

# Ottawa-Carleton Graduate School of Economics

## ECO7001 (Ottawa)/ECON 6513 F&W (Carleton) PhD Second-Year Research Paper 2024-25 Academic Year

### Instructors

**Francesca Rondina (Ottawa)**

Email: [frondina@uottawa.ca](mailto:frondina@uottawa.ca)

Office: FSS 9058

Office Hours: By appointment

**Dana Galizia (Carleton)**

Email: [dana.galizia@carleton.ca](mailto:dana.galizia@carleton.ca)

Office: D-885 Loeb Building

Office Hours: By appointment

### Meeting Times

- Fall semester: Wednesdays, 8:35a-11:20a
- Winter semester: Thursdays, 2:35p-5:20p

Note: Students are expected to be available to attend in-person at the above hours. However, with some important exceptions, we will typically only meet for 1.5-2 hours each session, with the location alternating between UO and CU each week. Actual time and location will be confirmed in advance.

SPECIAL NOTE REGARDING FALL READING WEEK: Unfortunately, CU and UO have scheduled different reading weeks for the Fall 2024 semester. You should follow the reading week schedule for your home institution, i.e., UO students do not need to attend on Oct. 16, but should attend on Oct. 23, while CU students should do the reverse.

**Course Website:** [Brightspace \(Carleton\)](#)

---

### Course Description

This course aims to help students transition from consumers to producers of research, and to guide them towards the completion of a second-year research paper. Students are expected to (i) form their own research questions based on a comprehensive and thorough review and understanding of the literature in their topic of interest; and (ii) produce original research outcomes, culminating in a second-year paper (2YP) which will be evaluated by a jury.

## Class Meetings

Students are expected to attend weekly meetings in person. Approximately half of the meetings will take place on the University of Ottawa campus, and half on the Carleton campus.

In cases where there are extenuating circumstances (e.g., illness), a student may, at the discretion of the course instructors, be allowed the option of attending a meeting virtually. The course instructors reserve the right to ask any such student to submit an official self-declaration form confirming their inability to attend in person.

## Course Requirements

Students are expected to complete the following requirements:

1. Make short presentations on a key paper in the literature of interest (3 times, Fall semester).
2. Submit a critical literature review paper (roughly 10-15 pages, due around the middle of the Winter semester).
  - Students are expected to show a deep command of 15 recent, high-quality research papers in their intended area of research. The focus should be on identifying clear gaps in the literature.
  - The first draft will be graded by the First Reader as one of:
    - Category I: minor improvements needed
    - Category II: major improvements needed, to be re-evaluated simultaneously with the research proposal (see below)
    - Category III: substantially poor quality, resubmit before moving on to the research proposal
  - Students also present the critical literature review (first half of Winter semester).
3. Submit a research proposal (roughly 5 pages, due near the end of the Winter semester).
  - The proposal should clearly explain the research question, significance of the research based on the gap in the literature identified in the literature review, proposed methodology (and datasets if empirical), and expected outcome and contribution.
  - Students also present the research proposal (second half of Winter semester).
4. Submit the 2YP (due at the end of August 2025).
  - See “Expectations for Second-Year Paper” below.
  - The paper submitted at the end of August will be graded by the Readers as Pass/Adjourned.
    - If graded as Adjourned, the student should resubmit a revised paper by the end of the Fall semester of the 3rd year.
    - The resubmitted paper will be graded as Pass/Fail by the Readers.
    - If the decisions by the Readers are not unanimous, a third evaluator will be identified.
    - If the resubmitted paper receives a grade of Fail, then the student is normally required to withdraw from the program
  - Students also present the 2YP (September in the 3rd year; students who receive “Adjourned” in the Fall may be asked to present the revised paper in December).

## Deadline Policy

Students are expected to complete all course components according to the schedule provided by the instructors. In cases where a student misses a presentation or deadline without prior authorization from the course instructors, this information will be shared with the PhD program supervisors, and will be reflected in resource allocation decisions, such as scholarships, etc. In addition, students may forfeit the opportunity to receive feedback or guidance from their readers with respect to any missed presentations/deadlines.

In addition to the above, a student who, without prior authorization from the course instructors, fails to submit their 2YP on time in August, will forfeit the opportunity to submit their paper at that stage, and will not be allowed to present in September. Similarly, a student who submits their paper on time in August, but who, without prior authorization from the instructors, fails to deliver their presentation as scheduled in September, will forfeit their opportunity to give this presentation. In either of the above cases, the student will *not* receive any feedback from readers at this stage, will automatically receive a grade of Adjourned, and will proceed to the “resubmission” stage (see #4 in the Course Requirements section above). Note that the student will necessarily be required to present their paper in December in such cases.

