

York University
Department of Economics

**ECON 7100: Advanced Topics in
Microeconomic Research - Fall 2017**

Course Information

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Office hours: Wednesday 1:00-2:30 or by appointment

Lecture hours: Monday 8:30am - 11.30am at VH 1152A

Course Description

This is a Ph.D. level topics course preparing you for empirical research in microeconomics. The course will cover some basic skills of conducting empirical research, such as identifying an interesting economic issue, writing a good literature review, finding available data and choosing an appropriate model for investigation. Since it is a small class, part of the course will be organized to fit individual needs of starting your own research. For example, you may use one component of the course to get started with your third-year project or write your first research proposal.

Course work and evaluation

1. Final exam (40%)

A close-book final exam to be written in class. I will discuss the details of the exam in class.

2. Assignment (30%)

Details of the assignment and due dates are TBA.

3. Presentation and Research Proposal (30%)

This component requires the student finding an interesting economic issue, identifying three to five important empirical studies surrounding that issue, choosing one paper to present in class, and writing a literature review. Your review should be no more than three pages.

For students who choose to develop this component further into a research proposal or even a preliminary study, the **alternative course evaluation scheme** can be: this component 60% and final 40%. The research proposal requires a literature review, potential data set(s) and econometric method. The students are encouraged to include descriptive analysis and preliminary estimates if working on an available data set.

This component will be divided into steps and deadlines will be set for each step. It is very important to follow the deadlines. Penalty will be imposed on missed deadline.

Books and reading list

There is no required textbook for this course. However, I would highly recommend the following two books as good reference not only for this course but more for your own research.

Wooldridge, Jeffery M., *Econometric Analysis of Cross Section and Panel Data*. Cengage Learning. [You definitely need this book if you decide to work on empirical micro]

Joshua D. Angrist and Jorn-Steffen Pischke. *Mostly Harmless Econometrics: An Empiricists Companion*. Princeton University.

Incomplete Reading List (more will be given as the course progressing)

Xianghong Li and Xinlei Zhao, 2016. "Strategic Default Induced by Loan Modification Programs".

David Card, Jochen Kluge and Andrea Weber, 2015. "What Works? A Meta Analysis of Recent Active Labor Market Program Evaluation".

Robert Lalonde, "Evaluating the Econometric Evaluations of Training Programs," *American Economic Review*, Vol. 76, pp. 604-620,

Rajeev H. Dehejia and Sadek Wahba, "Causal Effects in Nonexperimental Studies: Reevaluating the Evaluation of Training Programs," *Journal of the American Statistical Association*, Vol. 94, No. 448 (December 1999), pp. 1053-1062,

Jeffrey Smith and Petra Todd, 2005. "Does matching overcome LaLonde's critique of nonexperimental estimators?" *Journal of Econometrics*, Elsevier, vol. 125(1-2), pages 305-353.

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%20cte%20main%20pages/ccas.htm)

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%20Standing1.pdf)