



Econ3376G 670
Special Topics: Direct Research in Economics and Finance
Summer 2026

Instructor: See Course Outline Below
Email: See Course Outline Below

Course Information

Mode of Instruction: Online Asynchronous

Calendar Description:

Guidance on an economics / finance topic (preselected), research methodology, and writing of a research report leading to a research paper

Pre-requisite(s): Economics 2223A/B

Extra Information: 3 lecture hours.

Course Weight: 0.50

Breadth: CATEGORY A

Subject Code: ECONOMIC

Notice: Unless you have either the requisites for this course (fulfilment of pre-requisites, no anti-requisite conflicts), or special permission from your Dean to enrol in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Economics 3376G 670
Special Topics: Directed Research in Economics and Finance
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Instructors: Natalia Bezmaternykh nbezmate@uwo.ca
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Office Hours (Virtual): By appointment (Please use UWO email address when emailing the instructors, so it does not end up in spam.)

Calendar Description

Guidance on an economics / finance topic (preselected), research methodology, and writing of a research report leading to a research paper

Mode of Instruction and Course Materials

This course is online, with a few optional synchronous sessions for introductory lectures, office hours, group work, and presentations; the remainder is conducted through online materials and instructor support. OWL (Brightspace) will be the primary mode of course transmission and other resources will be based on the needs of the course. No textbook is required for this course.

Technical Requirements

This course will require the following (with some optional items):

- Stable high speed internet connection
- Webcam
- Microphone
- Printer / scanner (Optional)
- A quiet space to take part in learning activities, such as office hours, group discussion, paper presentations, etc.)

Students can use R or Stata for the main empirical analysis for this course:

- R base <<https://www.r-project.org/>>; RStudio <<https://posit.co/download/rstudio-desktop/>>
- Stata: Scotty server (access and instruction will be provided in the first introductory lecture)

Overview

This course is designed to assist students in the understanding, knowledge, and preparation of research projects and introduce empirical projects in economics. Students will be supplied with data relating to some issue in economics, and a preliminary list of hypotheses or questions to be addressed. Students are expected to expand the range of hypotheses, conduct analysis, and write a research report. Students may also propose their own research topics, subject to instructor approval for suitability and feasibility.

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Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes

This course covers the basic elements of research projects through empirical projects in economics. This course will provide an opportunity for students to develop abilities required to

1. explain the importance and relevance of the selected research topic;
2. understand and review literature in the selected research topic;
3. develop testable hypotheses;
4. identify and model key theoretical relationships;
5. conduct empirical analysis, including evaluating selected data sources, providing descriptive statistics, implementing proper estimation and inference, and interpreting the results;
6. structure and write a report.

Methods of Evaluation

- Self reflection: 15%
- Participation: 15%
- Proposal (June 24th) and first draft (July 6th): 25%
- Presentation (July 29th): 10%
- Final report (July 31st): 35%

The evaluation methods and the requirements will be discussed in the first introductory lecture.

Notes:

1. *The weights are subject to adjustment respecting maintenance of academic standards and fairness, academic integrity, academic consideration or accommodation, students' achievement, technology issues, or other extenuating factors.*
2. *Final course grades are subject to review and approval by the Dean, and may be adjusted by the instructor and/or the School of Management, Economics, & Mathematics to account for academic considerations or accommodations, unanticipated events, extenuating circumstances, or other relevant factors.*
3. *Due dates are tentative and subject to change depending on class progress, academic consideration/accommodation unanticipated events, instructor discretion or otherwise.*

Email Communication and Office Hours

Students are expected to follow appropriate etiquette in all communications.

- Emails should include a clear subject line indicating the course and section. Please allow up to 48 hours for a response. If a message is urgent and requires prompt attention, kindly indicated in the subject line.
- Office hours are typically held online (zoom or Microsoft Teams). Please refer to the "Office Hours" page on OWL for details.
- If students wish to seek appointments beyond office hours, they can email the instructor to set up a convenient time.

King's University College General Course Policies 2025-2026

1. Academic Accommodations, Consideration for Absences

Academic Accommodation (Accessibility)

Accessibility Services works to ensure that academic programs are accessible to all students, and supports students who may have a condition related to, but not limited to, vision, hearing, mobility, different ways of learning, mental health, chronic illnesses, chronic pain, autism spectrum disorder, ADD/ADHD, and temporary conditions (beyond short-term academic consideration). Accessibility Services provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive assessment. The accommodation policy can be found here [Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#). Information on Accessibility Services at King's can be found [here](#).

Academic Consideration for Student Absence

If a student is unable to meet a course requirement due to substantial but temporary extenuating circumstances (medical or compassionate), they should follow the procedures below.

In some cases, where instructors have built flexibility into their assessments, this flexibility will already address consideration needs.

Requests for academic consideration should be directed to the Academic Advising Office of your faculty/college of registration. Requests must be made as soon as possible and no later than 48 hours after the missed assessment.

As a rule, documentation is required for academic consideration. For academic consideration requests on medical grounds, the Student Medical Certificate is available at [here](#).

Students are permitted one academic consideration request without supporting documentation per term per course. Instructors may designate one assessment per half-course weight as requiring formal supporting documentation. Please refer to the course outline for each course. For further information, please see:

<https://mykings.ca/intranet/app/#/academics/academic-advising/academic-consideration-requests-and-student-absence-portal>

Absences from Final Examinations

If you miss the Final Exam, contact the Academic Advising Office of your faculty/college of registration as soon as you are able to do so. They will assess your eligibility to write the Special Examination (the name given by the University to a makeup Final Exam).

