Instructions for Research Proposal

Economics 716

Fall 2016

As stated on the syllabus, one requirement for this course is to write a research proposal. These notes are to provide more details on this assignment.

Due Date. The research proposal is due the last day of class, Monday December 12.

What should be in the proposal? What I’d like to see is a research idea, as fully articulated as possible. This doesn’t have to be something you actually intend to follow up on, but my hope is that this will get you started on your second year paper. Ideally, you would state a research question, give some motivation for it, and describe (perhaps in a vague way) the kind of model you hope would be useful for addressing the question.

The most important piece is the idea and its potential. The explanatory details are useful so that I can understand what you have in mind, but I’m not necessarily looking for a very detailed idea. In principle, an ideal proposal could be done in a page or so. If you write more than four pages, you probably either don’t have a precise enough idea or are going into more detail than is needed.