

Master Seminar

“Selected Topics in Labor Economics”

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Universität Siegen

Preliminary Session

Winter Term 2015/16

Distribution of Topics and Students

→ Is everybody here?

Approach to work on paper

- 1 Search for papers and articles on the topic;
- 2 Read them, if really relevant;
- 3 **Make notes on all important aspects** you read, that are relevant for your own paper!
→ **ALWAYS add paper and pages of the source!!!**
- 4 Now **develop your own “story”** on the topic, built up by all the texts and studies; outline it by hand on paper, and then structure it.
- 5 Then write your paper along this line!

- Develop a **realistic time line** for all these steps,
 - at least two days left for editorial things, such as: *references, elimination of typos, improvement of English language, section numbers, equation numbers etc. pp.*
- **Contact us:** discuss very early a potential table of content and your plans!
 - supervision requires that you come to us!
 - ... **but be prepared:** you must have read major papers and have developed an idea of your project

Some basic hints

- The list of references per topic is not comprehensive!
→ search for literature!
 - Seminar papers require international articles that **are discussed in detail**.
→ **Do not only cite them without explanations!!**
 - **Explain** everything you discuss!
 - Provide economic **intuition!**
- Papers that **solely report** fractions of other papers are **very bad** and will be evaluated as such!!

- Important questions all of you must discuss in paper:
 - ▶ Why is it an important topic?
 - ▶ What is the problem?
 - ▶ Which theories may be important in this context?
 - Explain them and combine them with topic!
- Use and explain models that fit to your topic and argumentation (theory).
- Based on theory explain choice of econometric model/specification (empirical studies).
- Discuss and found the choice of estimation technique, resp. model choice!

Important!

- Develop your own opinions and arguments!
 - Own ideas, own theories and models, and own empirical analyses are highly welcome!
 - This will improve your final mark significantly
- Do not copy whole sentences and paragraphs from other articles and papers! (... even when you quote and cite author(s) and page!!)

Guidelines for Seminar Papers

- Take in particular account of the

Guidelines for Seminar Papers

at the chair's homepage!

→ **You have exactly to follow these guideline!!**

- There you also find a link to a paper on “How to write a (seminar) paper”.