

ECON 494 Seminar in Applied International Economics

Term 2, 2020

This version: January 5, 2020.

- Section 004 — Environment
- Mon/Wed 11:00am-12:30pm, Iona 533 (selected dates, see below)
- Instructor: Patrick Baylis
 - Iona 113
 - Office hours:
 - * Monday (lab): 11:00am-12:30pm, Iona 533
 - * Wednesday (individual appointments): Sign up here
 - Contact through Canvas
- Teaching assistant (all sections): Vibhu Pratyush
 - Office hours: TBD
 - E-mail: TBD

1 Objectives

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 an original 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 learnt 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 will be available to you at every stage to help you find your direction, give you feedback on your work and explore new ideas.

2 Organization

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

- January 6/8/13 — Introductory lectures
- March 30 and April 1/6/8 — Student presentations of thesis (10 minutes each)

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. On most Mondays, we will use the classroom space and time as a “lab”: I will be available to give you one-on-one feedback during our usual class time in Iona 533 (aside from the dates given above). On Wednesdays, I will make myself available for appointments during our regular class time. This course is different from most other courses you have taken so far in that you will have a high level of one-on-one interaction with the instructor.

3 Assignments

All your assignments should be submitted as single PDF files via Canvas. Assignments handed in up to 24 hours late will be marked down by 50%, and assignments handed in more than 24 hours past the deadline will receive a grade of zero. The final paper must also be submitted electronically and as a single PDF file.

Please paste your graphs, tables and regression results into the same file. Please note that I expect neatly formatted tables, not raw regression output.

4 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.

5 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.

6 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 the marks. Due dates and detailed descriptions of each deliverable will be given on Canvas.

1. Meet with instructor to discuss three ideas (2%)
2. Research proposal (10%)
3. 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 logically organized, grammatically correct and intellectually appealing. 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. 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/>.

7 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 quite properly 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.