A. Course Objectives and Description
The objective of this course is to guide you through the creation of an original research paper in microeconomics. A major research paper is required.

This course will be delivered synchronously using either Zoom or Microsoft Teams. While the lectures will be recorded, students are expected to attend the online lectures. This course is centered on the exchange of ideas in a research environment, and it is not possible to participate fully in the course if you are not present during the scheduled lecture.

Prerequisite(s): 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.

Precludes: additional credit for ECON 4890, ECON 4900 (no longer offered), ECON 4901, and ECON 4902.

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.

B. Communication.
My primary means of communication with the class will be via cuLearn. I will place my lecture slides and recordings on cuLearn, along with additional resources that will be discussed in class. If I need to communicate important information to the class – e.g. changes in due dates, cancellation of class,
reminders or hints about assignments, and so on – I will do so via the email function on cuLearn. YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR REGULARLY CHECKING YOU EMAILS.

C. Texts
There is no required text. However, you may find the following sources to be useful:


D. Topics:
- How to find a topic for an economics research essay
- How to conduct a literature review
- Where to find data
- Data management and analysis in Stata
- Modelling
- Regression analysis

E1. Evaluation:

Mini paper – 20%
Check-in #1: Topic and data – 5%
Check in #2: Mandatory meeting regarding summary statistics – 5%
First draft – 20%
Poster presentation – 10%
Comments on posters – 10%
Final Paper – 20%
Participation – 10%

E2. Detailed discussion of evaluation:

Mini Paper: Everyone in the class will submit a mini paper on the effect of unions on wages. We will work on this for the first four weeks of class. The objective of this project is to ensure that you have all the tools needed to complete your individual original research paper.
**Feasibility Checks:** The majority of your grade will be based on your individual original research paper. To ensure that you on the right track, you are required to submit a short description of your topic and the data source you plan to use. This is feasibility check number 1. In addition, you are required to meet with me, via Zoom, to discuss your summary statistics. This is feasibility check number 2. I will announce plenty of virtual office hours to accommodate meeting with all of you in the third and fourth week of classes.

**First Draft:** The first draft will consist of a brief introduction to the paper, a literature review, data description and summary statistics. You will also provide me with a description of the estimation method you have chosen, preliminary regression results, and a short bibliography.

**Final Paper:** The final paper will contain the revisions that arise from my comments on your first draft as well as new sections that I may suggest on reading your first draft. In addition, you will provide a full introduction, concluding remarks and a complete bibliography.

**Poster Session:** You will present your final paper in a poster session that will take place toward the end of the term. This will likely be via Zoom. My expectation is that you will all be active participants in the poster session. This includes not only presenting your own work, but also listening to the presentations of others in the class and providing comments on those presentations. 10% of your grade will come from these comments.

**Participation:** Finally, part of your grade will be determined by your participation during our three hours together each week. This is a seminar class, which means that we are supposed to be sharing our ideas with each other and learning from one another. That cannot happen if you are absent from class. The participation grade will be based on your active, verbal participation in this seminar. I will occasionally ask individuals in the class to share what they have accomplished in terms of choosing a research topic, finding data, establishing a methodology, and so on. My expectation is that you will be able to spend 1-2 minutes discussing your progress when asked to do so. I also expect you to comment on the work of others and engage in discussion of the collective ongoing research of the class. I will be keeping track of participation each class.

**E3. Submission of course work**

We will be using cuLearn to submit assignments. Due dates and times will be posted on cuLearn.

Failure to submit any course work without a compelling reason accompanied by a self-declaration of illness will result in a mark of ‘0’ for that component of the course. Grades will be reduced by 10 percent for every 24 hours that an assignment is late. All requests for extensions will only be considered with a compelling reason. Please see https://carleton.ca/registrar/wp-content/uploads/COVID-19_Self-declaration.pdf for the self-declaration of illness form.
See Academic Regulation 2.3 Standing in Courses/Grading System for the official meanings of course grades, and note that it stipulates that no course grades are final until approved by the Faculty Dean.

F. Plagiarism
Please be aware that plagiarism is serious offense at Carleton and should be recognized and avoided. For information on how to do so, please see “Pammett on Plagiarism and Paraphrasing” at www.carleton.ca/economics/courses/writing-preliminaries.

G. Academic Accommodation
You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term because of disability, pregnancy or religious obligations. Please review the course outline promptly and 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. You can obtain more information about accommodations at https://students.carleton.ca/course-outline/

Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations in this course must register with the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) for a formal evaluation of disability-related needs. Documented disabilities could include but are not limited to mobility/physical impairments, specific Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/psychological disabilities, sensory disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), and chronic medical conditions. Registered PMC students are required to contact the PMC, 613-520-6608, every term to ensure that your Instructor receives your Letter of Accommodation, no later than two weeks before the first assignment is due or the first in-class test/midterm requiring accommodations. You can visit the Equity Services website to view the policies and to obtain more detailed information on academic accommodation at carleton.ca/equity/accommodation.

G. Academic Resources
The Centre for Student Academic Support (CSAS) is a centralized collection of learning support services designed to help students achieve their goals and improve their learning. CSAS offers academic assistance with online student success, course content, academic writing and skills development. For more details, visit the CSAS website (https://carleton.ca/csas/).