



# Carleton University

Department of Economics

## Carleton University - ECON 4905 A

### Honours Capstone Seminar

#### Fall Term 2022

**Instructor:** Matt Webb, Loeb Building, B-846

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**TA:** Sunny Karim

**Lectures:** Tuesdays 2:35-5:25, SP 417

**Office hours:** Wednesday 1:30 - 3:30, Loeb Building, B-846

**Course Webpage:** cuLearn

Lectures are held for three hours per week.

#### Prerequisites:

ECON 3900 with a grade of C+ or higher, ECON 3920 with a grade of C+ or higher, and registration in an Honours Economics program. 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.

#### Programming Languages:

Students are free to use whichever programming language they wish for their analysis. That said, class examples will be given using Stata. Support will be available for Stata, specific support for other programming languages may be limited. Stata is available for free for Carleton University students. Students will need to provide scripts for replicating their final analysis when they submit their final paper.

## Evaluation:

Item	Due	Weight
Proposal	Oct 04	15%
Proposal Critique	Oct 11	5%
Proposal Presentation	Oct 11	10%
Presentation Critique	Oct 18	5%
Summary of Relevant Paper	Oct 18	10%
One Slide Presentation	Nov 08	5%
Final Presentation	Dec 06	10%
Paper	Dec 09	40%

## Presentations:

Each student will give three presentations during the course, one for the proposal, one for one slide of preliminary findings, and a final presentation. These presentations are anticipated to occur on the scheduled dates, and in person. Under exceptional circumstances some of the presentations may be moved forward or backward by a week. Under extremely exceptional circumstances students may be able to present via zoom. Please email Prof. Webb as early as possible if you have a conflict with one of the dates.

## Presentation Technology:

In order to fit all the presentations into one lecture we need to some advanced preparation. Specifically, we will need to have all the slides pre-loaded onto the computer. To do this, students will need to submit their slides as a PDF online a few days ahead of the presentation. Specific details of the submission procedure and deadlines will be announced closer to the presentation deadlines.

We will also need to adhere strictly to the set time limits for each presenter in order to get through all presenters.

## Critiques and Peer Support:

Each student will be assigned randomly to a group of 4-5 students. These groups will be responsible for offering critiques and feedback on each members work. This feedback should be similar to referee reports or conference discussants and take the form of professional, constructive feedback. Students will be asked to fill out critique forms for both the proposal and the proposal presentations of the other members of their group. These will be marked for completeness, but not for content.

Students are also encouraged to communicate with their group members throughout the term, especially during the weeks without formal lectures. These groups can be helpful in keeping students accountable and motivated to make steady progress on their final papers.

## Honours Essay

The end goal of this paper is to produce a novel research paper, your honours essay. The essay should be **5,000 words** or less. The due date for the paper is **December 9<sup>th</sup>**. The paper can be on any topic related to economics. Students can write an empirical paper, a theory paper, or an extensive literature review. Given the tight timeline most students choose to write an empirical paper. Along with the final paper students will have to make a final presentation of their main findings.

To submit the final paper students will need to submit a stapled, paper copy of their essay. They must also submit a single zipped folder containing three files:

1. firstname-lastname.pdf - The PDF of their paper.

2. firstname-lastname.csv - A CSV file containing the data for their main analysis.
3. firstname-lastname.do - A Stata DO file, or a script from another programming language which uses the data in their csv folder to produce the main figures or tables from their paper.

## Honours Essay Evaluation Criteria

1. the quality of the question or hypothesis
2. the quality of the literature review
3. analytical and empirical rigour
4. explanation and implications drawn on the basis of the results
5. organization, clarity and readability of the submitted research paper
6. the number of typographical and grammatical errors
7. the replicability of the results using the data and the submitted code
8. the length of the paper relative to the suggested length.

## Topics Covered:

Week	Date	Topic
1	Sep 13	Overview of course, components of final paper Tools: reference managers, bibtex, and latex
2	Sep 20	Finding a research question and data
3	Sep 27	Exploring your data: summary stats and graphs
4	Oct 04	Analyzing your data
5	Oct 11	Proposal presentations
6	Oct 18	Powertools: master files, outreg, macros
7	Oct 25	Reading Week
8	Nov 01	Additional topics
9	Nov 08	One slide presentations
10	Nov 15	Meetings
11	Nov 22	Meetings
12	Nov 29	Meetings
13	Dec 06	Final presentations

## Additional Information

### Course Standing

Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Department Chair and the Faculty Dean. This means that course grades may be scaled upwards or downwards in a rank preserving manner to better fit the relevant departmental distributional norm. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.

## **Academic Misconduct - Plagiarism**

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

## **Copyright of Course Materials**

Student or professor materials created for this course (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the author(s). They are intended for personal use and may not be reproduced or redistributed without prior written consent of the author(s).

## **Accessibility and Accommodation**

### **For Students with Disabilities:**

Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations are encouraged to contact a coordinator at the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (ext. 6608) to complete the necessary letters of accommodation. After registering with the Centre, please set up an appointment with me to discuss your needs at least two weeks prior to a test or in-class mid-term exam. This is necessary in order to ensure sufficient time to make the necessary arrangements.

### **For Religious Observance:**

Students requesting academic accommodation on the basis of religious observance should make a formal, written request to their instructors for alternate dates and/or means of satisfying academic requirements. Such requests should be made during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist, but no later than two weeks before the compulsory academic event. Accommodation is to be worked out directly and on an individual basis between the student and the instructor(s) involved. Instructors will make accommodations in a way that avoids academic disadvantage to the student.

Students who have questions or want to confirm accommodation eligibility of a religious event or practice may refer to the Equity Services website for a list of holy days and Carleton's Academic Accommodation policies, or may contact an Equity Services Advisor in the Equity Services Department for assistance.

### **For Pregnancy:**

Pregnant students requiring academic accommodations are encouraged to contact an Equity Advisor in Equity Services to complete a letter of accommodation. The student must then make an appointment to discuss her needs with the instructor at least two weeks prior to the first academic event in which it is anticipated the accommodation will be required.