H195A Introduction
Why this class is *funnnnnn*

- You get to do your own thing
  - no (almost no) lectures
  - no exams

- Why I love this class
- Why this should be an especially fun year
Why this could be the class from Hell
You have to do your own thing
My Goal: Have you find a thesis advisor

That’s not as easy as it sounds

• Steps
  – Find an interesting topic
  – formulate a hypothesis one can reject
  – show that it’s feasible
    • get data
    • get ??
    • do preliminary test
  – write a prospectus
Examples of Theses

• Theses from 2007-08 are online
• Try
  – Zhenyu Lia (2008) Citation Winner
  – Ashley Smith (2006)
  – Maricel Montano (2005?)
Ingredients of a success thesis

• Interesting (to others as well as you)
• new—don’t be intimidated, new means it can’t be a survey of the literature
• to lower risk try a fail safe strategy
  – reject—conjecture why
  – accept—accepted theory?
Course Details

• Syllabus (and on the web)
• Next Class
  – I give lecture on first group assignment
  – You turn in
    • a short self story
    • 3 thesis ideas