Course Description

This course covers the basics of conducting applied economic research. This includes the selection of topic, literature review and survey, selection of research method and approach, formulation of hypothesis, testing of hypothesis using statistical analysis, and summarizing results. You will organize and complete the research project in stages.

This process includes the following steps:

- choice of a topic;
- finding, critically evaluating and describing the relevant economics literature on this topic;
- developing a research proposal;
- finding relevant economic data sources and collecting economic data;
- analyzing these data using appropriate statistical and econometric techniques;
- clearly and meaningfully summarizing, tabulating and explaining the findings;
- writing a final report/paper;
- preparing a presentation.

During the first week of classes you are expected to choose a topic, form a team and get organized to start your research projects. Since another important objective of the course is to learn some
econometric techniques for analyzing data, there will be some lectures on econometric topics
during part of the course with applications to a variety of topics.

During the rest of the course, you and your team will work on your project and meet with
me for consultation. I will be working closely with you at every stage of your research project.
However, the paper must be the product of each group’s effort. Each student must demonstrate
the capacity to do independent work.

Research paper

The recommended length is 12 pages of text, excluding the cover page, footnotes, tables and
references. Papers must be typed double-spaced (Times-Roman 12 pts) and have appropriate
margins (1 inch on all sides.). The research paper must be analytical and innovative. The study
must first clearly identify the problem to be investigated. The paper must analyze economic
models that address this problem in a rigorous way. The paper must have:

• A concise abstract (120-250 words) explaining the problem explored and the main conclu-
sions.

• A well-written introduction to explain why your topic is important and interesting and
how does it fit in the relevant literature.

• An explanation of the economic theory underlying the chosen topic, the hypotheses that
will be made and the analytical/empirical/econometric methodology that will be used.

• An explanation of the data sources and data that you use.

• A clear and well-organized presentation of your results in words as well as relevant tables
and graphs (if appropriate) to illustrate these results.

• A conclusion summarizing and evaluating your results and suggesting possible improve-
ments.

The paper must be neat, well organized, written in correct English with no grammatical or
spelling errors and no typos. The format of the paper and of the bibliography (references)
section must be done according to the provided instructions. Sloppy work will lose points.

Required Textbook

  (A digital copy of the book is available online through Macodrum Library website).

Course Website

This course will make use of CuLearn. Please ensure that you are set up on CuLearn prior to the
course start date. The link to the Culearn Website is: https://carleton.ca/culearn/
Schedule and weekly learning goals

The schedule is tentative and subject to change.

- **May 8, May 10** Econometrics review and STATA tutorial.
- **May 8** Forming groups.
- **May 10** choosing a topic.
- **May 17** Empirical assignment due date.
- **June 12** Research proposal due date.
- **June 19** First draft due date.
- **TBD** Final paper submission.

Grading Policy

The grade will count the assessments using the following proportions:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Empirical assignment</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Proposal</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presentation</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First draft</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final paper</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Final Course Mark

Students must fulfill both the presentation and the final paper submission in order to achieve a passing grade (D- or higher). No course grades are final until approved by the faculty Dean. Note that course grades may be scaled up-wards or downwards in a rank-preserving manner to better fit the relevant departmental distributional norm. Application to defer the submission of the final paper must be made at the Registrar’s Office.

Plagiarism

Please be aware that plagiarism is serious offense at Carleton and should be recognized and avoided. For further information on how to do so, please see "Pammett on Plagiarism and Paraphrasing" at: [http://www.carleton.ca/economics/courses/writing-preliminaries/](http://www.carleton.ca/economics/courses/writing-preliminaries/)

Academic Accommodation

You may need special arrangements to your meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request the processes are as follows:
• **Religious obligation:** Write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details see the Student Guide.

• **Pregnancy obligations:** Please write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details see the Student Guide.

• The Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at 613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation.

If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send me your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (if applicable). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with me to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the PMC website for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (if applicable).

You can visit the Equity Services website to view the policies and to obtain more detailed information on academic accommodation at: [http://carleton.ca/equity/accommodation/](http://carleton.ca/equity/accommodation/).