

Economics 300: Honors Seminar in Economics Academic Year 2019-20

Professor Jere R. Behrman

1 August 2019

e-mail: jbehrman@econ.upenn.edu Start subject line with “ECON 300” and then your surname on all e-mails to me.

Dropbox: Students in the course have been invited to a dropbox folder entitled “ECON 300 2019-20” that will be used for various course materials. For materials that you deposit in dropbox (see below) always put them in the correct folder as indicated below and name the files with your surname first and then the topic of the file (as indicated below). When you open a file in dropbox, PLEASE REMEMBER TO CLOSE IT so we can avoid “conflicted” copies. Feel free to copy the papers from dropbox, BUT BE SURE TO COPY AND NOT TO MOVE.

Office Hours in in Perelman Center for Political Science and Economics 616 or McNeil 243 (or right after class) by Appointment: If you want an appointment, please send me e-mail with several time options and an indication of why you want to meet.

Class meetings: Generally 3:30-6:30 pm on Wednesdays in *Perelman Center for Political Science and Economics 510* for Groups 1 and 2 and starting at 5:00 for Group 3 exception that first meeting for Group 3 will be combined with Group 1 and start at 3:30 pm (see table below). Individual meetings will be in Perelman Center for Political Science and Economics 616 or McNeil 243 or right after class. We will meet in three separate groups in order to facilitate discussion and interaction within class. You should attend all the meetings for your group, but not the other meetings for the other two groups. Group 3 is a fast-track group that will move at a somewhat faster pace that may be advantageous for some students if they want, e.g., to use their paper as part of the basis for Ph.D. applications in December or for me writing a letter for such or other applications. In the dates given below the first date is for Group 1, the second date is for Group 2, and the third date is for Group 3 (Fast Track).

	Group 1	Group 2	Group 3 (Fast Track)
Oral Presentation Assignment 1 (Previous Thesis)	28 August 2019 3:30	11 September 2019 3:30	28 August 2019 3:30
Individual Appointments (Your Topic) [Signup in dropbox file ECON 300 Individual Appointments]	16-17 September 2019	23-24 September 2019	12 September 2019
Tentative Bibliography	14 October 2019	17 October 2019	27 September 2019
Oral Presentation Assignment 2 (Article Related to Your Topic)	9 October 2019 3:30	23 October 2019 3:30	25 September 2019 5:00
Written Thesis Proposal	5 November 2019	5 November 2019	15 October 2019
Oral Presentation Assignment 3 (Thesis Outline)	30 October 2019 3:30	6 November 2019 3:30	16 October 2019 5:00
Literature Review	19 December 2019	19 December 2019	13 November 2019
Oral Presentation Assignment 4 (Work in Progress)	29 January 2020 3:30	5 February 2020 3:30	11 December 2019 5:00
Title, Abstract, Introduction, Literature Review and Outline	12 February 2020	12 February 2020	20 November 2019
Oral Presentation Assignment 5 (Work in Progress)	25 March 2020 3:30	1 April 2020 3:30	12 February 2020 5:00
Oral Presentation Assignment 6 (Final Oral Presentation)	15 April 2020 3:30	29 April 2019 3:30	8 April 2020 5:00
Final Written Submission of Thesis to Dropbox Folder and to your Secondary Advisor and of Academic Integrity Statement to Dropbox Folder	4 May 2020	4 May 2020	4 May 2020

If you did not sign up during pre-registration or during the summer for Group 3 (Fast Track), you will be in Group 1 or 2 unless you e-mail me to express interest in moving to Group 3. If you have a preference for Group 1 versus 2, please sign up on file in the class dropbox entitled "ECON 300 Group Preferences" by 15 August. The first six to sign up for each Group will be in that Group, with 7 and 8 as backups in case someone moves out of that Group. At the end of 15 August I will randomly assign any students who have not signed up for a Group to the vacancies at that time.

General Information: This course is a seminar in which advanced undergraduate economics students learn how to do research by reading and discussing recent research in economics and by applying research methods in writing a senior honors essay. This is a single course that meets for two semesters and counts as two course units. A grade of "S" (satisfactory) is initially given for the Fall semester, but this will be changed to the same grade for both semesters at the end of the Spring semester (however please note that when I upload grades at the end of the spring semester, the spring semester grade will be available to you immediately but the fall semester grade of S will be changed by the system only after about a day, so do not panic if you check your spring semester grade but still find S for the fall semester). ECON 300 counts as only one course toward the major, and may count toward one of the four 200-level course requirements. Consequently, honors majors have 11 economics course units. Enrollment in ECON 300 is only possible with the permission of the instructor. As a guideline for admission, students should have taken ECON 101, 102, 103, 104 (ECON 104 may be taken concurrently in the Fall), and two 200-level economics courses with an Economics GPA of at least 3.5 (the Economics GPA is based solely on economics courses). Enrollment in the Honors Seminar is during the Fall semester only. Credit is awarded only upon completion of both semesters of ECON 300. Students who do not enroll in and complete the second semester of the Honors Seminar do not receive credit for the first semester. Grades are based on the quality of the honors paper, on oral presentations and on classroom participation.