You may also be eligible to write the Special Exam if you are in a “Multiple Exam Situation” (e.g., more than 2 exams in 23-hour period, or more than 3 exams in a 47-hour period).

If a student fails to write a scheduled Special Examination, the date of the next Special Examination (if granted) normally will be the scheduled date for the final exam the next time this course is offered. The maximum course load for that term will be reduced by the credit of the course(s) for which the final examination has been deferred. See the Academic Calendar for details https://academicsupport.uwo.ca/accessible_education/exams/index.html.

Religious Accommodation

Students should consult the University's list of recognized religious holidays, and should give notice in writing to the instructor and Academic Advising Office if a course requirement will be affected by a religious holiday/observance. Notice must be given as early as possible, and no later than two weeks prior to an examination, and one week prior to a midterm test date. It is the responsibility of such students to inform themselves concerning the work done in classes from which they are absent and to take appropriate action.

2. Support Services

Accessibility, Counselling and Student Development at King's University College:

<https://mykings.ca/intranet/app/#/student-supports-and-services>

Students experiencing emotional or mental health distress can access services at King's University College: <https://mykings.ca/intranet/app/#/student-supports-and-services/personal-counselling>

Good2talk is a good online and phone 24/7 resource for students and is available in English, Mandarin, and French: <https://good2talk.ca>, 1-866-925-5454

MentalHealth@Western provides a complete list of options about how to obtain help: <https://www.uwo.ca/health/psych/index.html>

Academic Support Services at King's University College:

<https://mykings.ca/intranet/app/#/academics/academic-advising>

GBSV Support:

King's is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence and providing compassionate support to anyone who has gone through these traumatic events. If you have experienced sexual or gender-based violence (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at: <https://mykings.ca/intranet/app/#/student-supports-and-services/campus-safety-and-reporting/gender-and-sexual-violence>

You can reach someone supports at Kings by emailing Care@kings.uwo.ca or calling 519-930-4640 to reach a social worker who can offer help.

You can also reach Western's Gender-Based Violence & Survivor Support Case Manager by [email](#) or by calling 519-661-3568.

See also https://www.uwo.ca/health/student_support/survivor_support/get-help.html

University Students' Council offers many valuable support services for students, including the health insurance plan: <http://westernusc.ca/services/>

3. Statement on Use of Electronic Devices

Use of Electronic Devices: Unless explicitly stated otherwise, you are not allowed to have a cell phone, or any other electronic device, with you during tests or examinations. Unauthorized possession of such a device during a test or examination constitutes an academic offence.

Use of Laptops, Tablets, and Smartphones in the Classroom: King's University College at Western University acknowledges the integration of new technologies and learning methods into the curriculum. The use of electronic devices such as laptop computers, tablets, or smartphones can contribute to student engagement and effective learning. At the same time, King's recognizes that instructors and students share jointly the responsibility to establish and maintain a respectful classroom environment conducive to learning.

The use of electronic devices by students during lectures, seminars, labs, etc., shall be for matters related to the course at hand only. Students found to be using electronic devices for purposes not directly related to the class may be subject to sanctions under the Student Code of Conduct; see <https://mykings.ca/intranet/app/#/student-supports-and-services/campus-safety-and-reporting/student-code-of-conduct>

Inappropriate use of electronics (e.g., laptops, tablets, smartphones) during lectures, seminars, labs, etc., creates a significant disruption. As a consequence, instructors may choose to limit the use of electronic devices in these settings. In addition, in order to provide a safe classroom environment, students attending in-person class sessions are strongly advised to operate laptops with batteries rather than power cords.

4. Statement on Academic Offences

King's is committed to academic integrity. Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, is posted at [here](#).

It is expected that students will submit work that is truly their own, completed without external assistance (human or artificial) except as explicitly permitted by the course instructor. Check with you instructor on what tools, including generative AI (ChatGPT, translation tools, grammar-checking tools) are permitted in the course. Because a tool is permitted in one course, that does not mean it is permitted in other courses.

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system; see <https://elearningtoolkit.uwo.ca/tools/OriginalityReports-TurnItIn.html>.

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating.

5. Copyright of Course Material

Lectures and course materials, including PowerPoint presentations, tests, outlines, and similar materials are protected by copyright. Faculty members are the exclusive owner of copyright in those materials they create. Students may take notes and make copies for their own use. Students may not allow others to reproduce or distribute lecture notes and course materials publicly (whether or not a fee is charged) without the express written consent of a faculty member.

Unauthorized sharing of class content is subject to academic discipline.

Similarly, students own copyright in their own original papers and exam essays. If a faculty member wishes to post a student's answers or papers on the course website, they should ask for the student's written permission.

6. Use of Recordings

Participants in this course are not permitted to record the sessions, except where recording is an approved accommodation and/or the participant has the prior written permission of the instructor. Unauthorized recording and/or sharing of class content is subject to academic discipline.

7. Policy on Attendance

Any student who, in the opinion of the instructor, is absent too frequently from class or laboratory periods in any course, will be reported to the Dean of the Faculty offering the course, after due warning has been given. On the recommendation of the department concerned, and with the permission of the Dean of that Faculty, the student will be debarred from taking the regular examination in the course.