



EE490: Seminar in Industrial Economics

DR.WANWIPHANG MANACHOTPHONG

Some Info.

Class Time: Tuesdays, 2.00 - 5.00 PM

Instructor: Dr. WanwiphangManachotphong

Office: Room 525, Faculty of Economics

Email: wanwiphang@econ.tu.ac.th

Office hours: Wednesdays 11am-12noon
or by appointment (email me)

Course Description

Course Description:

Seminar and research on specific topics in industrial economics and industrial organization under supervision and guidance of the lecturer.

Prerequisites:

- a) EE481 and EE482 or
- b) EE481 and at least one 400-level subject by lecturer's consent

Course Objectives:

In this course, students will learn to conduct a systematic research on their topic of interest. Since this course focuses on industrial economic issues, your topic should be related to industrial economics and/or industrial policies. What the course will do is to stimulate an active-learning environment. Unlike most of the classes you have attended, there won't be that many lectures. My role in this class will be a facilitator and an advisor, rather than a lecturer.

This course is split into two big parts. In the first part, I hope to introduce you to important elements of good research. To do this, we will discuss how to come up with meaningful research questions. We will then, discuss different components of a standard research report (your seminar paper). This includes introduction, literature review, theoretical framework, methodology and findings. You will be assigned to read and evaluate journal papers and past seminar papers. Some interesting journal papers will be selected for class discussions.

In the second part, you will gradually take more roles in class. Each of you will take turn to present your topic, related literature, theoretical framework, methodology, and findings. Other students will pay close attention to your presentation. They will then, come up with constructive comments and suggestions to improve your research. Occasionally, we will turn the class into individual meetings. This is where you discuss specific questions regarding your research and methodology with me.

Textbooks:

There is no specific textbook for this course. However, I will post some good readings on "how to write" on Moodle. There is also a list of suggested readings by topics at the end of this course outline.

Other teaching materials:

If there is any PowerPoint presentation, the file(s) will be uploaded on BE-Moodle at least 1 day prior to class.

Grading:

Reading summary and other assignments	10%
Presentations	20%
Class participation and comments	20%
Final research report	50%

Your final research report (your seminar paper)

The paper should be between 20-25 pages long, including graphs, tables and figures (excluding bibliography and appendices).

The paper should be composed of 5 main parts:

- 1) introduction
- 2) literature review (related literature)
- 3) conceptual/theoretical framework and methodology
- 4) findings
- 5) conclusion

Teaching Plan (tentative)

❖ Please look at the course outline



Research topic
Problem statement
Objectives
Hypotheses

EE490: Seminar in Industrial Economics

DR.WANWIPHANG MANACHOTPHONG

Research Report Components

Research topic/Research problem

Research question/Hypothesis

Literature review

Theoretical/conceptual framework

Methodology

Findings

Conclusion

What is Research?

“Systematic investigation towards increasing the sum of knowledge”

(Chambers 20th Century Dictionary)

“An endeavour to discover new or collate old facts etc. by the scientific study of a subject or by a course of critical investigation.”

(The Concise Oxford Dictionary)

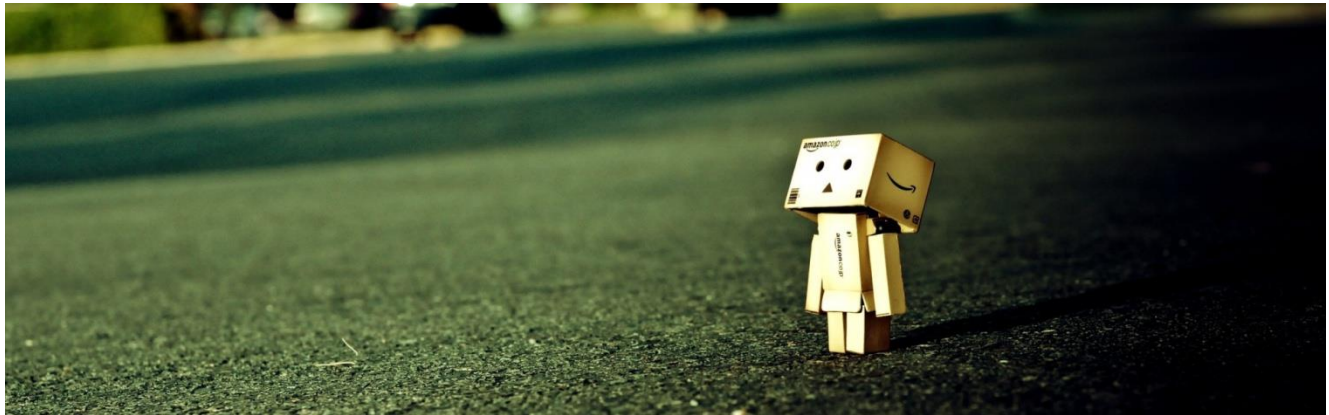
*“Research is about **asking** and beginning to answer questions, **seeking knowledge** and **understanding** the world and its processes, and **testing** assumptions and belief.”*

(Wisker, 2008)

Starting a Research Project

Overwhelming for everyone, even for experienced researchers.