A senior honors essay is a major research paper, with the text approximately 20-30 single-spaced pages with tables and figures and with citations to the literature in any standard reference style, which makes some original contribution either to economic theory or to the accumulation of empirical knowledge. The paper may, for example, propose and implement an empirical test for an existing economic hypothesis or it may offer a new explanation for some economic phenomenon. The paper topic is chosen by you with guidance from me (and possibly other faculty members) in choosing one that is manageable. You will have a professor generally in the economics department to serve as a secondary adviser in addition to me, most likely one of the members of the Undergraduate Research Advisory Committee (the membership of which for 2019-20 is: Jere Behrman (chair), Karun Adusumilli, Francesco Agostinelli, Juan Pablo Atal, Luca Bossi, Alessandro Dovis, Anne Duchene, Wayne Gao, Joachim Hubmer, Gizem Saka, Andrew Shephard), but possibly some other faculty member in economics or, in some cases, outside of economics who seems a good match for your interests, perhaps in part because of your previous experience with particular faculty members. If you have a preference for a secondary adviser who seems like a good match for your interests, you may reach out to such a faculty member about serving as your secondary adviser, but please keep me in the loop so I know what is happening and can be supportive. You should have a secondary adviser by mid-November (mid-October for Group 3), either from your reaching out or from me doing so. At a minimum, you should provide your secondary adviser with a copy of your thesis proposal (item 5 in the list below for the fall activities), your Oral Presentation 4 and 5 slides, and your final thesis at the same time that you upload these assignments to the course dropbox (see assignments below) You should work out with your secondary adviser in-person meetings if you have substantive questions to raise (they are busy people so please be prepared before you meet with them and make clear when you try to arrange meetings what you want to discuss). It may be mutually convenient for you to check about meeting with them when you send them the four items mentioned above.

To receive honors in the economics major, you need grades of B- or better in ECON 300. You also need a GPA of 3.5 or higher in your economics courses.

Requirements: You will be expected to complete assignments on time (see below) and to participate in class discussions. You will be expected to meet deadlines in submitting thesis outlines and drafts, to make oral comments on presentations of peers in the class (particularly as a Designated Peer Commentator), to make oral presentations to other members of the seminar about your work in progress and to give a final presentation of your completed paper. You will also be asked to serve as a Designated Peer Commentator on presentations of two other classmates.

Grading: Your grade is determined by the quality of your honors essay, the quality of your presentations and your participation in the class. The essay is graded by me in consultation with your secondary advisor. Approximately 80% of your grade will be based on the essay and 20% on class presentations and participation in class including your role as a Designated Peer Commentator on two classmates' presentations (see below).

Types of Essays: In principle, there are two options. But almost all, perhaps all, students will select the first option because, given their backgrounds, the second option is likely to be too challenging.

1. *An empirical essay:* For this type of essay, you develop an empirical question, either one that you take from the literature or one that you develop, and you use data to provide evidence about it. To answer your question of interest, you use economic models that help identify the important variables and how they interact. Data are analyzed using rigorous statistical methods, which means that you may have to learn on your own or through other mechanisms, if you do not know already, how to use some standard software for statistical analysis (e.g., Stata, EVIEWS, R). The data that you analyze can come from published sources or you can gather them yourself. Published data may be available on-line or you may have to enter them yourself. Locating interesting data that can be used to investigate your question is a major component of your project, and you should not delay in attempting to find such data. For some possible data (e.g. if you collect primary data), Human Subjects and Institutional Review Board (IRB) approvals may be necessary (but not generally for de-identified public-use data that you download from the web).

2. *A theoretical essay:* This type of essay develops an economic model to better understand some economic phenomenon. A theoretical essay should (1) motivate the need for the model and (2) discuss how your model differs from and improves on others in the literature as well as discuss its limitations. Naturally, any model you propose will be more convincing if you can also present some empirical support for it. You may use previously published tables or figures to support your model as long as they are cited correctly.

Steps in Writing the Essay:

1. *Search for a Topic:* Find a topic that is of interest to you, well-suited to your skills, and tractable within the time constraints of ECON 300 and your other commitments. You probably have many defuse interests, but it is important that you focus for this course on a well-defined and tractable topic. The titles of past papers (grouped by broad topic areas) in an excel file in the dropbox entitled "ECON 300 Thesis Titles" might be useful to understand the range of past topics and possibilities for your study.

