

PhD 15. HOW TO DO ECONOMICS?

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This course is intended for all students with an interest in methods, approaches, and strategies of research in economics. It is concerned with research methods in economics from empirical as well as theoretical perspectives. It will also cover issues related to the writing-up of research results. The course begins with an overview of the methodological issues in economic research and then discusses practical skills of organizing, structuring, presenting and publishing research.

The topics to be covered include the aims of the research, its relation to the existing literature, its intended audience, and its significant contributions to the literature. The practical issues of the organization of the research, how to write up your results, what material to include in body of the thesis and what to relegate to footnotes or technical appendices, the use of tables and figures, what to include in abstract or synopsis, will also be discussed. The course will also discuss the skills and techniques that need to be acquired to best present your research in the form of a seminar, and strategies to best disseminate and publish your research.

It is compulsory to attend this course but there are no formal examinations for it.

In the academic year 2010-2011, the lecture times and lecture schedule are as follows:

Lecture Times: Tuesdays, 12-1pm in the Keynes Room.

Lecture Schedule

12 October Lecture 1. How do Great Ideas become Great Papers?
19 October Lecture 2. The Components of an Article or Dissertation
26 October Lecture 3. Economical Writing
2 November Lecture 4. How to Present and Publish your Research?

Useful Reading

Day, R.A. (1995) *How to Write and Publish a Scientific Paper*. Cambridge, Cambridge University Press.

Greenfield, Tony (editor) (2002) *Research Methods for Postgraduates*, London, Arnold

Murray, Rowena (2005) *Writing for Academic Journals* : Open University Press

Neville, C. (2007) *The Complete Guide to Referencing and avoiding Plagiarism* Open University Press

Zinsler, W.K., (2006), *On Writing Well: The Classic Guide to Writing Non-Fiction* , 2006 Harper Collins US.

Murray Davis (1971), *That's Interesting! Towards a Phenomenology of Sociology and Sociology of Phenomenology*, *Philosophy of the Social Sciences*. 1 309-344.

On economics and economics research:

McCloskey, Donald (1983), *The Rhetoric of Economics*, *Journal of Economic Literature*, 21, 481-517.

McCloskey, Deirdre N., *If You're So Smart: the Narrative of Economic Expertise* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1998). *Marshall Library classmark 10 D 73*.

Reder, Melvin W., *Economics: The Culture of a Controversial Science* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1999). *Marshall Library classmark 10 C 79*.

Robbins, Lionel, *An Essay on the Nature and Significance of Economic Science*, 3rd ed. (London: Macmillan, 1984). *Marshall Library classmark 10 F 69*.

On writing up your research:

Cochran, John, (2005), *Writing Tips for PhD Students*, Chicago University.
http://faculty.chicagosb.edu/john.cochrane/research/Papers/phd_paper_writing.pdf

Thomson, William, *A Guide for the Young Economist* (Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 2001). Consists of three long essays: 'Writing Papers', 'Giving Talks', and 'Writing Referee Reports'. *Marshall Library classmark 110 A 24(1) and 110 A 24(2)*.

Gowers, Ernest, *The Complete Plain Words*, 3rd ed. (Harmondsworth: Penguin, 1987). *University Library Classmark: 9000.d.1808*.

Hartley, James, 'Writing the Thesis', in Norman Graves and Ved Varma (eds.), *Working for a Doctorate: a Guide for the Humanities and Social Sciences* (London/New York, 1997), pp. 96-112. *Marshall Library classmark 110 A 12*.

Turabian, Kate L., *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations* [6th edition, revised and expanded by John Grossman and Alice Bennett] (Chicago/London: University of Chicago Press, 1996). *Marshall Library classmark 110 A 13*.

On getting research published:

Gans, Joshua S., *Publishing Economics: Analyses of the Academic Journal Market in Economics* (Cheltenham: Elgar, 2000). *Marshall Library classmark 111 A 12*.