

# ECON 1960: Honors Tutorial for Economics Majors (Lab)

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Office Hours: M 4–5pm, F 12–1pm ([link](#))

Office: Online

Course website: [link](#)

Class Hours: T 4–4:50pm | F 3–3:50pm

Room: T Smith-Buonanno G01 | F Sayles 205

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## Course Description

The goal of this class is to help students with the process of developing and writing their thesis. Particular focus will be on data analysis, identifying appropriate literature, and testing hypotheses. Each student must find a thesis advisor with interests related to their topic.

## Required Materials

No course materials are required

## Prerequisites

Students must be intending to write an honors thesis in economics.

## Course Structure

### Class Structure

This course will be taught primarily through weekly lectures and individual presentations.

### Grading

Grading is based on individual discussions and evaluations by each student's thesis advisor.

### Time Allocation

Time estimated to complete course activities is variable based on students' particular thesis needs.

## Course Policies

### During Class

Electronic recording of notes is allowed in class. Please refrain from using computers/tablets for anything but activities related to the class. Phones are generally discouraged.

### Attendance Policy

Students are free to attend any class in a given courseweek. If possible, please try to attend class on the same weekday. This will be helpful so that students can build understanding of each other's theses.

### Accessibility and Accommodations Statement

Brown University is committed to full inclusion of all students. Please inform me early in the term if you may require accommodations or modification of any of course procedures. You may speak with me after class, during office hours, or by appointment. If you need accommodations around online learning or in classroom accommodations, please be sure to reach out to [Student Accessibility Services \(SAS\)](#) for their assistance ([sas@brown.edu](mailto:sas@brown.edu), 401-863-9588). Undergraduates in need of short-term academic advice or support can [contact an academic dean in the College](#) by emailing [college@brown.edu](mailto:college@brown.edu). Graduate students may contact one of the deans in the Graduate School by emailing [graduate\\_school@brown.edu](mailto:graduate_school@brown.edu).

### Academic Integrity

From Brown's Academic Code, p. 5:

*A student's name on any exercise (e.g., a theme, report, notebook, performance, computer program, course paper, quiz, or examination) is regarded as assurance that the exercise is the result of the student's own thoughts and study, stated in his or her own words, and produced without assistance, except as quotation marks, references, and footnotes acknowledge the use of printed sources or other outside help.*

## Course Calendar

The schedule is tentative and subject to change. Any unexpected changes to the schedule will be announced in-class. Unless otherwise noted classes will meet on:

- TUESDAY at 4:00pm to 4:50pm in Smith-Buonanno Hall G01
- FRIDAY at 3:00pm to 3:50pm in Sayles Hall 205

**Week 1, 09/03 - 09/09:** No class

**Week 2, 09/10 - 09/16:** No class

**Week 3, 09/17 - 09/23:** Introduction and thesis structure

**Week 4, 09/24 - 09/30:** Student presentations: *3–5 min on motivation and research question*

**Week 5, 10/01 - 10/07:** Data acquisition: *taught by Cass Wilkinson Saldaña at DSL in Rockefeller Library*

**Week 6, 10/08 - 10/14:** Code and data management: *directory, L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X, Stata*

**Week 7, 10/15 - 10/21:** Modeling and identification strategies

**Week 8, 10/22 - 10/28:** Modeling and identification strategies (cont.) and Literature review

**Week 9, 10/29 - 11/04:** IRB and ethics

**Week 10, 11/05 - 11/11:** Analytical writing

**Week 11, 11/12 - 11/18:** Group check-in (*Zoom*)

**Week 12, 11/19 - 11/25:** Group check-in (*Zoom*)

**Week 13, 11/26 - 12/02:** Thanksgiving break

**Week 14, 12/03 - 12/09:** Student presentations

## Important thesis dates

**Proposal:** September 15, 2025 due to thesis advisor and Undergraduate Programs Coordinator Ashley Timons

**Work in-progress:** December 15, 2025 due to thesis advisor and Ashley Timons

**Final draft:** April 17, 2026 due to thesis advisor

**Presentation (optional, encouraged):** May 2026

See [Brown Economics website](#) for more information.

Template adapted from *James Russell*