2. *Review Literature:* Do extensive reading in your area of interest and take notes on your readings. A section of your final thesis will be devoted to a discussion of the existing literature in your area and how your research contributes to it. A good place to start is with an intermediate-level economics textbook and with economics journals. Also, look through reading lists and class notes from your previous courses. Try to make your topic as focused as possible and plan your research strategy.

3. *Locate Data.* If you are doing an empirical study, find out what data sources are available to you. You may have to make formal application to use some data. You also may need to revise your topic because of data availability. Collecting your own data is an option, although you will need to carefully design the method by which you collect the data and may need Human Subjects and IRB approvals. For empirical work, you will also need to choose and to learn how to use the software for your data analysis. Empirical research should be carried out in a way that someone else could take the same data and replicate your results, so it is important to document how variables are created, etc. (this is usually done in a data appendix to the paper). Examine your data carefully (graphs are usually very helpful for this) to be sure that there are not peculiar variable values that probably reflect some data errors and, if ignored, could confound your analysis. Document decisions you make in analyzing your data (for example, how many observations are deleted because of missing values or do you impute missing values?).

4. *Develop Outline:* When you have a good idea of the main points you plan to make in the paper, write an outline of how they will be organized and try a rough draft of an abstract and the introduction. As you learn more about your topic, refine your outline, abstract and introduction.

5. *Write Paper Components:* A good way to approach the writing of a large research paper is to view it as a collection of smaller 3-5 page essays (introduction, literature review, economic model, data sources and basic statistics, estimates, conclusion) linked together. Work towards completing each of these smaller essays one at a time and then tie them all together into one paper. Keep in mind that your first draft merely gets your ideas on paper and will be revised, probably a number of times. When you have finished presenting your empirical findings and/or economic models, draw thoughtful and honest conclusions from your work. The model you develop, the data that you use, and your estimation methods all will have limitations and you can suggest useful extensions to your research. Your empirical results may have turned out differently from your expectations or may seem counterintuitive. Whenever possible, turn adversity into an advantage by learning the most you can from your findings. Discuss empirical results that are puzzling or contradict your economic model as well as those that support it. Important advances in economics have come about in trying to explain results that may at first seem puzzling.

Assignments Related to Writing the Essay (Dates Given for Three Groups in Table Above)

Fall Semester:

1. Oral Presentation Assignment 1: Oral presentation of a previous senior honors thesis. **Note that this assignment is for the first time your group meets.** The class dropbox folder contains, inter alia, good papers from previous years (included individually by title and listed in word file entitled “ECON 300 Examples of Good Papers”). Pick a paper that you would like to present that still is available for your group (see last two columns in file entitled “ECON 300 Examples of Good Papers”) and put your name in the column for your group. (There are hard copies in storage of a number of other papers from past years available that you can see if you wish; please send me an e-mail if you are interested. The titles of these papers are grouped by topic areas in a word file also in the dropbox entitled “ECON 300 Thesis Titles” that you might find useful to browse to have an idea of the range of past topics.) Make a 13-minute maximum oral presentation of a previous senior honors thesis in which you answer the following questions:

- a. What is the major question or issue addressed in the thesis?
- b. What economic theory or principles were used to address the issue?
- c. What data were used? What was the source of the data?

- d. What was the empirical approach or estimation method employed? Examples might be comparing means, analysis of variance, regression analysis.
- e. What were the major findings?

The oral presentation should have one slide for each of the above five questions. Put slides in the dropbox folder “Presentation Slides/Group 1 or 2 or 3 (whichever you are in)/Oral Presentation Assignment 1” at least 18 hours in advance; name your file with your surname first and then “OPA 1”.

2. Choose a topic: Students in each group can sign up in excel spreadsheet in dropbox entitled “ECON 300 Individual Appointments” or by appointment; put file with paragraph with idea and how you would approach it by 9:00 am the day we meet in dropbox folder “Submissions/Initial Idea/ Group 1, 2 or 3 (whichever you are in); name your file with your surname first and then “Initial Idea”.

3. Tentative bibliography: Put file with tentative bibliography by 9:00 am on day that it is due in dropbox folder “Submissions/Tentative Bibliography; name your file with your surname first and then “Tentative Bibliography”.

4. Oral Presentation Assignment 2: Oral presentation of a paper in the literature on your topic. Put slides in the dropbox folder “Presentation Slides/Group 1 or 2 or 3 (whichever you are in)/Oral Presentation Assignment 2” at least 18 hours in advance; name your file with your surname first and then “OPA 2”. Choose one paper you have read, preferably published in an economics journal, related to your topic and summarize it in a 13-minute maximum oral presentation by answering the following questions.

