

Department of Economics, Carleton University
ECON 4905 A – Honours Capstone Seminar
Fall 2023

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Course delivery: In person (attendance is mandatory)
Course meeting time: Friday, 8:35 to 11:25 am
Course location: Log into Carleton Central to view the location on your timetable.
Course Brightspace page: <https://brightspace.carleton.ca/d2l/home/208453>

ALGONQUIN TERRITORY ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Carleton University acknowledges the location of its campus on the traditional, unceded territories of the Algonquin nation. In doing so, Carleton acknowledges it has a responsibility to the Algonquin people and a responsibility to adhere to Algonquin cultural protocols.

EMAIL POLICY

Students can expect a reply within two to three business days. To receive a timely reply, please use your Carleton email address and include ECON 4905 as the first part of the subject of all emails. For additional information on email etiquette, [click here](#).

COURSE COPYRIGHT

Classroom teaching and learning activities, including lectures, discussions, presentations, etc., by both instructors and students, are copyright 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).

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The goal of this course is to develop an individual applied research project using microeconomic data. Each week, students will complete a section of their paper, thereby writing it incrementally over the course of the semester. In doing so, they will draw from the knowledge and experience accumulated throughout their degree. Students will be evaluated both on their own work and on the feedback provided to their classmates throughout the course.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The course aims for students to:

- Synthesize and apply the material learned throughout their degree, by carrying out a research project from start to finish.
- Develop the ability to communicate about research methodology and research results.
- Build competence and confidence exchanging feedback with peers about various aspects of economic research and knowledge creation.

PREREQUISITES AND PRECLUSIONS

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. Students who believe they can be exempted from the listed prerequisites should contact the Department of Economics Undergraduate Administrator, Renée Lortie.

Preclusion(s): ECON 4890, ECON 4900 (no longer offered), ECON 4901, and ECON 4902.

TEXTBOOK

There is no textbook for this course. However, students may find the following to be useful resources:

- Acock, A. C. (2008). *A gentle introduction to Stata*. Stata Press.
- Angrist, J. D., & Pischke, J. S. (2009). *Mostly harmless econometrics: An empiricist's companion*. Princeton University Press.
- Baum, C. F. (2006). *An introduction to modern econometrics using Stata*. Stata Press.
- Wooldridge, J. M. (2010). *Econometric analysis of cross section and panel data*. MIT Press.
- Textbooks used in previous econometrics course(s).

STATISTICAL SOFTWARE

All empirical work will be done using Stata. Carleton students can download Stata [here](#) (no cost).

IDENTIFYING A RESEARCH QUESTION AND CHOOSING A DATA SET

Students are expected to develop an applied research paper using microeconomic data; i.e., data on individuals or households. With some exceptions, all students are expected to use data from the public-use microdata files of the General Social Survey (GSS), Cycle 35 (2020), on Social identity. This data can be accessed through the [ODESI](#) platform, accessible through the Carleton library website. Class time will be given during the first week for students to identify a research question that is of interest to them using this data set.

Students who arrive to the first week of class with a clear idea of a research question using a different data set may contact the instructor **no later than September 12** to discuss the possibility of using this alternative data. Each request will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis and may be denied.

COURSE EVALUATION

The course will be graded as follows:

Evaluation	Grade %	Date	Delivery
Assignment 1A: Overview of data set	2.5	Sep. 8	In-person
Assignment 1B: Identifying a research question	5	Sep. 8	In-person
Assignment 1C: Documenting key variables	2.5	Sep. 15	In-person, take-home
Assignment 2A: Sample choice	5	Sep. 29	In-person
Assignment 2B: Basic descriptive statistics	5	Sep. 29	In-person
Assignment 3: Literature review	10	Oct. 13	In-person, take-home
Assignment 4A: Replication exercise	10	Oct. 6	In-person
Assignment 4B: Revision of basic descriptive statistics	5	Oct. 20	Take-home
Assignment 5: Theoretical framework	10	Oct. 20	In-person, take-home
Assignment 6: Preliminary results	10	Nov. 3	In-person, take-home
Presentation	15	Nov. 17-24*	In-person
Final paper	20	Dec. 8	Take-home

* Note: Presentations may also be held on Nov. 10 and/or Dec. 1, depending on final class enrolment.

Assignments: The course is designed so that students develop their research paper incrementally over the course of the semester. Correspondingly, assignments are due every week of class for the first seven (7) weeks, including the first week of class. Most assignments will be completed entirely or in large part during class time.

