Assignment #1: Thesis Summary

The following assignment is due next week October 8, 2004.

Please visit the Schaffer Library and obtain a microfiche copy of an Honors Senior Thesis that appears to be of interest to you. The library people will be very happy to help you on this matter. Go over the thesis and answer the following questions:

- What is the main research question investigated in the thesis?
- What is the motivation of the author to analyze this question?
- What is the contribution of the thesis to the existing literature? Are there any original ideas or insights supported by the theoretical and empirical work of the author?

Provide a one/two paragraph descriptive summary of each chapter highlighting the following points whenever relevant:

- the research question/hypothesis
- the motivation of the author
- institutional and historical background on the issue
- relevant economics literature
- the methodology proposed to investigate the question
- empirical analysis
- theoretical analysis
- the application of economic modeling
- the contribution of the thesis to the literature
- main findings/shortcomings

Note that there may be some overlapping between the chapter summaries and the answers you provide to the questions above, which is fine. In this assignment, the total number of words should be strictly less than 700. Use the “word count” under the “tools” menu to indicate the number of words.

The goal behind this exercise is to make you more familiar with the structure of a thesis. It also gives you an idea about the scope and depth of a thesis. Please do not spend more than 2 hours on this assignment. You are not required to read the entire thesis, but simply understand its contents and structure.

If you have time feel free to go over more Honors Theses.