

Carleton University  
**ECON 6714 - Advanced Topics in Econometrics**

Professor: Lynda Khalaf

Fall 2021

## 1 Course Objectives

This course covers special topics in econometrics that are relevant for PhD-level empirical research. The prerequisite to this course is **ECON 6027**. Lectures will involve some (essential) econometric theory, while the focus and methodology will be approached through cases of (broad and timely) empirical interest. Conformably, the key evaluation component (70%) is a research paper. In addition and to concretize the usefulness of the topics taught, course work will include simulation studies and simulation-based econometric methods. Computing experience with statistical software such as STATA is assumed, along with some programming skills using *e.g.* R or Matlab.

A balanced focus on methods that are relevant for applied micro and macro/financial econometrics guides the choice of selected topics. These will include: (i) weak-instruments and identification robust econometric methods [non-standard non-regular contexts] and simultaneous inference; (ii) simulation-based estimation and inference [Indirect Inference, parametric and non-parametric Bootstraps]; (iii) a formal introduction to program evaluation; (iv) a special topics lecture that aims to introduce econometric data science.<sup>1</sup>

The paper will be submitted in three different stages (detailed below), including a formal proposal that will receive formal written feedback. Two oral presentations are also required and will take the form of a workshop-conference. Students will present their own work, and will also possibly present formal discussions of the work of another team.<sup>2</sup> The first oral presentation will not be graded but will receive feedback; the final presentation will be graded. The final report will be evaluated considering feedback on the proposal and on the oral presentation. Students will chose their research topic, subject to the professor's approval.

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<sup>1</sup>Invited sessions with external experts are tentatively planned for late November, and will be confirmed in due time with enough notice.

<sup>2</sup>Formal discussions will be considered depending on the number of registered students.

## 2 Textbook and references

Every lecture will include relevant references to published or papers in circulation, textbooks and when available, recorded lectures by influential researchers on the specific subject matter. The following are recommended reference textbooks in econometrics (for general consultation).

1. Davidson R. and J. MacKinnon (2004). *Econometric Theory and Methods*. Oxford University Press. <http://qed.econ.queensu.ca/ETM/>.
2. Gouriéroux, C. and A. Monfort (1995). *Statistics and Econometric Models, Volumes 1-2*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, U.K.
3. Greene W. H. (2018). *Econometric Analysis*, 8th Edition, Pearson.  
<http://people.stern.nyu.edu/wgreene/Text/econometricanalysis.htm>.
4. Hansen B. (2020). *Econometrics*. <https://www.ssc.wisc.edu/~bhansen/econometrics/>

## 3 Lectures, Question and Answer (Q&A) sessions

The course will be offered on-line. Unless indicated otherwise, notes and recorded lectures will be posted on Brightspace on or before Friday 8h30 of each teaching week. The assigned synchronous teaching time is Friday 8h35-11h25. Synchronous on-line attendance is required three times during the semester (refer to the schedule below); these include sessions with student presentations or presentations by guest speakers. Otherwise, lectures are either pre-recorded or recorded synchronously then posted on Brightspace.

Further directives will be posted on Brightspace and regularly updated. Students need to verify Email and announcements on Brightspace all through the semester.<sup>3</sup> Brightspace will be used for the following: all course announcements and email; links to the course slides and pre-recorded lectures; online submission of the assignment and research paper in pdf form.

Regular on-line Q&A periods are indicated below. Students are encouraged to prepare their formal questions in writing (scanned handwriting is accepted) and sent by Brightspace email or shared during a Q&A session. Unless otherwise indicated, a ZOOM invitation will be sent via Brightspace email within half an hour of the scheduled Q&A period. The Q&A sessions are optional.

For clarity and to facilitate communications, the following describes Email policy for this course.

- Course related queries should be sent via Brightspace Email. Any other Email communication in any form about this course will not receive any response; this is to make sure all questions are properly received.

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<sup>3</sup>Unless an urgent and unanticipated problem emerges, changes to the schedule below will be announced within a week notice.

- Questions on course material will not be answered on continuous basis. Instead, the objective is to establish a fair, transparent and reliable system. From September 8 to December 3<sup>4</sup>, all questions received by Wednesday noon [that is between Wednesday pm of the preceding week and Wednesday am of the current week] will receive a response by Friday 8h30.<sup>5</sup>
- Responses that require proofs, derivations and similar queries will normally not be settled by Email exchange. In fact, except for brief and minor clarifications, most questions will be redirected towards Q&A online meetings with appointments if needed, in view of the nature of the course.

## 4 Grading Scheme

1. Research paper (a total of 70%; requirements are detailed below). Group work [groups of up to **two** students only] is allowed; each group has to submit a differentiated term paper. Evaluation of all documents presented will reflect, in addition to econometric techniques, writing and presentation and supportive literature review. Requirements are as follows.
  - (a) **a written one-page document that briefly formulates the research question** [10%]. *Deadline (upload to Brightspace, in pdf format): October 4, 5h30 pm.* Failure to submit this document on time will result in a grade of zero out of 10%.
  - (b) **a written research proposal** [20%]. Ideally, the proposal should: (i) formulate the research question in much more details than the previously submitted one-page document, with reference to available literature; (ii) set the statistical framework; (iii) describe the proposed method for statistical analysis as well as the data to be used, (iv) suggest expected outcomes and outline issues that require further work. Students will receive formal feedback [grade and recommendations] following the submission of the proposal. Evaluation of the final paper will take these comments into consideration [students must demonstrate attempts to integrate the comments in question into their submitted work]. *Deadline (upload to Brightspace, in pdf format): November 8, 5h30.* Failure to submit this document on time will result in a grade of zero out of 20%.
  - (c) **an oral presentation** [10%], **on December 3**. Oral presentations will take the form of a workshop-conference. Students will present their own work, and will also possibly present formal discussions [to be arranged given the number of registered students, at the discretion of the professor] of the work of another team. Failure to show up for a scheduled presentation will result in a grade of zero out of 10%. Justified absences will result in reporting 10% to the grade on the final report (in which case the final report will count as 40%).

