

**PLEASE NOTE THAT SOME CHANGES COULD BE MADE TO THIS OUTLINE  
UP TO JANUARY 17, 2020**

**Carleton University  
Department of Economics**

**ECON 3900 C – Research Methods in Economics**

**Winter 2020**

**Instructor:** Professor M. Demers  
**Office:** Loeb Building B855  
**Phone:** 613-520-2600 ext. 3772  
**E-mail:** [michel.demers@carleton.ca](mailto:michel.demers@carleton.ca)  
**Office Hours:** Wednesday 12:30 to 2:30 and by appointment  
**TA:** Bryn Parsons  
**Email:** Bryn Parsons@cmail.carleton.ca

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**Lectures: Wednesday 2:35pm-5:25pm.**

**Place: SA 517**

**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;
- h) preparing a PowerPoint presentation and presenting the research in front of an audience.

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 three students) and get organized to start your research projects. (The exact time table for the project will be provided on Cu Learn.)

As a means of learning how to write a report in a meaningful way, there will be one or two assignments to initiate students to read some articles, summarize and analyze the main ideas of these articles.

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. There will also be one or two assignments based on these lectures.

During the rest of the course, you and your team will work on your project and meet with me and the TA (during class-time and office hours) for consultation. In-class presentations will take place during the last two weeks of the semester. They are tentatively scheduled for March 28 and April 4.

### **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 three 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 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.

### **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 13**)
2. Submission of a research proposal on your chosen topic (**two weeks, January 29**)
3. Submission of the first draft of your paper (**four weeks, February 26**)
4. Revision of the first draft following comments by myself and the T.A. (**approximately two weeks**)
5. In-class presentation of all the papers (**Tentatively scheduled for March 25 and April 1**). The exact details will be announced during the term. Each student will present his/her paper using PowerPoint or similar software. The presentation will last 10 minutes and be followed by a brief discussion of the paper and questions from the audience. The presentation will follow the same structure as the first draft, and will emphasize the significant results obtained and outline the steps that remain to be completed. Attendance is compulsory.
6. Submission of the final draft of the paper (**April 7, last day of winter term classes**).

Both e-mail and hard copy (double-sided) 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.

Students who are unable to do the in-class presentation (for a valid documented reason) will have the weight of the presentation added to the final paper.

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

### **Course Evaluation:**

Assignment 1 (econometrics, date due to be announced)	15%
Proposal ( <b>due Jan 31</b> )	15%
First Draft ( <b>due March 7</b> )	15%
Presentation ( <b>in class, March 28 and April 4</b> )	15%
Final paper ( <b>due April 11</b> )	40%

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

Each student will be evaluated individually. All students are expected to be present during the presentations by other teams and to participate in the general discussion following the presentations. Failure to attend will lower the presentation grade.

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.

**Penalties for Late Submissions:**

A penalty of 10% will be imposed for late (maximum 1 week) assignments, proposals or first drafts without a valid documented reason. Late final drafts will lose 2 points per day. Students who present their final drafts more than 7 days late will have to provide proper medical or other justification to the Registrar's Office. Students who miss an assignment for a valid reason (documented appropriately) will have the associated weight added to the other three assignments. A student who misses two or more assignment will have a grade of zero for the missed assignments. Special assignments will not be given.

This course will make use of CuLearn. It is each student's responsibility to check this website for posted material. If you do not have a CuLearn account, please visit: [www.carleton.ca/culearn](http://www.carleton.ca/culearn)

**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).

**CuLearn and e-mail:****This course will make use of CuLearn.**

Lecture notes, references to additional readings and any other material will be posted on CuLearn. Class announcements will be sent by e-mail using CuLearn.

**It is each student's responsibility to check this website for posted material as well as the Carleton University email system for correspondence.** If you do not have a CuLearn account, please visit: [www.carleton.ca/culearn](http://www.carleton.ca/culearn).

**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 “Pammett on Plagiarism and Paraphrasing” at [www.carleton.ca/economics/courses/writing-preliminaries](http://www.carleton.ca/economics/courses/writing-preliminaries).

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](http://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](http://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](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. [carleton.ca/pmc](http://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](http://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](http://students.carleton.ca/course-outline) .