- a. What is the major question or issue addressed in the paper?
- b. What economic theory or principles were used to address the issue?
- c. What data were used? What was the source of the data?
- d. What was the empirical approach or estimation method employed? Examples might be comparing means, analysis of variance, regression analysis.
- e. What were the major findings?
- f. How is this paper related to the topic of your senior thesis.

5. Written thesis proposal (preliminary title, objective (question, hypothesis), model, and research plan, including data sources and contemplated analysis) – maximum of four pages (put file with tentative bibliography by 5:00 pm on date in schedule in dropbox folder “Submissions/Thesis Proposal/ Group 1 or 2 or 3; name your file with your surname first and then “Thesis Proposal”). Provide copy to your secondary adviser.

6. Oral Presentation Assignment 3: Oral thesis proposal presentation. Put slides in the dropbox folder “Presentation Slides/Group 1 or 2 or 3(whichever you are in)/Oral Presentation Assignment 3” at least 18 hours in advance; name your file with your surname first and then “OPA 3”. Give a 13-minute maximum oral presentation of your proposed thesis including the following:

- a. What is the major question or issue you plan on addressing?

- b. What is the motivation for the question?
- c. What economic theory or principles will you use to address the issue?
- d. What data source(s) are you planning to use?
- e. If possible, present some preliminary descriptive statistics (means, correlations, graphs) either from your data or from the literature that illustrates the issue.
- f. Describe briefly the type of analysis you plan on doing.

Your Designated Peer Commentator 1 will give ~3 minute discussion.

7. Preliminary literature review – *maximum* of 10 pages that are tied in tightly with the questions/hypotheses that motivate your thesis and clarify what is the value added of your thesis. Put file with tentative bibliography in dropbox folder “Submissions/Literature Review/Group 1 or 2 or 3 by 6:00 pm on date in schedule; name your file with your surname first and then “Literature Review”.

Spring Semester for Groups 1 and 2, some Fall and some Spring for Group 3:

1. Oral Presentation Assignment 4: Oral presentation on thesis work in progress. Put slides in the dropbox folder “Presentation Slides/Group 1 or 2 or 3 (whichever you are in)/Oral Presentation Assignment 4” at least 18 hours in advance; name your file with your surname first and then “OPA 4”]. Give a 13-minute maximum oral presentation on your thesis work in progress: how have you advanced, what are preliminary results (including basic statistics – means, standard deviations, minimums, maximums – of your key empirical variables), what puzzles or problems have you encountered, what is next. Your Designated Peer Commentator 1 will give ~3 minute discussion. Provide copy to your secondary adviser.

2. Draft of Title, Abstract, Introduction, Literature Review and Outline: Put file with draft of your title, abstract (200-400 words), introduction, literature review (probably updated as your work has progressed) and outline by 6:00 pm on date in schedule in dropbox folder “Submissions/Introduction Outline/Group 1 or 2 or 3 (whichever you are in); name your file with your surname first and then “Title Abstract Introduction Literature Review Outline”.

3. Oral Presentation Assignment 5: Oral presentation on thesis work in progress. Put slides in the dropbox folder “Presentation Slides/Group 1 or 2 or 3 (whichever you are in)/Oral Presentation Assignment 5” at least 18 hours in advance; name your file with your surname first and then “OPA 5”]. Give a 13-minute maximum oral presentation on your thesis work in progress: how have you advanced, what are preliminary results, what puzzles or problems have you encountered, what is next. Your Designated Peer Commentator 2 will give ~3 minute discussion. Provide copy to your secondary adviser.

4. Oral Presentation Assignment 6: Final oral presentation. Put slides in the dropbox folder “Presentation Slides/Group 1 or 2 or 3 (whichever you are in)/Oral Presentation Assignment 6” at least 18 hours in advance; name your file with your surname first and then “OPA 6”. Give a 13-minute maximum oral presentation on your thesis covering your motivation (question, hypothesis), literature review, model, data, results and conclusion. Your Designated Peer Commentator 2 will give ~3 minute discussion.

5. Final thesis: Put file with final thesis by 6:00 pm on 3 May 2019 in dropbox folder “Submissions/Final Thesis/Group 1 or 2 or 3(whichever you are in); name your file with your surname first and then “Final Thesis”; also put file with scanned or photographed signed copy of academic integrity statement and confirmation of agreement to make your paper available to future students on cover page by 6:00 pm on the due date in dropbox folder “Submissions/Academic Integrity/Group 1 or 2 or 3 (whichever you are in); name your file with your surname first and then “Academic Integrity”. Provide copy of your final thesis to your secondary adviser.

