

York University  
Econ 5620: Data Analysis and Empirical  
Strategies:  
with applications in Empirical Labour Economics  
– Winter 2017 –  
Syllabus

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November 18, 2016

## 1 Course Description

This course focuses on the methodological and practical issues that arise when economists harness data to answer questions of economic and policy interest, often of interest to labour economists. Covers techniques in modern data analysis for cross section and panel settings: regression and instrumental variables, regression discontinuity, differences-in-differences, with an emphasis on data visualization and program evaluation. Projects include analysis of data with a written description and interpretation of results; may involve gathering of original data or use of existing data sets. Applications drawn from real world examples and frontier research. Instruction in use of the statistical package Stata and/or R.

	Day	Time	Duration	Place
<i>Lecture:</i>	T	2:30	180	VH 1016
<i>Office Hours (Ben):</i>	M	3:30		1090 Vari Hall

## 2 Lectures and Office Hours

### 2.1 Office Hours

I will be available for office hours. During these times students are encouraged to drop by. If you cannot attend the scheduled office hours, I will be available by appointment as well.

### 2.2 E-mail

E-mail is a good way to contact me. I will attempt to answer any and all questions via email as quickly as possible. Please include “Econ 5620” in the subject line to facilitate this process.

## 3 Course Work and Evaluation

The course work is described below. No work will be accepted after the due date, unless written proof of the emergency situation that causes the delay is provided. If a student finds a problem with the grading of coursework, she/he should immediately talk to the me. The deadline for a regrading request is one week from the day the coursework is returned to the class, regardless of when the student actually receives it. If a student misses course work for an acceptable reason, I reserve the right to reallocate that component of the course work to the final exam/paper.

### 3.1 Paper Course

Students may choose to take the class as a *paper course*. The main implication is that students who choose this route will have 50% of their final grade determined by a paper that will be turned in by April 15th. Paper course students will have their grade determined as shown in Table 1. The paper will be empirical and based on the methods studied in class. There will be a separate handout that outlines what is expected from students’ papers. The topic of the paper will be determined by students’ proposals and my own input.

Table 1: Paper Breakdown

Paper Component	Weight	Due Date
Proposal	5%	Feb. 4st
Draft	10%	End of March
Final Paper	35%	End of April

## 3.2 Course Work

In addition to writing a paper, students will be required to complete some course work. The breakdown is as follows:

### 3.2.1 Presentation (25%)

Each student will be required to make a presentation to the class. The presentation will consist of describing an empirical paper that I choose. Students will be required to prepare slides, ect., and answer questions about the paper. The paper you present will use at least one of the methods that we cover in class. I will provide a handout of the details of the presentation at a later date.

Your presentation grade will contain two parts. The first is based on your presentation you prepare. The second is based on your participation in other students' presentations (asking questions, ect). Table 2 outlines the breakdown:

Table 2: Presentation Breakdown

Component	Weight
Participation	10 %
Presentation	15 %

### 3.2.2 Assignments (25%)

There will be two assignments; the assignment with the highest grade will be worth 15 and the other assignment worth 10%. Details of the assignment and due dates are TBA.

## 3.3 Final Exam

Students not writing a paper will be required to write a final exam worth 50% of their grade. This exam will be held during the regular examination period in April, with a date TBA.

## 4 Reading

There is no required textbook for this course. However, the following books are a good reference source. [To be updated]

Wooldridge, Jeffery M., *Econometric Analysis of Cross Section and Panel Data*. Cengage Learning.

Joshua D. Angrist and Jorn-Steffen Pischke. *Mostly Harmless Econometrics: An Empiricists Companion*. Princeton University Press, 1 edition, December 2008.

## 5 Important Information

Important information for students regarding the Ethics Review process, Access/Disability, Academic Honesty/Integrity, Student Conduct, and Religious Observance Days is available on the CCAS webpage (see Reports, Initiatives, Documents):

[http://www.yorku.ca/secretariat/senate\\_cte\\_main\\_pages/ccas.htm](http://www.yorku.ca/secretariat/senate_cte_main_pages/ccas.htm)

### 5.1 The departments guidelines for deferred standing

Can be found at [http://dept.econ.yorku.ca/undergraduate/Deferred\\_Standing1.pdf](http://dept.econ.yorku.ca/undergraduate/Deferred_Standing1.pdf)