



**Carleton University Department of Economics  
Fall 2024  
ECON 4905A  
Honours Capstone Seminar**

**Instructor:** Haozhen Zhang  
**Email Address:** [haozhen.zhang@carleton.ca](mailto:haozhen.zhang@carleton.ca)  
**Office Location:** Loeb, B-840  
**Office Hours:** After class or by appointment

**Course Location/Delivery:** In person, the room location will be available via Carleton Central.  
**Course Day and Time:** 6:05 pm – 8:55 pm, Wednesdays

**TA:** TBD  
**Email Address:** TBD  
**Office Location:** TBD  
**Office Hours:** TBD

**Brightspace Course Page:** <https://brightspace.carleton.ca/d2l/home/288667>

**Course Description:** This course focuses on the development of individual research projects in various suitable economics topics. Students will engage in in-class discussions and present their findings at each stage through written and oral reports. The course concludes with the completion of a major research paper by each participant.

**Learning Outcomes:** Throughout the course, students will enhance their presentation skills and their ability to identify research questions, find relevant data, and conduct comprehensive research analysis. This collaborative and progressive approach ensures that students refine their research skills and deepen their understanding of economic analysis.

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

**Evaluation**

Please note that the dates listed below are provisional and may be adjusted during the semester. Depending on the final number of students enrolled, more or less class time might be allocated to student presentations.

Item	Submission Due Date	Percentage of Grade
Initial Proposal Presentation	Sep 23, 2024	10%
Proposal	Oct 2, 2024	10%
Peer Feedback	Oct 9, 2024	10%
Preliminary Findings Presentation	Oct 27, 2024	10%
Preliminary Findings Report	Nov 15, 2024	10%
Final Presentation	Nov 25, 2024	20%
Final Paper	Dec 6, 2024	30%
		Total: 100%

**Presentations:** Students will deliver three presentations during the course: one for the initial proposal, one for preliminary findings, and a final presentation. These presentations are scheduled to occur on specific dates and are expected to be in person. In exceptional situations, the presentation dates may be adjusted by a week. Please inform the instructor as early as possible if you have a scheduling conflict. To ensure all presentations fit within one lecture session, students must submit their slides as a PDF online a few days before their presentation. Detailed instructions for submission and deadlines will be provided closer to the presentation dates. To maintain fairness, all presentations of the same type will have the same submission deadline. Time limits for each presenter will be strictly enforced to accommodate all participants.

**Peer Review and Support:** Students will be randomly grouped into teams of 3-4 members. These teams are tasked with offering critiques and feedback on each other's work. This feedback should be akin to referee reports or conference discussants, providing professional and constructive criticism. Students are encouraged to engage with their team members throughout the term, especially during weeks without formal lectures. These teams can help students stay accountable and motivated to make steady progress on their final papers.

**Late Submissions:** Any graded material submitted late will incur a penalty of 50% per day. For example, an assignment worth 10% of the final grade that would have earned 90% (or 9 grade points) if submitted on time will earn 45% (or 4.5 grade points) if submitted one day late. If submitted two days late or more, it will receive a grade of 0.

**Honours Essay:** The objective of this assignment is to create an original research paper, your honours essay. The essay should be 5,000 words or less and can address any topic related to economics. Most students opt to write an empirical paper, though an original theoretical paper is also acceptable. Papers that merely summarize or review extensive literature are not allowed. Due to the tight timeline, most students prefer to write an empirical paper. Along with the final paper, students must present their main findings in a final presentation.

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

### **Lecture Topics and Schedule:**

Please note that the topics and schedules listed below are provisional and may be adjusted during the semester. Depending on the final number of students enrolled, more or less class time might be allocated to student presentations.

Week	Date	Topics
1	Sep. 4, 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Course introduction</li><li>• How to prepare a proposal</li><li>• Identifying a research question</li><li>• Where to find data</li></ul>
2	Sep. 11, 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Literature review</li><li>• Theoretical Framework</li><li>• Data analysis (Part 1)</li></ul>
3	Sep. 18, 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Data analysis (part 2)</li><li>• Interpret the results</li><li>• Conclusion and implications</li></ul>
4	Sep. 25, 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Proposal presentations and discussions</li></ul>
5	Oct. 2, 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Proposal presentations and discussions</li></ul>
6	Oct. 9, 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Additional topics: how to prepare the paper and presentation</li></ul>
7	Oct 16, 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Meetings and discussions</li></ul>
8	Fall Break	No class
9	Oct 30, 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Early finding presentations and discussions</li></ul>
10	Nov 6, 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Early finding presentations and discussions</li></ul>
11	Nov. 13, 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Meetings and discussions</li></ul>
12	Nov. 20, 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Meetings and discussions</li></ul>
13	Nov. 27, 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Final presentations</li></ul>
14	Dec 4, 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Final presentations</li></ul>

**Brightspace and the Carleton email system** will be used extensively as a means of communication with students. Therefore, students are strongly advised to access Brightspace and check their Carleton email at regular intervals in order to check for new information. To access Brightspace and the Carleton email system, students require a MyCarletonOne account. For questions about MyCarletonOne accounts, students should access <http://carleton.ca/ccs/get-started/> (and then click on either New Students or New Grad Students, as appropriate) or contact the ITS Service Desk (4th Floor, MacOdrum Library, telephone: 613-520-3700).

## **Academic Standing**

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.

### **NOTE:**

For verification and security purposes, I will not reply to emails originating from non-Carleton e-mail accounts, and which are not signed with a student's name and student number. Please ensure that you have a Carleton email account.

### **Plagiarism:**

Please be aware that plagiarism is serious offense at Carleton and should be recognized and avoided. For further information on how to do so, please see "Academic Integrity and Offenses of Conduct": <https://carleton.ca/economics/courses/writing-preliminaries/academic-integrity-and-offenses-of-conduct/>

### **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](https://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](https://carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf)

### **Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities**

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 or contact your PMC coordinator to send your instructor your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term. You must also contact

the PMC no later than two weeks before the first 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](https://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](https://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](https://students.carleton.ca/course-outline)