Notes:

- 1) I will assign each student to be a Designated Peer Commentator 1 on another student’s presentations for Oral Presentation Assignments 3-4 and a Designated Peer Commentator 2 on yet another student’s presentations for Oral Presentation Assignments 5-6. This will enable each student to benefit from observations of peers and assure that each student is knowledgeable about and engaged in what peer students are doing. Designated Peer Commentators will be able to find the presentations on which they are commenting in the relevant dropbox folder. The assigned Designated Peer Commentator will initiate the discussion after each presentation.
- 2) Group class meetings are not scheduled for every Wednesday 3:30-6:30. Individual meetings will be scheduled from time to time on days on which there are not class meetings.
- 3) You will be asked to confirm in writing on the cover sheet of your final paper, as noted above, that your paper can be used for future classes to illustrate what past students in the course have done (including for Oral Presentation Assignment 1 in future classes).
- 4) The deadlines are deadlines, not fuzzy “more-or-less” targets. You are welcome to submit before the deadlines. Late submissions may receive no feedback or, if they are graded, be penalized 3% per 24 hours or portion thereof they are late. Please be respectful of your classmates, particularly your Designated Peer Commentators, by honoring the deadlines.

Academic Integrity: Academic integrity is a very important part of student life, and the Department of Economics takes it seriously. The department reserves the right to undertake procedures that would catch breaches of academic integrity, should any arise. Students who are suspected of committing infractions will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct. If a student is found in violation of academic integrity, it is at the professor’s discretion to give the student a failing grade for the assignment and the course. You will be asked to confirm in writing that you have followed the strictures of academic integrity in preparing your own paper and in citing appropriately all sources that you have used on the cover page of your final submission.

Grants to Support Undergraduate Research: Following is information about these grants for the 2018-9 academic year (which I presume will be updated early in the 2019-20 academic year on the same websites or you can contact directly Ann Vernon-Grey):

Ann Vernon-Grey, PhD
Associate Director for Undergraduate Research
Center for Undergraduate Research and Fellowships
The University of Pennsylvania
The ARCH, 3601 Locust Walk
Philadelphia, PA 19104-6224
curf@upenn.edu
phone - (215) 746-6488

fax - (215) 573-4869
[http://www.upenn.edu/curf/
anneliza@upenn.edu](http://www.upenn.edu/curf/anneliza@upenn.edu)

The University of Pennsylvania considers research experience integral to an undergraduate student's education. Penn's alumni community has created a number of grants to support the scholarly work of undergraduates in the College of Arts and Sciences. Research in any field is eligible for support. For more information, examples of previously funded projects and to apply for a **College Alumni Society Grant** please visit: <https://www.curf.upenn.edu/content/college-alumni-society-undergraduate-research-grant>. Applications and all supporting materials are due electronically to CURF by **date indicated on website**.

The **Vagelos Undergraduate Research Grant** is open to all undergraduates at Penn and provides funds to pursue an independent scholarly project in any field. Funds can be used for costs of materials and supplies, travel costs, or other project costs. **Students in the College should apply for the College Alumni Society Undergraduate Research Grant**. For more information, examples of previously funded projects and to apply, please visit (<https://www.curf.upenn.edu/content/vagelos-undergraduate-research-grant>). Applications and all supporting materials are due electronically to CURF by **date indicated on website**.

If you are interested, please check the URL to make sure it makes sense for you to apply and let me know (since I will have to write a letter of recommendation) in adequate time before the deadline.

Paper/Thesis Prizes: There are several thesis/paper prizes that have been won by ECON 300 papers in past years. I give the most recent announcements that I could find (there may be updates during the 2019-20 academic year). I am willing to consider nominating some of this year's theses for these prizes, though for the nominations to be most effective I will need to limit them to one or two possibilities among the students who are interested in each nomination. If you are interested in the possibility of your thesis being nominated for a specific prize, please let me know at least a week before the submission deadline since I will have to write a supporting letter. For the first two prizes below, polished theses must be ready by the time of the deadlines (that are over a month before the course deadline for theses). For the third prize below, theses must be sufficiently advanced by the end of March 2020 to form a basis for recommendation to the faculty selection committee, though polished final versions are not necessary at that time (though the more polished the higher the probabilities of success).

1) Phi Beta Kappa Prizes (announcement for 2019 at https://www.college.upenn.edu/pbk_awards):

"Phi Beta Kappa awards three prizes for outstanding senior theses, also in the spring term. The Frederick W. Meier Jr. Thesis Prize (\$1,000) and two Phi Beta Kappa Thesis Prizes (\$1,000 each) are awarded for the best theses in any field.