Students who hand in an assignment late due to valid and documented circumstances (e.g., serious illness/emergency) will be given up to one (1) week to hand in the assignment and receive the corresponding marks. If the circumstances which caused them to hand in the assignment late persist past this point, the weight of the corresponding assignment will be placed on the final paper.

Students who hand in an assignment late without providing justification/documentation will be immediately docked 10% for that assignment, with an additional 10% for each subsequent day late, up

to a maximum of three (3) days, including weekends. After three (3) days all outstanding assignments will be given a grade of zero (0). However, students may hand in up to one (1) late assignment without providing justification/documentation and without penalty. In these cases, assignments may not be handed in later than one (1) week after the original due date. After this point, the usual policy applies (grade reductions for the first three (3) days late, then grade of zero (0)).

A substantial portion of each class will be allocated to allow students to progress on each assignment. Moreover, marks for some assignments will depend not only on students' own work, but also on their feedback on their classmates' work. Therefore, attendance is expected and mandatory. In line with this, part of the grade for each assignment will be given for attending the corresponding class.

Presentation: The last few classes of the term will be dedicated to individual student presentations. Time slots for presentations will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis during the second week of class. If there is more demand than availabilities for particular time slots, the instructor will randomly select students for the popular time slot and ask others to pick a different time. Students who have a valid reason to expect a scheduling conflict should communicate with the instructor as soon as possible. Additional information will be provided about the modalities for scheduling presentations in the first week of class.

On the day that they are presenting their own work, students are expected to remain for their classmates' presentations. Failure to do so will result in a grade of zero (0) for the presentation component of the course. Moreover, part of the presentation mark will be based on the feedback provided to other presenters. Attendance on the days where students are not presenting is encouraged but optional.

There will be no make-up presentations. For students who cannot present on the scheduled date due to valid and documented circumstances (e.g., serious illness/emergency), the weight of the presentation will be put on the rest of the evaluations proportionally; that is, their grade will be calculated by adding up all the evaluation components and dividing by 85. Students who miss their presentation for no valid reason will receive a grade of zero (0).

Final paper: Work throughout the semester will culminate in the writing of an individual research paper. All late submissions will be immediately docked 10%, with an additional 10% for each subsequent day late, up to a maximum of three (3) days, including weekends. After three (3) days all outstanding assignments will be given a grade of zero (0).

Final 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 the instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.

Documentation for missed evaluations: The instructor reserves the right to request a Self-Declaration form or PMC letter of accommodation depending on the length of incapacitation. This information should be communicated ahead of the scheduled evaluation if possible, or as soon as possible following the missed evaluation.

RE-MARKING

Any request for re-marking of the final paper must be submitted in writing within a two-week period of the paper being returned to the class. Students should include in that request a detailed explanation of why they feel they should receive a higher mark. Re-marking will apply to the entire paper, not just the contentious part(s). As a result, the revised mark may be higher than, lower than, or the same as the original mark.

SATISFACTORY PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

Students must fulfill all of the course requirements, including the final paper, in order to achieve a passing grade (D- or higher).

TENTATIVE COURSE CALENDAR

The schedule below is tentative and may be adapted during the semester. In particular, more or less class time may be dedicated to student presentations depending on final enrollment.

Class	Date	Topic	Evaluation
1	Sep. 8	Course introduction Identifying a research question Getting started with data (Part 1)	Assignment 1A (completed in Class 1) Assignment 1B (completed in Class 1) Assignment 1C (due in Class 2)
2	Sep. 15	Getting started with data (Part 2) Sample choice Basic descriptive statistics	Assignment 2A (due in Class 4) Assignment 2B (due in Class 4)
3	Sep. 22	Basic descriptive statistics (continued)	Assignment 2A (due in Class 4) (continued) Assignment 2B (due in Class 4) (continued)
4	Sep. 29	Conducting a literature review	Assignment 3 (due in Class 6)
5	Oct. 6	Replication exercise	Assignment 4A (completed in Class 5) Assignment 4B (due in Class 7)
6	Oct. 13	Theoretical modelling	Assignment 5 (due in Class 7)
7	Oct. 20	Estimating a regression equation	Assignment 6 (due in Class 8)
	Oct. 27	Fall break	
8	Nov. 3	Bringing everything together	
9	Nov. 10	Consultations (or presentations*)	
10	Nov. 17	Presentations	Presentation
11	Nov. 24	Presentations	Presentation
12	Dec. 1	Consultations (or presentations*)	
	Dec. 8	Final paper due	Final paper
	Dec. 10-22	Final examination period	

* Note: Presentations may be held on Nov. 10 and/or Dec. 1, depending on final class enrolment.

