

**Research Methods in Economics**  
**ECON 3900A - Summer/2023**  
**Carleton University**

**PLEASE NOTE THAT CHANGES COULD BE MADE TO THIS COURSE OUTLINE UP TO May 5, 2023.**

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Instructor: Abdallah Zalgout

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Course Delivery : Online Combined Synchronous/Asynchronous

Lecture time: MW - 6:05 pm - 8:55 pm

TA: Matt Soosalu

TA email: [mattsoosalu@mail.carleton.ca](mailto:mattsoosalu@mail.carleton.ca)

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## **Course Description**

The objective of this course is to learn how to conduct research in economics and write a well-structured and well-argued technical paper describing this research. This process includes the following steps:

- a) choice of a topic;
- b) finding, critically evaluating and describing the relevant economics literature on this topic;
- c) developing a research proposal;
- d) finding relevant economic data sources and collecting economic data;
- e) analysing these data using appropriate statistical and econometric techniques;
- f) clearly and meaningfully summarizing, tabulating and explaining the findings;
- g) learning about writing techniques for developing a final report/paper.

## **Prerequisites**

Prerequisites: ECON 2030 with a grade of C+ or higher, ECON 2103 with a grade of C+ or higher, ECON 2210 (or equivalent) with a grade of C- or higher, and ECON 2220 (or equivalent) with a grade of C+ or higher. A grade of C+ or higher is required to qualify for ECON 4905.

Students who believe they have taken a similar background course or courses from another university must provide appropriate documentation to the Department of Economics Undergraduate Administrator, Renee Lortie.

DEF(errored final grade) status at the end of this course precludes (continued) registration in any other course for which the former is a prerequisite.

## **Textbook**

There is no required textbook for this course.

## **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. 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) A concise abstract (120-200 words) explaining the problem explored and the main conclusions.
  - b) A well-written introduction to explain why your topic is important and interesting and how does it fit in the relevant literature.
  - c) 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.
  - d) An explanation of the data sources and data that you use.
  - e) A clear and well-organized presentation of your results in words as well as relevant tables and graphs (if appropriate) to illustrate these results.
  - f) A conclusion summarizing and evaluating your results and suggesting possible future research.
- 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.

## **1 Team composition**

You must do your project in a team of up to 4 persons. If you have problems in finding a teammate I will help you find one. The work should be equally shared among team members. The teams will be guided towards the achievement of this goal with the help of regular meetings with me. However, the paper must be the product of each student's personal effort. Each student must demonstrate the capacity to do independent work.

## **2 Topic**

You will select your topic from a list that I will provide on the first day of class.

## **Course Delivery**

The course will be conducted online with synchronous and asynchronous components. Material will be posted on Brightspace on a regular basis.

## **Introductory Session**

The first session will be synchronous (live) and will be held over ZOOM on May 8, 2023; 6:05 pm. In this session, important information about course content and structure will be discussed. The link to the session will be sent to you over the email right before the meeting start time.

## Office Hours

Virtual office hours will be held on Mondays 5 pm.

## Course Evaluation

Each student's grade will be calculated using the following assessments:

<b>Instrument</b>	<b>Weight</b>	<b>Tentative Deadline</b>
Assignment	20%	May 23, 11:59 pm
Presentation	15%	May 29, 31. 6:05 pm - 8:55 pm
First Draft	20%	June 7, 11:59 pm
Final Draft	35%	June 20, 11: 59 pm
Attendance	10%	—

The deadlines may be changed and students will be advised accordingly in class or via Brightspace.

A penalty of 5% will be deducted for each day of late submission without prior approval from the instructor. Late assignments or paper drafts will not be accepted beyond three days past the deadline. Students who miss their presentation without prior approval from the instructor will receive a grade of zero.

Each student will be evaluated individually. Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by an instructor may be subject to revision. No course grades are final until approved by the Faculty Dean.

Unless there are unusual circumstances, students will not be allowed to present at a different time. If a student misses an assignment, presentation, or paper, they should inform the instructor of the reason within 48 hours. To determine whether your absence from an exam will be excused, official documentation may be required. When absent from class, it is the student's responsibility to keep up with coursework.

### 3 Re-marking

Any request for the remarking of assignments or papers must be submitted in writing within two weeks of that assignment or paper first being returned to the class. The request should contain a detailed explanation of why you feel you should receive a higher mark. Please note that remarking will apply to the entire assignment or paper, and not just to the contentious question. As a result, the revised mark may be higher than, lower than or the same as the original mark.

### 4 BrightSpace and e-mail

This course will make intensive use of Brightspace. I will post PowerPoint slides, assignments, problem sets, answer keys, lecture notes, additional readings etc. on Brightspace. It is each

student's responsibility to check this website for posted material. I will also send the class announcements by e-mail using Brightspace. So, please check your e-mail frequently. If you do not have a Brightspace account, please visit [Brightspace webpage](#).

## **5 Intellectual Property Rights Regarding Course Material**

Please note: "Classroom teaching and learning activities, including lectures, discussions, presentations, etc., by both instructors and students, are copy protected and remain the intellectual property of their respective author(s). All course materials, including PowerPoint presentations, outlines, and other materials, are also protected by copyright and remain the intellectual property of their respective author(s). Students registered in the course may take notes and make copies of course materials for their own educational use only. Students are not permitted to reproduce or distribute lecture notes and course materials publicly for commercial or non-commercial purposes without express written consent from the copyright holder(s)."

## **6 Plagiarism**

Please be aware that plagiarism is a serious offence at Carleton and should be recognized and avoided. For further information on how to do so, please see [Academic Integrity and Offenses Conduct](#).

The University Senate defines plagiarism as "presenting, whether intentionally or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one's own." This can include:

- a) reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else's published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one's own without proper citation or reference to the original source;
- b) submitting a take-home examination, essay, laboratory report or other assignment written, in whole or in part, by someone else;
- c) using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, or paraphrased material, concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- d) using another's data or research findings;
- e) failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another's works and/or failing to use quotation marks;
- f) handing in "substantially the same piece of work for academic credit more than once without prior written permission of the course instructor in which the submission occurs."

Plagiarism is a serious offence that cannot be resolved directly by the course's instructor. The Associate Dean of the Faculty conducts a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They can include a final grade of "F" for the course.

## **7 Requests for Academic Accommodation**

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request, the processes are as follows:

## 7.1 Pregnancy obligation

Please contact your instructor 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, visit the [Equity Services website](#)

## 7.2 Religious obligation

Please contact your instructor 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, visit the [Equity Services website](#)

## 7.3 Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

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 documented disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact the **Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC)** at 613-520-6608 or [pmc@carleton.ca](mailto: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). You must also contact the PMC 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 your instructor as soon as possible to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. For further details, visit [PMC website](#).

## 7.4 Survivors of Sexual Violence

As a community, Carleton University is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working and living environment where sexual violence will not be tolerated, and its survivors are supported through academic accommodations as per Carleton's Sexual Violence Policy. For more information about the services available at the university and to obtain information about sexual violence and/or support, visit [Sexual Violence Prevention & Survivor Support webpage](#).

## 7.5 Accommodation for Student Activities

Carleton University recognizes the substantial benefits, both to the individual student and for the university, that result from a student participating in activities beyond the classroom experience. Reasonable accommodation must be provided to students who compete or perform at the national or international level. Please contact your instructor 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. <https://carleton.ca/senate/wp-content/uploads/Accommodation-for-Student-Activities-1.pdf> For more information on academic accommodation, please contact the departmental administrator or visit: [students.carleton.ca/course-outline](http://students.carleton.ca/course-outline) .