

Research Methods in Economics - EBW 801

Department of Economics, University of Pretoria

Autumn, 2017

1 General Information

- Level: this is a Postgraduate (Masters) course in Economics which requires knowledge of Economics, Econometrics and English
- Instructor: Dr. Manoel Bittencourt (manoel.bittencourt@up.ac.za).
Administrative support: Ms. Sindi Magwaza (sindi.magwaza@up.ac.za)
- Office and consultation hours: Dr. Bittencourt, Tukkiewerf 2.6, by appointment only
- Timetable and venue: Wednesdays at 16:30 - 19:30, Tukkiewerf 1.37

2 Description of the Course

I provide guidelines on how to go about your dissertation and then we go through some papers so that you can reconcile the guidelines with actual papers.

3 Assessment

The course is worth 20% of your final dissertation mark and it is assessed by a research proposal and by an oral presentation of the same proposal. The proposal must not exceed 1,000 words and it must be handed in by April 26th. For the presentations you have 10 minutes plus 5 minutes for discussion, and they take place on May 3rd, 10th and 17th.

4 References

The notes are available from my website, <https://sites.google.com/site/drmanoelbittencourtphd/>.

References

- [1] Becker, Sascha, Erik Hornung, and Ludger Woessmann. 2011. "Education and catch-up in the industrial revolution." *American Economic Journal: Macroeconomics*, 3:July 2011, pp. 92-126.
- [2] Cochrane, John. 2005. "Writing tips for Ph.D. students." http://faculty.chicagosb.edu/john.cochrane/research/Papers/phd_paper_writing.pdf.

- [3] Hamermesh, Daniel. 1992. "The young economist's guide to professional etiquette." *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 6:1, pp. 169-79.
- [4] McCloskey, Donald. 1985. "Economical writing." *Economic Inquiry*, 24:2, pp. 187-222.
- [5] Nunn, Nathan. 2008. "The long-term effects of Africa's slave trades." *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 123:February 2008, pp. 139-76.
- [6] Pinker, Steven. 2014. *The Sense of Style: The Thinking Person's Guide to Writing in the 21st Century*. New York: Penguin.
- [7] Thomson, William. 2001. *A guide for the young economist*. Cambridge, Massachusetts, London, England: The MIT Press.