Students or faculty may nominate a thesis (two copies), which must be accompanied by a letter of endorsement by a faculty advisor. For further information, contact Dr. Janet Tighe, 120 Cohen Hall, 215.898.6341, jtighe@sas.upenn.edu. Students are not required to be members of Phi Beta Kappa in order to receive these awards. All submissions should be handed to the receptionist in the College Office, 120 Cohen Hall, by the last day of class in the spring semester."

2) Penn's Center for Undergraduate Research and Fellowships (CURF) Paper Prizes:

2A. **Graduating Senior Theses Rose Awards (announcement for 2019 at <https://www.curf.upenn.edu/content/rose-award>)**

Rose Award

Application Deadline

March 31, 2019

Only Spring 2019 graduates are eligible

The Rose Foundation generously funds the Rose Undergraduate Research Award recognizing outstanding undergraduate research projects completed by graduating seniors under the supervision of a Penn faculty member. The Rose Fund is administered by the Center for Undergraduate Research and Fellowships, and awards are determined each April on a competitive basis. Seniors (fourth-year students) graduating in the Spring semester from any undergraduate school are eligible. Applicants must be in good standing in the University of Pennsylvania community. Ten student research projects will be recognized each year with individual awards of \$1000.

Student projects will be evaluated by a faculty committee designated by CURF on the basis of the project's quality, originality, independence, and contribution to the field. Projects need not have been funded by undergraduate research grants in order to qualify for the Rose Award.

Research projects submitted for recognition must be supported by a letter from the Penn faculty member who supervised the research project. Projects may be in any discipline or may have an interdisciplinary scope. Applications from academic departments and individual faculty members are encouraged. Students may self-nominate, but applications will not be considered complete until all materials (including the Faculty Nomination Letter) are received. Students should submit the Project Abstract, the completed Project, and a digital copy of their Penn transcript through CURF's [Common Research Award form](#). The Faculty Nomination Letter from the faculty member who supervised the project should be requested through the [Recommendation Request Form](#).

Application Procedure— Deadline: March 31

While various departmental deadlines may be significantly earlier or later than that for the Rose Award, this date is required to ensure submissions may be reviewed and decisions can be made prior to the end of the academic year. Exceptions will not be made.

To be considered for the Rose Award, students should follow this application procedure:

Prepare a Project Abstract in a word processing program, without any formatting. The Project Abstract should not exceed 750 words (roughly three double-spaced typewritten pages) and should contain the following information:

- Project Description intelligible to an educated non-specialist
- Description of Methodology
- Key Findings
- Conclusions and Implications
- List any grants received to support this project

Create a single .pdf containing:

1. the completed Project
2. electronic copy of your Penn transcript.

You must submit the project and your transcript together as a single file in .pdf format. No other format will be accepted. To create a copy of your Penn transcript, go to Penn InTouch and print your transcript to pdf. (If you don't have Adobe installed on your computer, download the free installer or use a Penn computer that has Adobe installed.) Print and save each document as a pdf, then use Adobe to create a single pdf file naming it your Pennkey as indicated above by navigating to Adobe's "File -> Create -> Combine Files into a Single PDF" feature.

Go to the [Common Research Award form](#) with your document prepared, fill out all appropriate fields, and upload your document using the document upload field.

Faculty Nomination Letter

The student's faculty research advisor must separately submit a supporting letter of recommendation. Please request a letter from your faculty advisor via the [Recommendation Request Form](#). In the letter, the faculty advisor should address four criteria:

- the significance of the project within the discipline(s)
- the project's originality or creativity
- the independence of the research project (particularly if the student's project is part of a larger faculty research effort)
- Please make clear the nature and extent of the student's contribution in formulating and carrying out the project

This letter should be sent via the recommendation form interface no later than **midnight on March 31**.

Deadlines and Timeframes

Completed applications and letters from advisors must be submitted by **midnight on March 31**. Late applications will not be considered. Proposals will be reviewed by a faculty committee designated by CURF. All applicants will be notified of selection results by May 8. Awards will be announced before Commencement and publicized in the appropriate campus media.

Research Offering Type

[Senior Thesis Award](#)

Undergraduate School

[College Engineering Nursing Wharton](#)

Class Year:

[Senior](#)

Research Offering Source

[CURF-Administered](#)

2B. Joseph Warner Yardley Prize

Application Deadline

March 31, 2019

In June of 1877, Joseph Warner Yardley graduated as Valedictorian and Spoon Man. He died in August 1877. In 1878, the members of the Class of 1877 established the Joseph Warner Yardley Prize in his memory. The Yardley Prize is awarded to the best thesis on political economy written by a member of the senior class in any undergraduate school at Penn. The Yardley Award is administered by the Center for Undergraduate Research and Fellowships, and awards are determined each April on a competitive basis. Seniors graduating in the Spring semester from any undergraduate school are eligible. Applicants must be in good standing in the University of Pennsylvania community. There will be one awardee annually.

