API-902: Doctoral Research Seminar

Matthew Baum and Richard Zeckhauser

2:00 pm – 4:00 pm, Tuesday

T-301

**First Class meets Tuesday, September 5, 2017**

# Schedule

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| **Class** | **Topic** | **Assignment** |
| 1  2  3  4  5  6  7  8  9  10  11  12  13 | Introduction  Overview of status of dissertation progress  Literature review and key questions from the literature  Principal analytic models to address the key questions  Data sources and empirical methods of proof  Presentation of prospectuses  Presentation of prospectuses  Presentation of prospectuses  Presentation of completed papers  Presentation of completed papers  Presentation of outlines of future work  Presentation of outlines of future work  Presentation of outlines of future work | Distributed today  1-2 page paper describing relevant literature  1-2 page paper describing analytic approach  1-2 page paper describing methodology  Prospectus  Paper  Outline |

Note: The assignments are due at 5 p.m. Friday before class. The students’ work will be circulated before class, and everyone will be expected to read the work of their classmates, unless otherwise specified. Students will be regularly assigned to open the discussion of another student’s work.

## Description

The objective of this class is to help guide doctoral students through the sometimes torturous initial stage of producing a dissertation. The seminar provides a structured set of assignments that culminates in the production of a prospectus, a paper that is likely to serve as a thesis chapter, and an outline of future work. (Yes, we recognize that this is an ambitious hope.)

# Optional Materials

Various “how to” dissertation guides are available on the market. While these are no substitute for regular faculty guidance on your individual research, the following materials are among the better works in this genre and may prove of assistance as you proceed to finish with your dissertation.

Howard S. Becker, *Writing for Social Scientists: How to Start and Finish Your Thesis, Book or Article* (University of Chicago Press, 1986).

Christine B. Feak & John M. Swales, *Academic Writing for Graduate Students: A Course for Nonnative Speakers of English* (Univ. of Michigan Press, 1994)

David Sternberg, *How to Complete and Survive a Doctoral Dissertation* (St. Martin’s, 1981).