

**CARLETON UNIVERSITY**  
Department of Economics

Honours Capstone Seminar  
ECON 4905C – 2020 Winter

Lectures: Tuesdays 6-9pm  
Location: 505 Southam Hall

Instructor: Dr. Susan Bennet  
Office: B840 Loeb Building  
Email: [susan.bennet@carleton.ca](mailto:susan.bennet@carleton.ca)  
Office Hours: Tuesdays 4-5pm drop in  
Thursdays 1:00 - 2:00, by appointment

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Office Hours:

Contact:

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**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.

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, Amanda Wright.

**B. Texts**

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

Angrist and Pischke. 2015. *Mastering 'Metrics: The Path from Cause to Effect*. Princeton University Press: Princeton and Oxford.

Angrist and Pischke. 2009. *Mostly Harmless Econometrics*. Princeton University Press: Princeton and Oxford.

Cameron and Trivedi. 2010. *Microeconometrics Using Stata, Revised Edition*. Stata Corp.

Kennedy, P. 2008. *A Guide to Econometrics, 6<sup>th</sup> Ed.* Wiley-Blackwell

### **C. 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

### **D1 . Evaluation:**

Mini paper – 20%

Mandatory meeting to discuss topic and data – 5%

First draft – 20%

Poster presentation – 10%

Comments on posters – 10%

Final Paper – 25%

Participation – 10%

### **D2. Detailed discussion of evaluation:**

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.

The majority of your grade will be based on your individual original research paper. To ensure that you are on the right track, you are required to meet with me to discuss your topic and data source. I will announce plenty of office hours to accommodate meeting with all of you in third and fourth week of classes. The first draft will consist of a brief introduction to the paper, a literature review, a data description and summary statistics. The final paper will contain the revisions that arise from my comments on your first draft as well as new sections that discuss the methodology chosen, present empirical results (usually regression analysis) and provide concluding remarks. You will present your final paper in a poster session that will take place toward the end of the term.

10% of your grade will come from your written comments on your colleagues' posters. 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.

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, or if you are on your phone. **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.

We will be using cuLearn to submit these assignments. For the first draft I will require only an electronic version of your paper; however, both an electronic version and a hard copy are required for the final paper. All assignments should be submitted by 6pm on their due date.

**NOTE:** Failure to submit any course work without a compelling reason accompanied by a doctor's note or other official documentation 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 consider with a compelling reason. Medical issues must be accompanied by an appropriate doctor's note or other official documentation. Any medical issues should be dated at least two days before the assignment is due.

Failure to submit the final paper without a compelling reason will result in a grade of 'F'. Should you be able to provide a compelling reason to defer your final paper submission you will still receive a mark of 'F' until a change of grade has been authorized by the instructor. See Academic Regulation [2.3 Standing in Courses/Grading System](#) for the official meanings of these grades, and note that it stipulates that no course grades are final until approved by the Faculty Dean.

#### **E. 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](http://www.carleton.ca/economics/courses/writing-preliminaries).

## **F. 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. 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](http://carleton.ca/equity/accommodation).