

**UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA  
Leventhal School of Accounting**

**ACCT 494 – Leventhal Honors Research Seminar**

**Syllabus**

<b>Instructor:</b>	Professor Julie Suh
<b>Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:suhw@marshall.usc.edu">suhw@marshall.usc.edu</a>
<b>Office hours:</b>	Individual Appointments

**Course Description**

The goal of this course is for students to write a research paper that is based on their own original research. During the semester, students will meet one-on-one with the professor to discuss individual research papers. Students will learn to develop hypotheses related to accounting research, use SAS programming to collect and clean data and test their hypotheses, and develop conclusions based on their empirical findings.

## **Course Prerequisites and Recommended Preparation:**

This course is open only to students who have been selected to participate in the Leventhal Undergraduate Honors Program. Students who are majoring in Accounting, have an overall GPA of 3.3 and in major GPA of 3.5, are eligible to apply.

## **Learning Objectives:**

By the end of the term, students will:

- Be able to identify a good research problem.
- Be able to refine specific research questions and develop researchable hypotheses
- Know when and why various research models are useful, what their limitations are, and what kinds of questions they help us address.
- Be able to derive meaningful conclusions from gathered data.
- Know the qualities and structure of a good research paper.

The class provides honors students with an overview of the methodological tools used to conduct research and write a thesis as part of the Leventhal Honors Program.

## **Required Materials**

All assigned reading will be available electronically from the Crocker Business Library.

## **Instructional Methods**

Students will meet one-on-one with the professor to discuss individual research papers. In addition, there will be an “open lab” session twice a month for help on the empirical component of your paper (data collection, programming, and data analysis).

## **Grading**

The course grade is based on class participation, written assignments, presentations, and a final research proposal, according to the following weights:

Research Paper	100%
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**Research paper.** The research paper is due on December 8, 2017. You will use the research proposal developed last semester (ACCT 493) to write a research paper that includes the following components: Introduction, Literature Review, Hypothesis Development, Results, Conclusion. The paper should be submitted as a Word document (double-spaced) by noon on Wednesday, December 12, 2018. While the final product is not due until the end of the semester, you should be working on this paper throughout the semester.

## **Add / Drop Process**

Students may drop via Web Registration at any time prior to Thursday, August 30. Please note that if you drop after August 30 your transcripts will show a W for the class.

Dates to Remember:

Last day to add classes or drop without a "W"

Thursday – August 30

Last day to drop with "W"

Monday – October 1

### **Retention of Graded Coursework**

Graded work that has not been returned to you will be retained for one year after the end of the semester. Any other materials not picked up by the end of the semester will be discarded after final grades have been submitted.

### **Technology Policy**

Laptop and Internet usage is not permitted during academic or professional sessions unless otherwise stated by the professor. Use of other personal communication devices, such as cell phones, is considered unprofessional and is not permitted during academic or professional sessions. Upon request, all electronic devices in your possession (e.g., cell / smart phones, tablets, laptops, etc.) must be completely turned off and / or put face down on the desk in front of you. In addition, at certain times (i.e., during exams), you might also be asked to deposit your devices in a designated area in the classroom. Video recording of faculty lectures is not permitted due to copyright infringement regulations. Audio recording is only permitted if approved in advance by the professor. Use of any recorded or distributed material is reserved exclusively for the USC students registered in this class.

### **Recordings**

No student may record any lecture, class discussion or meeting with the professor without the professor's prior express written permission. The word "record" or the act of recording includes, but is not limited to, any and all means by which sound or visual images can be stored, duplicated or retransmitted whether by an electro-mechanical, analog, digital, wire, electronic or other device or any other means of signal encoding. The professor reserves all rights, including copyright, to lectures, course syllabi and related materials, including summaries, PowerPoints, prior exams, answer keys, and all supplementary course materials available to the students enrolled in this class whether posted on Blackboard or otherwise. They may not be reproduced, distributed, copied, or disseminated in any media or in any form, including but not limited to all course note-sharing websites. Exceptions are made for students who have made prior arrangements with DSP and the professor.

### **Statement for Students with Disabilities**

USC is committed to making reasonable accommodations to assist individuals with disabilities in reaching their academic potential. If you have a disability which may impact your performance, attendance, or grades in this course and require accommodations, you must first register with the Office of Disability Services and Programs ([www.usc.edu/disability](http://www.usc.edu/disability)). DSP provides certification for students with disabilities and helps arrange the relevant accommodations. Any student requesting academic accommodations based on a disability is required to register with Disability Services and Programs (DSP) each semester. A letter of verification for approved accommodations can be obtained from DSP. Please be sure the letter is delivered to me (or to your TA) as early in the semester as possible. DSP is located in GFS (Grace Ford Salvatori Hall) 120 and is open 8:30 a.m.–5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. The phone number for DSP is (213) 740-0776. Email: [ability@usc.edu](mailto:ability@usc.edu).