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<sup>4</sup>There will be no Q&A period after the last day of classes for this course, which falls on December 3. Note that on December 10 classes at Carleton follow a Monday schedule.

<sup>5</sup>Questions of an exceptional urgent nature should be identified as such in the message subject matter, and will be managed depending on the nature of the emergency.

- (d) **a final report** [30%]. *Deadline (upload to Brightspace, in pdf format): December 20, 5h30 pm*. Failure to submit this document on time will result in a grade of zero out of 30%. Justified delays will lead to arranging an alternative deadline, following the rules of the Department of Economics.
- 2. Assignment [30%]. *Deadline (upload to Brightspace, in pdf format): December 13, 5h30 pm*. Failure to submit the assignment on time will result in a grade of zero out of 30%. Students are allowed to cooperate or consult (with others), but each student has to submit a differentiated assignment. Identical assignments will be treated as a plagiarism case. Note that the policy on the assignment differs from the above policy on the term paper, where a group of two is allowed in which case a joint paper is accepted.

## 5 Regulations and academic support

- 1. All members of the Carleton community are required to follow COVID-19 prevention measures and all mandatory public health requirements. For the most recent information see <https://carleton.ca/covid19/>. Also refer to the following on students rights and responsibilities: <https://carleton.ca/studentaffairs/student-rights-and-responsibilities/>.
- 2. Plagiarism and academic integrity. 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 check [www.carleton.ca/economics/courses/writing-preliminaries](http://www.carleton.ca/economics/courses/writing-preliminaries), “Pammett on Plagiarism and Paraphrasing”.
- 3. Academic Accommodations. *You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request, the processes are as follows.*
  - (a) On Religious Obligations. *Please contact me during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist.* For details, see: <https://students.carleton.ca/course-outline/#religious-obligation>.
  - (b) For Pregnancy. *Please contact me during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist.* For details, see: <https://students.carleton.ca/course-outline/#pregnancy-obligation>.
  - (c) For Students with Disabilities. *Please contact the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) at 613-520-6608 or [pmc@carleton.ca](mailto:pmc@carleton.ca).* For further details, see: <https://students.carleton.ca/course-outline/#academic-accommodations-for-students-with-disabilities>
  - (d) Other accommodations: refer to <https://students.carleton.ca/course-outline/> for information, dates and deadlines.
- 4. The Centre for Student Academic Support (CSAS) is a centralized collection of learning support services designed to help students achieve their goals and improve their learning.

CSAS offers academic assistance with learning, academic writing, online resources and skills development. For more details, visit the CSAS website (<https://carleton.ca/csas/>).

## 6 Tentative schedule

Unless otherwise indicated, the lectures will consist of recorded material, to be posted on Brightspace on or before the announced date. Online synchronous attendance is required for the presentation sessions identified below. Modifications to this schedule may be needed because of online delivery and will be announced via Brightspace with a week's notice. **Q&A period: online attendance is optional; these sessions will NOT be recorded.**

1. September 10. General directives and guidance, formulation of research question. Tips for graduate economic research. *Pre-recorded lecture*. Q&A period: 9h30-11.

2. September 17. Weak Identification, preparatory session: review of standard asymptotic frameworks and their potential failure. *Pre-recorded lecture*. Q&A period: 9h30-11.

3. September 24. Weak Identification, weak-instruments and simultaneous inference. *Pre-recorded lecture*. Q&A period: 9h30-11.

4. October 1. Weak Identification, weak instruments (continued). *Pre-recorded lecture*. Q&A period: 9h30-11.

5. October 8. Simulation-based methods, preparatory session: the need for simulation-based estimation and inference. *Pre-recorded lecture*. Q&A period: 9h30-11.

6. October 15. Simulation-based methods (continued): parametric and non-parametric bootstraps, foundations and methods. *Pre-recorded lecture*. Q&A period: 9h30-11.

7. October 22. Simulation-based methods (continued): indirect inference. *Pre-recorded lecture*. Q&A period: 9h30-11.

### **October 29: fall break**

8. November 5. Poster session type presentation of proposal: your proposal in about three slides. The poster session is not graded, but you will receive feedback. Online attendance is required. Q&A period: to be announced (T.B.A.).

9. November 12. Program Evaluation. *Pre-recorded lecture*. Q&A period: 9h30-11.

10. November 19. Program Evaluation. *Pre-recorded lecture*. Q&A period: 9h30-11.

11. November 26. Special topics lecture, to be announced. Sessions with external experts are planned, in which case online attendance will be required and will be confirmed in due time with enough notice. Q&A period: T.B.A.

12. December 3. Paper presentation with discussion. This presentation is graded. Online attendance is required. Q&A period: T.B.A.