

Economics 695/697 (MA Research Methods III/IV, Spring/Summer 2022)

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Lecture Location: SS423

Office: SS402 / S332

Office Hours: by appointment

(Spring/Summer 2022)

Course Description:

695: Master's research project. Identify an interesting and feasible research question, carry out an extensive literature review of the problem area, develop an economic/econometric model to address the problem, identify and collect appropriate data for empirical research.

697: Master's research project. Continuing from Research Methods III, the economic/econometric model is fully developed with specific attention to identification issues and testable hypotheses. Appropriate econometric analyses, validation and testing are carried out, leading to a research paper reporting the problem, the model and the

Course Outline:

This course is a joint Spring/Summer independent study course for MA students. The objective of the project is to provide you with an opportunity to conduct independent research. Specifically, during this part of your MA program, you will:

1. Find a topic of interest to the student and formulate an appropriate research question,
2. Identify an appropriate research method to address the question,
3. Apply empirical and theoretical approaches (that you have mastered from core curriculum courses) to your specific question, and
4. Communicate with clarity, and without oversimplification, the concepts, methods, results, and important implications of your research.

The instructors' role throughout this course is to support you in undertaking your research when you require assistance. The onus is on the student to act promptly and proactively in seeking assistance. The student assumes full responsibility for completing and presenting the research in accordance with the timetable provided in the **Important Dates** section below.

Prerequisites/corequisites:

Admission into the Master of Arts Economics (course-based) program.

Required Textbook(s):

None.

Recommended Textbook(s):

The following texts/readings are helpful; additional material may be provided on D2L

- Gopen, G. and J. Swan. 1990. The Science of Scientific Writing, *American Scientist*, November/December.
- Huff, D. 1954. *How To Lie With Statistics*. Norton, New York.
- King, S. 2010, *On Writing*. Scribner: New York.
- McCloskey, D.N. 2000. *Economical Writing*. Long Grove: Waveland Press.
- McCloskey, D.N. 1998. *The Rhetoric of Economics*. Madison: University of Wisconsin Press.
- O'Connor, P.T. 1996. *Woe is I: The Grammarphobe's Guide to Better English in Plain English*. Riverhead Books, New York.
- Thomson, W. 2011. *A Guide for the Young Economist*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press
- Wyrick, T.L. 1994. *The Economist's Handbook: A Research and Writing Guide*. NY: West Pub.

Desire2Learn:

This course will make use of the Desire2Learn (D2L) platform. Students who are registered in the course can log on at <http://d2l.ucalgary.ca> through their student centre. Please note that D2L features a class e-mail list that may be used to distribute course-related information. These e-mails go to your University of Calgary e-mail addresses only. **All written work must be submitted to the Dropbox using the D2L web portal.**

Grade Determination and Final Examination Details

There are no examinations in this course. The following criteria are used when assigning letter grades:

Grade	Grade Point Value	Description
A+	4.00	Outstanding
A	4.00	Excellent-superior performance, showing-comprehensive understanding of subject matter
A-	3.70	Very good performance
B+	3.30	Good performance
B	3.00	Satisfactory performance
B-	2.70	Minimum pass for students in the Faculty of Graduate Studies
C+	2.30	All grades below “B-“ are indicative of failure at the graduate level and cannot be counted toward Faculty of Graduate Studies course requirements. Individual programs may require a higher passing grade.

The specific graded components in Spring and Summer semesters are as follows:

Spring Semester

Summer Semester

- First Oral Presentation – 20%
- Revised Introduction and Literature Review – 30%
- Preliminary Results – 20%
- Data and Methods Section – 30%

- First Draft – 20%
- Second Draft 20%
- Final Oral Presentation – 30%
- Final Paper – 30%

Passing grades on the Final Paper and on the Final Oral Presentation are required for a student to pass the course as a whole.

Important Dates (Bold indicates that **physical presence is compulsory.**)

- **May 4, Introductory course meeting (9am-12pm, SS423)**
- **May 9, Introductory Presentation (9am-1pm, SS423. 10 minutes (20%))**
- May 16, Hand in: Revised Introduction and Literature Review (30%)
- May 30, Hand in: Data Evaluation and Methods Section (30%)
- June 22, Hand in: Preliminary results due (20%)
- July 11, Hand in: First Full Draft Due (20%)
- August 8, Hand in: Second Full Draft Due (20%)
- **August 15 and 16, Final Presentation: 20 minutes (30%)**
- August 17, Hand in: Complete and Final paper (30%)

Notes:

Students are responsible for all assigned material; *e.g.*, supplementary material posted on D2L, regardless of whether or not the material was covered in class.

WDW/RJO

2022-March-14th