### **Statement on Academic Conduct and Support Systems**

USC seeks to maintain an optimal learning environment. General principles of academic honesty include the concept of respect for the intellectual property of others, the expectation that individual work will be submitted unless otherwise allowed by an instructor, and the obligations both to protect one's own academic work from misuse by others as well as to avoid using another's work as one's own. All students are expected to understand and abide by these principles. *SCampus*, the Student Guidebook, ([www.usc.edu/scampus](http://www.usc.edu/scampus) or <http://scampus.usc.edu>) contains the University Student Conduct Code (see University Governance, Section 11.00), while the recommended sanctions are located in Appendix A.

Students will be referred to the Office of Student Judicial Affairs and Community Standards for further review, should there be any suspicion of academic dishonesty. The Review process can be found at: <http://www.usc.edu/student-affairs/SJACS/>. Failure to adhere to the academic conduct standards set forth by these guidelines and our programs will not be tolerated by the USC Marshall community and can lead to dismissal.

### **Academic Conduct**

Plagiarism – presenting someone else’s ideas as your own, either verbatim or recast in your own words – is a serious academic offense with serious consequences. Please familiarize yourself with the discussion of plagiarism in SCampus in Section 11, Behavior Violating University Standards (<https://scampus.usc.edu/1100-behavior-violating-university-standards-and-appropriate-sanctions/>). Other forms of academic dishonesty are equally unacceptable. See additional information in SCampus and university policies on scientific misconduct (<http://policy.usc.edu/scientific-misconduct/>).

Discrimination, sexual assault, and harassment are not tolerated by the university. You are encouraged to report any incidents to the Office of Equity and Diversity (<http://equity.usc.edu/>) or to the Department of Public Safety (<http://capsnet.usc.edu/department/department-public-safety/online-forms/contact-us>). This is important for the safety whole USC community. Another member of the university community – such as a friend, classmate, advisor, or faculty member – can help initiate the report, or can initiate the report on behalf of another person. The Center for Women and Men (<http://www.usc.edu/student-affairs/cwm/>) provides 24/7 confidential support, and the sexual assault resource center webpage ([sarc@usc.edu](mailto:sarc@usc.edu)) describes reporting options and other resources.

### **Support Systems**

*Student Counseling Services (SCS) - (213) 740-7711 – 24/7 on call*

Free and confidential mental health treatment for students, including short-term psychotherapy, group counseling, stress fitness workshops, and crisis intervention. <https://engemannshc.usc.edu/counseling/>

*National Suicide Prevention Lifeline - 1-800-273-8255*

Provides free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. <http://www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org>

*Relationship & Sexual Violence Prevention Services (RSVP) - (213) 740-4900 - 24/7 on call*

Free and confidential therapy services, workshops, and training for situations related to gender-based harm. <https://engemannshc.usc.edu/rsvp/>

*Sexual Assault Resource Center*

For more information about how to get help or help a survivor, rights, reporting options, and additional resources, visit the website: <http://sarc.usc.edu/>

*Office of Equity and Diversity (OED)/Title IX compliance – (213) 740-5086*

Works with faculty, staff, visitors, applicants, and students around issues of protected class. <https://equity.usc.edu/>

*Bias Assessment Response and Support*

Incidents of bias, hate crimes and microaggressions need to be reported allowing for appropriate investigation and response. <https://studentaffairs.usc.edu/bias-assessment-response-support/>

*Student Support & Advocacy – (213) 821-4710*

Assists students and families in resolving complex issues adversely affecting their success as a student EX: personal, financial, and academic. <https://studentaffairs.usc.edu/ssa/>

*Diversity at USC* – <https://diversity.usc.edu/>

Tab for Events, Programs and Training, Task Force (including representatives for each school),  
Chronology, Participate, Resources for Students

### **Emergency Preparedness / Course Continuity**

If an officially declared emergency makes travel to campus infeasible, USC Emergency Information (<http://emergency.usc.edu/>) will provide safety and other updates, including ways in which instruction will be continued by means of blackboard, teleconferencing, and other technology. USC's Blackboard learning management system and support information is available at [blackboard.usc.edu](http://blackboard.usc.edu).

For additional information, you may use any of the following:

**USC Emergency – (213) 740-4321**  
**USC Emergency Information – (213) 740-9233**  
**USC Information – (213) 740-2311**  
**KUSC Radio – 91.5 FM**

### **Disclaimer**

The intention of the class is to provide you with information, offer practice with skill sets, and enhance your capacity to conduct research projects. The learning environment will be collaborative and supportive; we will learn from one another both in and out of the classroom. To that end, modifications to this syllabus might be warranted as determined by the instructor as we assess the learning needs of this particular class of students.