CENTRE FOR INDIGENOUS SUPPORT AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT (CISCE)

The Centre for Indigenous Support and Community Engagement (CISCE), formerly known as the Centre for Indigenous Initiatives, supports First Nations (status and non-status), Inuit, and Métis students, staff, and faculty by providing culturally safe spaces for dialogue and learning. The Centre provides weekly, monthly and annual programming for students and also develops and delivers resources and training to educate the Carleton community about Indigenous histories, worldviews and perspectives. To learn more about the services offered, please visit <https://carleton.ca/indigenous/cisce/students/>. If you have any questions, you can email Indigenous@carleton.ca.

RESOURCES AND MENTAL HEALTH

Statement on Student Mental Health: As a University student you may experience a range of mental health challenges that significantly impact your academic success and overall well-being. If you need help, please speak to someone. There are numerous resources available both on- and off-campus to support you. Here is a list that may be helpful:

Emergency Resources (on and off campus): <https://carleton.ca/health/emergencies-and-crisis/emergency-numbers/>

Carleton Resources:

- Mental Health and Wellbeing: <https://carleton.ca/wellness/>
- Health & Counselling Services: <https://carleton.ca/health/>
- Paul Menton Centre: <https://carleton.ca/pmc/>
- Academic Advising Centre (AAC): <https://carleton.ca/academicadvising/>
- Centre for Student Academic Support (CSAS): <https://carleton.ca/csas/>
- Equity & Inclusivity Communities: <https://carleton.ca/equity/>

Off Campus Resources:

- Distress Centre of Ottawa and Region: (613) 238-3311 or TEXT: 343-306-5550, <https://www.dcottawa.on.ca/>
- Mental Health Crisis Service: (613) 722-6914, 1-866-996-0991, <http://www.crisisline.ca/>
- Empower Me: 1-844-741-6389, <https://students.carleton.ca/services/empower-me-counselling-services/>
- Good2Talk: 1-866-925-5454, <https://good2talk.ca/>
- The Walk-In Counselling Clinic: <https://walkincounselling.com>

USE OF GENERATIVE ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE TOOLS

The use of Generative Artificial Intelligence tools (e.g., ChatGPT) is not permitted unless explicitly specified.

PLAGIARISM

The University Academic Integrity Policy defines plagiarism as “presenting, whether intentionally or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own.” This includes 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. Examples of sources from which the ideas, expressions of ideas or works of others may be drawn from include but are not limited to: books, articles, papers, literary compositions and phrases, performance compositions, chemical compounds, artworks, laboratory reports, research results, calculations and the results of calculations, diagrams, constructions, computer reports, computer code/software, material on the internet and/or conversations.

Examples of plagiarism include, but are not limited to:

- any submission prepared in whole or in part, by someone else, including the unauthorized use of generative AI tools (e.g., ChatGPT);
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, paraphrased material, algorithms, formulae, scientific or mathematical concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- using another’s data or research findings without appropriate acknowledgement;
- submitting a computer program developed in whole or in part by someone else, with or without modifications, as one’s own; and
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another’s work and/or failing to use quotations marks.

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.

For the full policy please refer to the [Academic Integrity Policy](#).

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: 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. For accommodation regarding a formally-scheduled final exam, you must complete the Pregnancy Accommodation Form ([click here](#)).

Religious obligation: 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. For more details, [click here](#).

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 disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact 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). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with me to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the PMC website for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (if applicable).

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 where 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: <https://carleton.ca/equity/sexual-assault-support-services>.

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 will be provided to students who compete or perform at the national or international level. 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. For more information, [click here](#).

STATEMENT ON PANDEMIC MEASURES

No Symptom Reporting: Stay Home if Unwell. You are no longer required to submit a Symptom Reporting Form through cuScreen when you are unwell, and previous guidance requiring individuals to self-isolate for five days after the onset of an illness are no longer necessary. Remaining vigilant and not coming to campus when sick is still important. If you are feeling unwell, protect your classmates, professors, colleagues, and the Carleton community by staying home until you are feeling better.

Vaccination: Although vaccinations are still recommended as a way to reduce your risks, reporting of proof of vaccination is not required and cuScreen will no longer be available to upload vaccination documentation.

Masks: Masks are not required on campus. However, in line with other health care facilities, Health Services and the Sports Medicine Clinic may continue to require masks. Personal preferences regarding optional mask use will vary, and we ask that everyone show respect for the choices of others.