University of Chicago Press).