PLEASE NOTE THAT SOME CHANGES MAY BE MADE TO THIS COURSE OUTLINE UP TO JANUARY 19, 2018

CARLETON UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS

ECON 4905 D
HONOURS CAPSTONE SEMINAR

Professor M. Demers 2018 Winter
Loeb B-855
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Office Hours: Monday: 1:00 to 2:30 PM and by appointment
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Lecture Time: Monday 2:35 AM – 5:25 PM
Place: SA 313

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

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, Amanda Wright.

Course objective:

The objective of this course is to initiate students to develop and write a research project.

Research paper:

A research paper is required. The research paper must be analytical and innovative. The study must first clearly identify the problem to be investigated and the hypotheses to be tested. Purely descriptive projects are not acceptable. Your paper must apply economic models to original data that you will obtain. In your study, you will need to synthesize, interpret and analyze data and other information as well as perform econometric estimation in order to draw conclusions. You will also have to compare your results with those found in other studies.

The paper must have:

1. A concise abstract (150-200 words) explaining the problem explored and the main conclusions.
2. A well-written introduction to explain why your topic is important and interesting.
3. A literature review: synthesize and critically evaluate some economic theories and empirical studies on your topic of interest.
4. An explanation of the economic theory underlying the chosen topic, the hypotheses that will be made and the analytical/empirical/econometric methodology that will be used.

5. A detailed explanation of the data sources and data that you use.

6. A clear and well-organized presentation of your results in words as well as relevant tables and graphs (if appropriate) to illustrate these results.

7. A comparison of your results with the results obtained in other similar studies in the literature.

8. A conclusion summarizing and evaluating your results and suggesting possible improvements.

9. The paper must be neat, well organized, written in correct English with no grammatical or spelling errors and no typos. The format of the paper and of the bibliography (references) section must be done according to the provided instructions. Sloppy work will lose points. This also applies to the first draft and the proposal.

**Team composition:** You must do your project in a team of two persons. If you have problems in finding a teammate I will help you find one. The work should be equally shared among team members. The teams will be guided towards the achievement of this goal with the help of regular meetings with me and the TA. However, the paper must be the product of each student’s personal effort. Each student must demonstrate the capacity to do independent work.

**Topic:** You will select your topic from a list that I will provide.

**Timetable for the research paper:**

The task of writing the research project will be undertaken in steps with specific deadlines, as outlined below:

1. The team composition and the choice of a general topic to be approved by the instructor (one week, January 15)

2. Submission of a research proposal on your chosen topic (two weeks, January 29)

3. Submission of the first draft of your paper (four weeks, March 8)

4. Revision of the first draft following comments by myself and the T.A. (approximately two weeks)

5. **In-class presentation** of all the papers (Tentatively scheduled for March 26 and April 2). The exact details will be announced during the term. Each student will present his/her paper using PowerPoint or similar software. The presentation will last 10 minutes and be followed by a brief discussion of the paper and questions from the audience. The presentation will follow the same structure as the first draft, and will emphasize the significant results obtained and outline the steps that remain to be completed. Attendance is compulsory.

6. Submission of the final draft of the paper (April 11, last day of winter term classes).

**Both e-mail and hard copy** (double-sided) submissions to both myself and the TA are required for the proposal, the first draft and the final paper. In order to permit a timely submission of the final draft, it will be very important to adhere to this time-table and to the deadlines indicated.
Each step of the time-table and its components (including instructions for the Bibliography) will be explained in greater detail in class and will be posted on CuLearn.

There will be a preliminary lecture to explain in detail what you need to do to fulfill the course requirements and to give you some background for the research paper.

**Course evaluation:**

The evaluation will be on an individual basis for each team member.

Proposal: 15%.
First draft: 20% due March 8.
Class presentation: 10% March 29 during class time and the tutorial.
Class participation: 5%
Final draft of paper to be handed in the last day of classes: 50% April 7.

**Penalties for late submissions:**

Late proposals without proper medical justification will lose 2 marks out of 10.

Late first drafts without proper medical justification will lose 4 marks out of 20.

Late final drafts without proper medical justification will lose 2 marks out of 60 per day.

Final drafts that are more than 7 days late will receive a grade of F and the student will be required to provide proper medical or other justification to the Registrar’s Office.

Also, course grades may be scaled upwards or downwards in a rank-preserving manner in order to better fit the relevant departmental distributional norm. Finally, please note that: “Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by an instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.”

**Re-marking:**

Any request for remarking must be submitted in writing within two weeks of that piece of work first being returned to the class. The request should contain a detailed explanation of why you feel you should receive a higher mark. Please note that remarking will apply to the entire work not just the contentious issue. As a result, the revised mark may be higher than, lower than or the same as the original mark.

**Additional resources:**

Students are encouraged to consult the writing tutorial service (in 229PA) and the student academic success centre (SASC, 302 Tory Building) should they need these services.
Textbooks:

Good references for data analysis and econometrics are:


Intellectual Property Rights Regarding Course Material:

Please note: “Classroom teaching and learning activities, including lectures, discussions, presentations, etc., by both instructors and students, are copy 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).” (See https://carleton.ca/provost/2015/calendar-dates-and-course-materials-sharing-website/)

Academic Accommodation Requests:

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 more details see the Student Guide.

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 see the Student Guide.

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.
See the Equity Services Web site at www.carleton.ca/equity/accommodation to obtain more detailed information on academic accommodation to view the associated policies.

**Plagiarism:**

Please be aware that plagiarism is a 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 www.carleton.ca/economics/courses/writing-preliminaries.

The University Senate defines plagiarism as “presenting, whether intentionally or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own.” This can include:

- 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;
- submitting a take-home examination, essay, laboratory report or other assignment written, in whole or in part, by someone else;
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, or paraphrased material, concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- using another’s data or research findings;
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another’s works and/or failing to use quotation marks;
- handing in "substantially the same piece of work for academic credit more than once without prior written permission of the course instructor in which the submission occurs."

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.