

IECO/ECON 401, Assignment #2

Research Proposal

Note: your "research project" (assignment #1) must have been approved by one of the professors, and you must have been assigned to one of them as a mentor prior to your completing this assignment.

The research proposal is designed to demonstrate that your project is feasible, and to outline a plan of work. Each student must submit a formal research proposal in writing (to their mentor) and make a spoken presentation to the class.

The written proposal should be 2-3 pages in length. It should consist of the following components:

1. a clear statement of the research question to be answered;
2. a motivation (why the question is important);
3. a brief discussion of what has been done before (i.e. not a full-fledged literature review, but just a description of the types of work your research will build upon or critique, with a few key citations);
4. a strategy for answering your question, including a mention of how your approach differs from/improves upon existing work;
5. potential data sources;
6. and a preliminary outline of the paper.

Note: your proposal is not a contract, and does not wed you permanently to the approach outlined. You are likely to change various features of your project as it is in progress. However, done well, your proposal will become the basis for the first few introductory pages of your final project.

The in-class presentations will be limited to approximately 15 minutes -- 10 minutes for the speaker, followed by 5 minutes of discussion. Paper proposals are due in hard copy at the time of the presentation.

Both professors will maintain sign-up sheets on their office doors. Please sign up to present your proposal during one of the allotted class times. (First come, first served.)