COURSE INFORMATION
Lectures: Wednesday, 8:35pm-11:20pm
Location: LA B146
Office: LOEB-D891
Office Hours: Tuesday, 2:30pm-3:30pm
Contact: Email: hashmat.khan@carleton.ca, Tel 613 520-2600 (Ext 1561)

COURSE 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.

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course will introduce students to the process of conducting original research in applied economics with special focus on macroeconomic issues related to consumption, investment, foreign trade, international finance, inflation, exchange rates, business cycles, economic growth, and monetary and fiscal policies. The emphasis will be on developing testable hypotheses that are motivated by economic theory. A key component of the course is the development and completion of the Honours Essay. This essay is expected to have both theoretical and empirical components, and econometric analysis. Towards the end of the term, students will get an opportunity to make a class presentation based on their respective essays. Students will also work on two data-oriented assignments. All empirical work will be done using STATA.

cuLearn
This course will use cuLearn for announcements and any course related content.

READINGS
There is no required text for this course. Relevant required readings for a specific topic will be assigned in advance of the lectures. For the empirical analysis you may consult the textbook(s) you used or are using in your econometrics course(s), especially the concepts and topics in time series econometrics.
LECTURES
The lectures will present a discussion related to the topics mentioned in the course description. In addition, we will also cover some contemporary economic issues facing the Canadian economy. A lecture on a particular topic will be based on a set of readings (1-3 academic articles published in peer-reviewed economic journals). Some lecture time will be devoted to (i) the process of doing empirical research (hypothesis development, data collection, measurement issues, data properties, empirical methods) and (ii) effective presentation of research.

Class Participation
Each student will be expected to participate in class discussion. Assigned readings will be given out one week before the lecture. Students are expected to read the assigned paper prior to the lecture to facilitate class discussion.

HONOURS ESSAY
The Honours Essay should identify a clear question or hypothesis based on a topic of your interest for any OECD country. The question or hypothesis should be framed using economic theory and reviewing a select and relevant previous academic work on the topic. The importance and relevance of the question or the hypothesis should be clearly explained to provide the motivation behind the research paper. The empirical analysis must describe the data and its source, and the results must be carefully explained and contrasted with previous literature. All the econometric work and figures that underlies your empirical analysis must be done using STATA. The data and the STATA replication code with clear comments must accompany the final submission of the research paper.

The paper should be about 5000 words of text not including footnotes, figures, tables, and references. It should be typed (double-spaced, Times Roman, font size 12, with margins of 2.5cm on all sides). A hard copy is required for the final submission. Please do not use any binder or plastic cover for the hard copy submission. Along with the hard copy, three additional files must be submitted via attachments to a single email to the TA with me cc’d, using the following labelling:

1. Firstname_Lastname.pdf (research paper).
2. Firstname_Lastname.xlsx (data).

Please be aware that plagiarism is 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 https://carleton.ca/economics/courses/writing-preliminaries/pammett-on-plagiarism-and-paraphrasing/.

Students must confirm the topic of the research paper by no later than Thursday, October 6th during office hours. More information on this process will be provided in the first lecture. The confirmation will be given after a student provides a brief (one page) summary of the
proposed research and evidence of data availability for the empirical analysis. Any delay without a valid reason will be penalized at the rate of 1% of the course grade per day. A failure to confirm the topic by October 11th may have serious consequences for continuing in the course.

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, and (8) the length of the paper relative to the suggested length.

COURSE EVALUATION
1. Two Assignments: 20%
2. Class Participation: 5%
3. Research Paper due on December 11th, 2pm: 60%
4. Class Presentation: 15% (10-12 minutes, 2-3 minutes of questions from the floor) during the last two weeks of the course. The presentation should provide a brief motivation behind the question or hypothesis, data and analysis, and the main result(s) and conclusion(s).

Note: Completing components 1, 3, and 4 are necessary to pass this course.

All students must submit their presentation slides via email no later than 5pm Tuesday November 28th. Class presentations will be held on November 29th and December 6th. I will provide instructions on the slides structure, content, and length, along with a presentation schedule.

Missed Deadlines and Deferred Term Work

For any missed term work deadline a doctors note or police report is required along with a completed Consent to Release Information to a Third Party form. Any documentation provided by students for missed deadline may be subject to verification.

DATA SOURCES

Here is a list of online data sources that you may use for your research paper (Note: you may use alternative data sources as well).


ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS

Disabilities, religious obligations, parental leave: Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations in the course are encouraged to contact a coordinator at the Paul Menton Centre to complete the necessary letters of accommodation. For religious obligations, consult Equity Services or an Equity Advisor (ext. 5622) for the current policy and a list of days. For parental leave, requests for academic accommodation is to be made during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more information consult Equity Services.