

E376 – A Toolkit for Writing Your Bachelor’s Thesis

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Course Description

This course provides students with essential tools for successfully preparing their Bachelor’s thesis in economics. It combines three key components: (i) conducting a structured literature review and searching for high-quality academic sources, (ii) writing professional academic documents using L^AT_EX, and (iii) managing and describing microeconomic data using statistical software.

The course is designed as an intensive hands-on tutorial. Students will actively work with datasets, statistical software, and L^AT_EX throughout the sessions.

Learning Objectives

The course has three main objectives:

1. **Literature and Research Skills:** Students learn how to effectively search for academic papers, identify relevant and high-quality sources, and structure a literature review.
2. **L^AT_EX Proficiency:** Students are introduced to L^AT_EX for writing academic documents and presentations. They learn how to structure documents, manage references using BibTeX, and prepare professional reports.
3. **Data Management and Empirical Preparation:** Students learn how to manage, prepare, describe, and analyze microeconomic datasets using Stata. This forms the foundation of empirical research.

Course Contents

- Literature Review
 - Searching for academic papers
 - Identifying high-quality papers
 - Data search strategies
- Introduction to L^AT_EX
 - Document class `article`
 - Referencing within a document
 - Citations and BibTeX

- Document class `beamer`
- Introduction to Stata
 - File and window structure
 - Structure of do-files
 - Command syntax and operators
 - Scalars and matrices
 - Using stored results

Data Management Component

A central part of the course focuses on preparing datasets for empirical research:

- Importing raw datasets (including `.csv` files)
- Cleaning and merging datasets
- Preparing data for empirical analysis
- Generating summary statistics
- Producing graphical representations
- Running and interpreting basic regression models

Assessment

Home Assignment

Students will complete a comprehensive empirical data assignment.

- Students will receive raw datasets and are expected to download additional datasets in `.csv` format.
- They must import the data into Stata
- They must combine and prepare the datasets for empirical analysis.
- They are required to provide:
 - A detailed description of the data
 - Summary statistics
 - Graphical illustrations
 - Basic regression analysis
- Group work (2–3 students) is allowed.
- Group conflicts must be reported immediately (not after submission).

Submission Requirements

Students must submit a zip folder containing:

- The final dataset
- A master do-file
- All supporting do-files
- A report (maximum 15 pages, including tables and figures) written in L^AT_EX

Software Requirements

Students are expected to have access to:

- Stata
- A L^AT_EX editor (e.g., Overleaf or local distribution)

Academic Integrity

All submitted work must be the students' own work. While collaboration within groups is allowed, copying code or text from other groups is strictly prohibited. Proper citation standards must be followed when referencing external material.

This course provides the essential tools to move from research idea to empirical microeconomics thesis project.