Finally, any student who receives a grade of Adjourned at the first stage and who, without prior authorization from the course instructors, subsequently misses the resubmission deadline or (if applicable) their scheduled presentation in December will automatically receive a grade of Fail on the resubmitted paper.

## Expectations for Second-Year Paper

The final 2YP submitted by students will be a solo-authored research paper (approximately 5000 words, plus references, figures, tables, and appendices—roughly equivalent to a journal article). The format of the paper should be in accordance with what is commonly done in working papers and published articles in economics (e.g. in-text citations, properly formatted references, formatting of tables of results, etc.).

The necessary ingredients in the 2YP paper will differ depending on the type of project undertaken (more below), but the following are required for all papers:

1. Precise research question;
2. Motivation (e.g., why should economists care?);
3. (Expected) contribution to the literature;
4. Review of the literature.

### Project type-specific requirements and expectations

#### Empirical papers

Students who write empirical papers should be sure to do the following:

- Precisely describe the source of data used and why these data allow the research question to be answered;
- Present the methodology used to answer the research question;
- Describe the pros and cons of this methodology;
- Present and discuss findings.

Note that, for an empirical paper, **empirical analysis using actual data must be a significant component of the paper**. In cases where a student identifies a data set that could be used to answer their research question, but where they will not be able to get access to that data in time to complete the 2YP (e.g., due to the time required to obtain permission to access confidential data, or to get ethics approval to run an experiment), the student must do all of the following in their 2YP:

- Find an alternative publicly available data set, and use it to go as far as possible in conducting a partial empirical analysis.
- Discuss in detail the key limitations of this alternative data set, and explain how the desired data set would allow them to overcome these limitations.
- Discuss what steps they have taken to access the desired data set, and what the expected timelines are for gaining that access.

NOTE: If no alternative publicly available data set exists that would allow the student to conduct a significant (if incomplete) empirical analysis, then the student must choose a different research project for the 2YP (though of course they can keep that other research project in mind for the thesis).

### Theory papers

Students who write theoretical (including applied theory) papers should be sure to do the following:

- Precisely describe the model;
- Present and discuss model results and/or implications.

### Readers

Students will be matched by the instructors to a faculty First Reader based on the topics of interest during the Fall semester. The First Reader will be involved in grading the literature review, the research proposal, and the final 2YP.

Towards the end of the Winter semester, students will also be matched to a Second Reader, who will be involved only in the grading of the 2YP.

Following submission of the 2YP, if the decisions by the two Readers are not unanimous, a third evaluator will be identified.

NOTE: In all cases, it is the course instructors who will decide how to match students to readers. Students are free to suggest preferred readers to the instructors (and also to discuss their research ideas with any faculty members they wish). However, requests to faculty members to be readers **must come from the course instructors**, not students.

Note also that there is no requirement or expectation that a student's reader for the second-year paper course will become the student's thesis supervisor or one of their thesis committee members. Finding a thesis supervisor/committee is entirely the responsibility of the student, and is completely separate from the second-year paper course.

## Tentative Classroom Schedule

NOTE: The following schedule is tentative and subject to change as the semester progresses.

<b>Fall</b>	
Week #1	Course introduction. Introduction to the research process.
Weeks #2-3	3rd-year students present their completed 2YPs. Two parallel sessions, one at Carleton, one at Ottawa. 2nd-year students are expected to attend one of these parallel sessions (of their choosing).
Remainder of Fall semester	2nd-year student short presentations. Each student chooses 3 key papers from lit review list to present over course of semester (4-5 students/week).

<b>Winter</b>	
Week #1	Recap session. How to write in the academic economics style.
Weeks #2-6	Literature review presentations (3-4 students/week). Note: The literature review presentation should (i) give an overview of where the literature on your topic stands as a whole, (ii) identify a clear gap, and (iii) explain how you plan to fill that gap.
Remainder of Winter semester	Research proposal presentations (3-4 students/week).

## Important deadlines for students

1. Sep. 4: Submit the following information:
  - (i) Fields of interest
  - (ii) Topics of interest
  - (iii) Whether they have any Readers in mind and whether they have already discussed their topic of interest with any faculty members. **REMEMBER:** Students are not to ask faculty members directly to be their readers. Such requests must come via the course instructors.
2. Sep. 25: Submit list of 15 papers for the lit review.
3. Feb. 13: Submit lit review.
4. End of Aug. 2025: Submit 2YP.

## Plagiarism, Resources and Mental Health, Academic Accommodations

You are responsible for reading and knowing the information about plagiarism, Carleton University resources, and academic accommodations found [here](#).