

# ECON 494-001 Syllabus

Seminar in Applied International Economics (Winter 2023)

Instructor: Patrick Baylis

## Course information

- Mon/Wed 11:00am-12:30pm, Iona 533 (selected dates, see below)
- Office hours · [link](#)
- Teaching assistant: Zhaoxuan Wang · Office hours · [link](#)

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## Course details

**Objectives and learning outcomes:** This course is the capstone in your Bachelor of International Economics program. In it, you will design and carry out an original research project, bringing together the knowledge you have acquired in your theory, field, and econometrics courses. You will formulate a research question, devise a strategy to answer it, find data, analyze your data using appropriate quantitative methods, present your findings to your classmates, and write a scholarly paper. At the end of the term, you will have learned about your research topic in depth. Equally important, you will have learned how to make a solid economic argument and to communicate your findings to your peers.

This course involves a lot of work. You will need to stay on top of it throughout the term to succeed. To help you stay on track, this course has developed “milestones” as a sequence of assignments that will build your research paper step by step. As you progress through the course, you will enjoy the experience of discovering new ideas, techniques, and insights. The instructor and TA will be available to you at every stage to help you find your direction, give you feedback on your work and explore new ideas.

Organization: We will only meet as a regular class (Iona 533) on the following dates:

- January 9, 11, 16 · Introductory lectures
- April 3, 5, 10, 12 · Student presentations of thesis

Outside of these dates, I will hold regular office hours. You are only **required** to meet with me once, at the start of the course. After that, I will be available to you as needed throughout the semester. This course is different from most other courses you have taken so far in that you may have a high level of interaction with the instructor, if you wish.

Since I have found that students often benefit from seeing each others' projects (and my feedback on their projects), I will organize students with related projects into "topic groups" and schedule meetings during our regular class time with each group to answer questions.

**Assessments:** All your assignments should be submitted via Canvas, usually as PDFs. Every day that an assignment is late will result in reduction of 20%. The final paper must also be submitted electronically and as a single PDF file. Please note that I expect neatly formatted tables, not raw regression output.

**Communication:** I will communicate with you via Canvas; please check it regularly. If you need to get in touch with me, please do so through Canvas as well.

**Required materials:** Statistical software (either STATA or R) is required for this course. You should choose the software with which you can complete the empirical work required for the course. The instructor will not be able to assist with software-related questions.

STATA is found on computers in the VSE computer labs. It is also available for purchase at a special student rate and we recommend that you do this. You need Stata/IC (Intercooled, 6-month license); Small Stata will likely not work for this course. R is available for free online.

**Requirements and deliverables:** The main deliverable for the course is the final research paper, which is worth half of your final grade. The following list summarizes all of the deliverables for the course and their worth as a percentage of your final course grade, which will be rounded to the nearest whole number. Due dates and detailed descriptions of each deliverable will be given on Canvas.

1. Meet with instructor and summarize meeting (2%)
2. Research proposal (10%)
3. Annotated literature review (8%)
4. Data summary and estimation strategy (10%)
5. Preliminary estimation results (5%)
6. In-class presentation on thesis (15%)
7. Final thesis (50%)

To make your point well, your paper and assignments need to be well written, which means they should be clear, succinct, grammatically correct, logically organized. While we will work on the organization and intellectual appeal throughout the course together, you will be solely responsible for the quality of your writing. Good writing is not typically generated in first drafts, but after multiple rounds of editing. If you have difficulties writing, attend

a writing workshop. You can find information on available resources on the web site <https://learningcommons.ubc.ca/improve-your-writing/>.

**In-term concessions:** If you require an **in-term concession** (to turn in an assignment late or because you cannot attend an exam, for example), you must contact Arts Advising as soon as you are aware of the need (i.e., before the work is missed except in extraordinary circumstances). Please review [their website](#) for concession criteria as well as the process to follow. Students in other Faculties should contact their Faculty advising office for direction. If you are granted a concession for a given assessment, I will reassign its weight to other assessments of the same type.

**Accomodations:** I am happy to make necessary accommodations for students who require it. Please contact Access and Diversity to obtain an Academic Accommodation Letter and provide it to me within the first two weeks of the term. See UBC Policy 73<sup>1</sup> for more details.

**Plagiarism:** This course enforces UBC's policy on plagiarism. Plagiarism is intellectual theft and occurs where an individual submits or presents the oral or written work of another person as his or her own. Scholarship rests upon examining and referring to the thoughts and writings of others. However, when another person's words (i.e. phrases, sentences, or paragraphs), ideas, or entire works are used, the author must be acknowledged in the text, in footnotes, in endnotes, or in another accepted form of academic citation. Where direct quotations are made, they must be clearly delineated (for example, within quotation marks or separately indented).

Failure to provide proper attribution is plagiarism because it represents someone else's work as one's own. Plagiarism should not occur in submitted drafts or final works. A student who seeks assistance from a tutor or other scholastic aids must ensure that the work submitted is the student's own. Students are responsible for ensuring that any work submitted does not constitute plagiarism. Students who are in any doubt as to what constitutes plagiarism should consult their instructor before handing in any assignments.

You are required to familiarize yourself with the UBC Policy on plagiarism. Plagiarism is serious academic misconduct and is sanctioned accordingly.

Plagiarism will trigger different actions depending on the stage at which it is uncovered. Plagiarism in any of the intermediate assignments will result in a zero grade for this assignment, and a 10-point deduction from the final grade. Plagiarism in the final paper will be met with a grade of zero in the course and referral to the university administration for academic misconduct, which may result in disciplinary measures such as a suspension from the university.

**Use of AI writing assistance:** I expect you to write this paper in your own words. The process of formulating an argument is a valuable pedagogical exercise. If I detect the use of computer technologies to supply the text you include in the paper, then it will be reflected negatively in your mark.

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<sup>1</sup><http://www.universitycounsel.ubc.ca/files/2010/08/policy73.pdf>.

**UBC-wide policy statement:** UBC provides resources to support student learning and to maintain healthy lifestyles but recognizes that sometimes crises arise and so there are additional resources to access including those for survivors of sexual violence. UBC values respect for the person and ideas of all members of the academic community. Harassment and discrimination are not tolerated nor is suppression of academic freedom. UBC provides appropriate accommodation for students with disabilities and for religious and cultural observances. UBC values academic honesty and students are expected to acknowledge the ideas generated by others and to uphold the highest academic standards in all of their actions. Details of the policies and how to access support are available [here](#).