

Methodological Seminar

Module 1, 2017/2018

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Course information¹

Course Website: at my.nes.ru

Instructor's Office Hours: T 2:00-4:00 (room 2.34)

Class Time: tbd

Room Number: tbd

TAs: ---

Course description

The ultimate goal of this course is to familiarize students with the main principles and components of economic research and prepare them for writing term papers and master theses. Students will learn how research is made, starting from an idea, its development, and shaping it into a readable paper. In class, students will learn how to write and will write literature reviews and referee reports evaluating work of others. A part of the course will be devoted to professional ethics, rules of citation and quotation, and avoiding plagiarism.

Course requirements, grading, and attendance policies

Grading policy: The course is evaluated on Pass/ Fail scale.

The course has zero weight in the transcript, but Pass for the Methodological Seminar is required for passing the Research Seminar and is also a pre-requisite for the Methodological Seminar in Module 4.

To obtain the passing grade, students should submit preliminary and final referee reports on time and attend at least 80% of lectures.

Sample tasks for course evaluation

Please submit a critical assessment of the paper assigned to you (e.g. <http://workspace.unpan.org/sites/Internet/Documents/UNPAN93963.pdf>). You are expected to provide a short summary of the paper, including its research question, its approach, and main findings; then your own evaluation of the value added of the paper (quality of contributions) relative to the existing literature; and the overall assessment of strengths and weaknesses of the paper.

¹ Special thanks to Sergei Guriev, who has taught this course in previous years, for developing this course.

Course contents

The following topics are to be covered during the course.

1. How and where to start on your research?
2. What does it mean to be an academic economist? Structure of the profession, career incentives and opportunities.
3. What does it mean to conduct a good quality research? How research is evaluated and can be evaluated? Methodology of research. Publication process.
4. How to write a good paper? Structure of a research paper. Why it is important to identify your contribution?
5. Working with data.
6. How to find and present relevant literature? Writing comprehensive literature reviews.
7. How to analyze and evaluate work of others? Writing referee reports.
8. How to make presentations?
9. Academic ethics. Plagiarism.

The timeline for your referee reports is:

Week 2: you will be assigned papers to referee

Week 5: preliminary reports are due

Week 7: final reports are due

Course materials

Required textbooks and materials

Thomson, William (2011). *A Guide for the Young Economist*. MIT Press, 2ed; or 1ed (2001)

Hamermesh, Daniel (2007). "How To Publish in Top Journals." Mimeo, University of Texas at Austin.

Dower, Paul (2008) "Plagiarism and Proper Citation." Mimeo, New Economic School.

Hamermesh, Dan (2007). "Viewpoint: Replication in economics." *Canadian Journal of Economics*.

Additional materials

Krugman, Paul (1998). "Two Cheers for Formalism." *Economic Journal*.

McCloskey, Donald (1983). "The Rhetoric of Economics." *Journal of Economic Literature*.

McCloskey, Deirdre, and Stephen Ziliak (1996). "The Standard Error of Regressions." *Journal of Economic Literature*.

McCloskey, Donald (1985). "Economical Writing." *Economic Inquiry*

Enders, Walter, and Gary A. Hoover (2004). "Whose Line Is It? Plagiarism in Economics." *Journal of Economic Literature*.

REPEC Plagiarism Page <http://plagiarism.repec.org/>

Academic integrity policy

Cheating, plagiarism, and any other violations of academic ethics at NES will not be tolerated and will be punished according to NES regulations.