Student projects will be evaluated by a faculty committee designated by CURF on the basis of the project's quality, originality, independence, and contribution to the field. Projects need not have been funded by undergraduate research grants in order to qualify for the Yardley Award.

Research projects submitted for recognition must be supported by a letter from the Penn faculty member who supervised the research project. Projects may be in any discipline or may have an interdisciplinary scope. Applications from academic departments and individual faculty members are encouraged. Students may self-nominate, but applications will not be considered complete until all materials (including the Faculty Nomination Letter) are received. Students should submit the Project Abstract, the completed Project, and a digital copy of their Penn transcript through CURF's Common Research Award form. The Faculty Nomination Letter from the faculty member who supervised the project should be requested through the [Recommendation Request Form](#).

Application Procedure – Deadline: Sunday March 31, 2019

To be considered for the Yardley Award, students should follow this application procedure:

Prepare a Project Abstract in a word processing program, without any formatting. The Project Abstract should not exceed 750 words (roughly three double-spaced typewritten pages) and should contain the following information:

- Project Description intelligible to an educated non-specialist

- Description of Methodology
- Key Findings
- Conclusions and Implications
- List any grants received to support this project

Create a single .pdf containing:

1. the completed Project
2. electronic copy of your Penn transcript.

You must submit the project and your transcript together as a single file in .pdf format. No other format will be accepted. To create a copy of your Penn transcript, go to Penn InTouch and print your transcript to pdf. (If you don't have Adobe installed on your computer, download the free installer or use a Penn computer that has Adobe installed.) Print and save each document as a pdf, then use Adobe to create a single pdf file as indicated above by navigating to Adobe's "File -> Create -> Combine Files into a Single PDF" feature.

Go to the [Common Research Award form](#) with your document prepared, fill out all appropriate fields, and upload your document using the document upload field.)

Faculty Nomination Letter

The student's faculty research advisor must separately submit a supporting letter of recommendation. Please request a letter from your faculty advisor via the [Recommendation Request Form](#). In the letter, the faculty advisor should address four criteria:

- the significance of the project within the discipline(s)
- the project's originality or creativity
- the independence of the research project (particularly if the student's project is part of a larger faculty research effort)
- Please make clear the nature and extent of the student's contribution in formulating and carrying out the project

This letter should be sent via the recommendation form interface no later than **midnight on March 31**.

Deadlines and Timeframes

Completed applications and letters from advisors must be submitted by **March 31**. Late applications will not be considered. Proposals will be reviewed by a faculty committee designated by CURF. All applicants will be notified of selection results by May 8. Awards will be announced before Commencement and publicized in the appropriate campus media.

Research Offering Type

[Senior Thesis Award](#)

Undergraduate School

[College](#) [Engineering](#) [Wharton](#) [Nursing](#)

Class Year:

[Senior](#)

Research Offering Source

[CURF-Administered](#)

Contact Information

Dr. Ann Vernon-Grey
anneliza@upenn.edu
Phone: 215-746-6488
Fax: 215-573-4869

3) The Lawrence R. Klein Prize for Outstanding Research in Economics by an Undergraduate (Awarded by [Penn Institute for Economic Research](#)) is awarded to a senior for outstanding research in Economics, upon recommendation of the faculty. The winner receives a cash award of no less than \$250. Emphasis is placed on a research paper, usually written in the Honors Seminar or in an Independent Study.

4) International Atlantic Economic Society Best Undergraduate Paper Competition (below is 2018 announcement at <http://www.iaes.org/best-undergraduate-paper-award/>):

“To encourage undergraduate interest in economic issues, **Ann Harrison**, President and **Cecilia Elena Rouse**, Vice President of the International Atlantic Economic Society cordially invite students to compete in the IAES annual Best Undergraduate Paper Award (BUPA) competition, October 2018. The IAES strives to recognize and reward outstanding research conducted by undergraduate students worldwide. BUPA winners receive:

1. A \$500 check;
2. A handsome commemorative plaque recognizing their accomplishment; and
3. Complimentary publication of the paper in the *Atlantic Economic Journal*.
4. Special awards and publication opportunities are also available for the 3 finalists....

