11.499: MSRED Thesis Prep
H1, 3 units
Tuesdays, 11:00am – 12:30pm

The MSRED Thesis Prep course is designed to give you the tools and information you need to successfully complete a Masters Thesis at MIT. Topics will include: data sets, types of theses, writing and editing a thesis, and MIT requirements.

Faculty will also join the class to share their areas of interest and thesis topic ideas to assist you in choosing an advisor and in some cases, narrowing down your topic ideas.

The final two classes will consist of a “Thesis Shark Tank” – each student will present their top 1 – 3 ideas for a thesis to a panel of faculty and alumni guests who will provide feedback and advice to each student.

Assignments are designed to guide you towards a thesis topic with a realistic work plan for the rest of the semester and summer. By the end of the course, you will have developed several topic ideas.

You are expected to turn in a final thesis proposal on April 27.

Useful Resources:

- DSpace – online archive of all of MIT Theses. CRE Theses can be found here: https://dspace.mit.edu/handle/1721.1/54829
- Lynda.com has a number of helpful resources for writing & editing:
  - Academic Research Foundations: Quantitative
  - Writing Under a Deadline
  - Writing Research Papers
- edX also has some great resources for writing, editing, for both native and non-native English speakers:
  - How to Write an Essay
  - The Writing Process
  - Academic and Business Writing
Course Schedule:

- **February 6**
  - Introduction to course and Thesis Types and Best Practices/Examples
    - Assignment:
      - Skim 3 – 5 theses similarly aligned with their thesis idea(s); briefly summarize these theses and way(s) in which your topic could contribute to the current body of work in the subject area

- **February 13**
  - Faculty ideas and interests
  - Quick intro from students of ideas they’re considering, even preliminarily
    - Assignment:
      - Prepare 3 topic ideas (outline or summary format) for 2/27

- **February 20**
  - NO CLASS – Monday Schedule

- **February 27**
  - Thesis Requirements (Proposal, MIT policies and procedures), COUHES, Writing & Editing
  - If I Knew Then What I Know Now – Thesis Edition
    - **Assignment Due Today:** 3 topic ideas for your thesis to share with panel members
    - Assignment:
      - Create a draft work plan/schedule for your thesis

- **March 6**
  - Workshop ideas/refine ideas down; Shark Tank Prep
    - **Assignment Due Today:** Draft work plan for summer or fall.

- **March 13**
  - Shark Tank Presentation Event
    - **Assignment Due Today:** Shark Tank Presentations

- **March 20**
  - Shark Tank Presentation Event
    - **Assignment Due Today:** Shark Tank Presentations

- **April 27:**
  - **Thesis Proposal and COUHES Completion Due by 5pm EST**