



Carleton
University

Department
of Economics

**PLEASE NOTE THAT CHANGES COULD BE MADE TO THIS COURSE OUTLINE
UP TO JANUARY 20, 2023**

ECON 3900 B – Research Methods in Economics

Winter 2023

Instructor: Professor M. Demers
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Lecture and meeting time: Monday 11:35pm-2:25pm
Place: SA 516

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

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.

There will be a preliminary lecture to explain in detail what you need to do to fulfill the course requirements and to give you some background for the research paper. During the first week of classes you are also expected to choose a topic, form a team (of 4 students) and get organized to start your research projects. (The exact timetable for the project will be provided on Brightspace.)

During the rest of the course, you and your team will work on your project and meet with me and the TA for consultation (during class-time and other times as there will be many teams to meet). Details to be announced during the first lecture and on Brightspace.

Recommended Textbooks:

Gujarati, D. (2015) *Econometrics by Example*, 2nd edition, New York: Palgrave (Macmillan).

Bailey, Michael A. (2020) *Real Econometrics*, 2nd edition, Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Gujarati, D. and D. C. Porter. (2009) *Basic Econometrics*, 5th edition, Toronto: McGraw-Hill.

Research Paper

As mentioned above, the objective of this course is to initiate students to the process of developing and writing a research project. The teams will be guided towards the achievement of this goal with the help of regular meetings with me and the TA. However, the paper must be the product of each student's personal effort. Each student must demonstrate the capacity to do independent work.

The recommended length is 15 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 and the first draft will be evaluated according to the following criteria.

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:

1. A concise abstract (150-200 words) explaining the problem explored and the main conclusions.
2. A well-written introduction to explain why your topic is important and interesting.
3. A literature review: synthesize and critically evaluate some economic theories and empirical studies on your topic of interest.
4. 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.
5. A detailed explanation of the data sources and data that you use.
6. A clear and well-organized presentation of your results in words as well as relevant tables and graphs (if appropriate) to illustrate these results.
7. A comparison of your results with the results obtained in other similar studies in the literature.
8. A conclusion summarizing and evaluating your results and suggesting possible improvements.
9. 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. This also applies to the first draft and the proposal.

Team composition: You must do your project in a team of 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 individual contribution of each team member must be identified. The teams will be guided towards the achievement of this goal with the help of regular meetings with me and the TA. However, the paper must be the product of each student's personal effort. Each student must demonstrate the capacity to do independent work.

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

Timetable for the research paper:

The task of writing the research project will be undertaken in steps with specific deadlines, as outlined below:

1. The team composition and the choice of a general topic to be approved by the instructor (**one week, January 16**)
2. Submission of a research proposal and of individual literature reviews on your chosen topic (**January 30**)
3. Submission of the first draft of your paper (**March 13**)
4. Revision of the first draft following comments by myself and the T.A.
5. Submission of the final draft of the paper (**April 10, last day of Winter term classes.**)

E-mail submissions to both myself and the TA are required for the proposal, the first draft and the final paper. In order to permit a timely submission of the final draft, it will be very important to adhere to this time-table and to the deadlines indicated.

Each step of the time-table and its components (including instructions for the Bibliography) will be explained in greater detail during the first lecture and will be posted on Brightspace.

Course Evaluation:

Proposal (due January 30)	10%
Individual review of the literature (due January 30)	10%
First Draft (due March 13)	35%
Final paper (due April 10)	45%

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

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.

Late (up to 1 week) submissions will suffer a 10% deduction unless justified by illness or a personal or family emergency. Submissions later than 1 week will not be accepted and a grade of 0 will be attributed.

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.

Course Requirements:

Students must fulfill all course requirements in order to achieve a passing grade (D- or higher).

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: <https://carleton.ca/brightspace/>

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)." (See <https://carleton.ca/provost/2015/calendar-dates-and-course-materials-sharing-website/>)

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 at <https://carleton.ca/economics/courses/writing-preliminaries/academic-integrity-and-offenses-of-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:

- 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;
- submitting a take-home examination, essay, laboratory report or other assignment written, in whole or in part, by someone else;
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, or paraphrased material, concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- using another's data or research findings;
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another's works and/or failing to use quotation marks;
- 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.

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:

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:

carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf

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:

carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf

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 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. carleton.ca/pmc

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: carleton.ca/sexual-violence-support

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 .