

Department of Economics, Carleton University
ECON 4905 B – Honours Capstone Seminar
Winter 2023

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Course meeting time and place: Fridays, 8:35 to 11:25 am, in Southam Hall (SA) Room 509.
Delivery: In person (attendance is mandatory)
Course Brightspace page: <https://brightspace.carleton.ca/d2l/home/131606>

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.

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.

COURSE DELIVERY

Classes will be held in person on Fridays, 8:35 to 11:25 am, in Southam Hall (SA) Room 509.

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](#).

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 30 (2016), on Canadians at work and at home. 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 January 17 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:

Assignment 1A: Overview of data set	5%
Assignment 1B: Research question and key variables	10%
Assignment 2: Sample choice and basic descriptive statistics	10%
Assignment 3: Literature review	10%
Assignment 4: Replication exercise	10%
Assignment 5: Theoretical modelling	10%
Assignment 6: Preliminary results	10%
Presentation	15%
Final paper	20%

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 six (6) weeks, including the first week of class.

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.

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.

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	Jan. 13	Course introduction Identifying a research question Getting started with data (Part 1)	Assignment 1A (completed in Class 1) Assignment 1B (due prior to Class 2)
2	Jan. 20	Getting started with data (Part 2) Sample choice Basic descriptive statistics	Assignment 2 (due in Class 3)
3	Jan. 27	Conducting a literature review	Assignment 3 (due in Class 5)
4	Feb. 3	Replication exercise	Assignment 4 (completed in Class 4)
5	Feb. 10	Theoretical modelling	Assignment 5 (completed in Class 5)
6	Feb. 17	Estimating a regression equation	Assignment 6 (completed in Class 6)
	Feb. 24	Winter break	
7	Mar. 3	Bringing everything together	
8	Mar. 10	Presentations	Presentation
9	Mar. 17	Presentations	Presentation
10	Mar. 24	Presentations	Presentation
11	Mar. 31	Presentations	Presentation
12	Apr. 7	Statutory holiday	
	Apr. 12 (W)	Presentations	Presentation
	Apr. 15-27	Final examination period	
	Apr. 19 (W)	Final paper due	Final paper

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>

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

PANDEMIC MEASURES

It is important to remember that COVID is still present in Ottawa. The situation can change at any time and the risks of new variants and outbreaks are very real. There are [a number of actions you can take](#) to lower your risk and the risk you pose to those around you including being vaccinated, wearing a mask, staying home when you're sick, washing your hands and maintaining proper respiratory and cough etiquette.

Feeling sick? Remaining vigilant and not attending work or school when sick or with symptoms is critically important. If you feel ill or exhibit COVID-19 symptoms do not come to class or campus. If you feel ill or exhibit symptoms while on campus or in class, please leave campus immediately. In all situations, you should follow Carleton's [symptom reporting protocols](#).

Masks: Masks are no longer mandatory in university buildings and facilities. However, we continue to recommend masking when indoors, particularly if physical distancing cannot be maintained. We are aware that personal preferences regarding optional mask use will vary greatly, and we ask that we all show consideration and care for each other during this transition.

Vaccines: While proof of vaccination is no longer required to access campus or participate in in-person Carleton activities, it may become necessary for the University to bring back proof of vaccination requirements on short notice if the situation and public health advice changes. Students are strongly encouraged to get a full course of vaccination, including booster doses as soon as they are eligible and submit their booster dose information in [cuScreen](#) as soon as possible. Please note that Carleton cannot guarantee that it will be able to offer virtual or hybrid learning options for those who are unable to attend the campus.

All members of the Carleton community are required to follow requirements and guidelines regarding health and safety which may change from time to time. For the most recent information about Carleton's COVID-19 response and health and safety requirements please see the [University's COVID-19 website](#) and review the [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#). Should you have additional questions after reviewing, please contact covidinfo@carleton.ca.

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.

Students are responsible for ensuring the work they submit for this course is their own. For additional information on how to avoid plagiarism, please see [Academic Integrity and Offenses of Conduct](#).

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).

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](#).