- So, never think that you are alone!



Students' Background

- What's interests you the most?
- What do you like to do on your free time? any hobby?
- Any research topic in mind?
- Any business/industry where you have access to information and data?

Good suggestions from Turabian (2013)

1. Think big but work on small goals

“You can’t plunge into a project blindly; you must plan it, then keep the whole process in mind as you take each step. So think big, but break the process down into small goals that you can meet one at a time.”

2.Engage with the readers

“Your best research will begin with a question that you want to answer. But you must then imagine readers asking a question of their own: So what if you don’t answer it? What should I care?”

3. Write every day

“From the outset, you should try to write every day, not just to take notes on your sources but to clarify what you think of them. You should also write down your own developing ideas to get them out of the cozy warmth of your head into the cold light of the day, where you can see if they still make sense. You probably won’t use much of this writing in your final draft, but it is essential preparation for it.”

4. Write well

“No matter how carefully you do your research, readers will judge it by how well you report it, so you must know what they will look for in a clearly written report that earns their respect.”

5. Read (suggested by myself)

“For most students whose English is their second language, getting yourself familiar with English writing is the most effective through reading a lot. So, go to a bookstore and pick a good novel written in English. Contemplate the grammar and the writing style as you read.”

To modify some points

Connecting with your reader

You need to identify of yourself and your audience.

Compare the two following statements:

1. The regulation of the interaction of the contractile proteins actin and myosin in the thin filament of the sarcomere by means of calcium blockers is now a common means of controlling cardiac spasms.

Connecting with your reader

You need to identify of yourself and your audience.

Compare the two following statements:

2. Your most important muscle is your heart, but it cannot do its work when it is seized by muscle spasms. These spasms can now be controlled with drugs known as calcium blockers. Calcium blockers work in small units of muscle fibers called sarcomeres. Each sarcomere has two filaments, one thick and one thin. The think filament contains two proteins, actin and myosin. When actin and myosin interact, your heart contracts. That interaction is controlled by calcium blockers.

From interest to topics to questions

1. Find an interest in a broad subject area.
2. Narrow the interest to a plausible topic.
3. Question that topic from several points of review.
4. Define a rationale for your project.

From interest to topics, and to questions

Interest	Industrial Organization (Health)
Topic	Physicians' Financial Incentives, Medical Treatment, Patient Health
Questions	1. Do Physicians' Financial Incentives Affect Medical Treatment and Patient Health? 2. If so, how? 3. Can patient health be improved through physicians' financial incentives? 4. Why type of health outcomes can be improved through physicians' financial incentives?
Rationale For the topic	1. In order to understand how financial incentives work for physicians. 2. In order to help find a way to improve patient health outcome.

Research Process

Type A

Problem/experience/
observation

Does this happen in a
scientific hypothesis? It is
expected that if this
happens, then this will
happen, ...

Investigation and
experimentation to test the
hypothesis

Type B

- ▶ Asking a research question-
how and why things happen
and work?
- ▶ Constructing knowledge and
believing that knowledge is
constructed rather than
trying to prove it.
- ▶ Come up with theories
- ▶ Development of research
design, methods and
methodology to answer the
question

A typical beginner's mistake

A beginner may be tempted to solve tangible problems in the world, e.g. inequality, prostitution, homelessness, etc.

- No research paper/thesis can solve homelessness
- BUT a good paper/thesis must give us knowledge to help solving it.
 - Nature of homelessness
 - Forms of homelessness
 - Cause of homelessness, etc.

Research Topic

Criteria for selecting a topic:

- Does the topic really interest you?
- Is there a theory base for research?
- Is the study achievable in reasonable time?
- Is the problem a significant one? (i.e. So what?)

Research Planning

Research topic (issue)

Research problem (statement of the problem)

Research questions/Hypothesis

Literature review

Theoretical/conceptual framework

Data and methods

Today's Homework

- ❖ Start thinking about a research topic and research questions.
- ❖ Make sure that it is feasible within 1 semester:
 - Not too difficult to obtain the data
 - Not too complicated
 - Is not too broad