Guidelines for submission

To be considered for the Best Undergraduate Paper competition, all entries must follow the guidelines below:

1. The paper must conform to *AEJ* manuscript style instructions, be 10 – 20 pages in length including tables, and be submitted in MS Word format. Papers not following these guidelines will be rejected. *AEJ* instructions can be found [HERE](#).
2. Submit the paper to journals@iaes.org by 15 June, 2018 with the subject line: “Best Undergraduate Paper Competition – Last Name of Student”. Please send the paper in a Microsoft Word document. **PDF and LaTeX files are NOT acceptable**. Title page must include: (a) full name of student; (b) affiliation; (c) e-mail address; and (d) phone number.
3. Include an e-mail from the Department Chair certifying: (a) that the paper was written while the author was an undergraduate; (b) if the student has already graduated from the undergraduate program, that the degree was conferred within the past academic year ; (c) that the paper has not been submitted for publication elsewhere; and (d) that the department will sponsor the student’s hotel and travel if the student is selected as a finalist.”

5) Pennsylvania Economic Association Annual Best Undergraduate Paper Competition (below is 2018 announcement):

Pennsylvania Economic Association
2018 Conference

...

Best Undergraduate Student Paper Contest

With the winner to be announced at the Annual Conference of the Pennsylvania Economic Association June 1, 2018

- * To encourage undergraduate interest in all fields of economics, the Board of Directors of the Pennsylvania Economic Association cordially invites undergraduate students to enter the Pennsylvania Economic Association Undergraduate Paper Contest at Penn State Altoona this June. The **winning student author(s)** will receive:
 - A \$1000 award (first place), \$750 (second place) and \$500 (third place)
 - A commemorative **plaque** for the first place and certificates for the second and third places
 - Complimentary publication of the paper in the *Pennsylvania Economic Review* and
Picture of the winning student(s) with the PEA President posted on the PEA website
- * To enter a paper into the contest, please send the following by **4pm on May 7, 2018**:
 - A cover letter as an email attachment to the PEA webmaster that includes your name, class/year, and also full contact information of your **faculty sponsor**
 - Your complete paper (with a minimum of **7 pages** and a maximum of **25 pages**) including the abstract as an email attachment to the PEA webmaster, Dr. Orhan Kara (okara@wcupa.edu)
- * Eligibility
 - Authors must be an undergraduate student as of Spring 2018, including December 2017 and May 2018 graduates.
 - No faculty-student co-authored submissions will be accepted.
- * All manuscripts must be submitted according to the APA guidelines.
- * As part of the selection process, papers will be reviewed by a panel consisting of **five economist judges** representing Pennsylvania educational and research institutions. Reviewers assigned to each paper will be external to the student's institution and will follow the same [scoring rubric](#).
- * All students will present their papers on the morning of **Friday, June 1, 2018**, in a dedicated session(s) of the Annual Conference of the Pennsylvania Economic Association. The winning paper will be announced at the **conference luncheon** on June 1, 2018.

Contest Notes:

- (1) Co-authors will split the monetary prize.
- (2) The PEA will reserve the right to cancel the contest for insufficient submissions.
- (3) Faculty should encourage their students' participation early in the spring semester.

If you are an undergraduate student who plans to submit and present a paper for consideration of this prize, you must also complete the electronic paper submission form and indicate using the appropriate button that you will participate in the paper contest. Also, prior to May 7, 2018, you must also register for the conference by following the Registration button below.

Electronic Submission Deadline for the Student Paper Contest: 4pm on May 7, 2018
Submission Deadline for Contest Paper to Webmaster: 4pm on May 7, 2018

6) Penn Program on Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies (GSWS) Awards

2018 announcement at

<https://www.sas.upenn.edu/gsws/program/undergraduate/gsws-awards>

“Carroll Smith-Rosenberg Senior Thesis Award in Women's Studies

The Carroll Smith-Rosenberg Prize awards \$350 each year for a superior senior thesis paper in the field of Gender, Sexuality & Women's Studies. The prize is named in honor of distinguished historian Carroll Smith-Rosenberg, a founder of the Women's Studies Program at Penn.

To apply, please submit your paper to gsws-apc@sas.upenn.edu with the subject header "Carroll Smith-Rosenberg Prize submission." Include a cover sheet with the title “Carroll Smith-Rosenberg Prize” and the title of your paper, your name, and your contact information (your major, your advisor, your email address).

Lynda S. Hart Award in Sexuality Studies

A prize of \$350 will be given each year for a senior thesis or seminar/course paper in the field of LGBTQ Studies. Awarded in memory of Lynda Hart, Professor of English at Penn and groundbreaking scholar in feminist performance studies and queer theory, the prize recognizes original, rigorous scholarship on gender and sexuality by a Penn undergraduate in any field.

To apply, please submit your paper to gsws-apc@sas.upenn.edu with the subject header "Lynda S. Hart Prize submission." Include a cover sheet with the title “Lynda S. Hart Prize” and the title of your paper, your name, and your contact information (your major, your advisor, your email address).”