



**Econ4404E 570
Senior Thesis
Fall/Winter 2025-2026**

Instructor: Faculty members of Economics and Finance.

Course Information

Mode of Instruction: In Person

Calendar Description:

Individual guidance in the selection of a topic, research methodology and the writing of a thesis.

Pre-requisite(s): Economics 3313E, Economics 3378A/B, or Economics 3385A/B.

Course Weight: 1.00

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 4405E (570)

Senior Thesis

Fall 2025-Winter 2026

Instructors/Supervisors: Faculty members of Economics and Finance.

Course Description and Objectives

The course serves multiple purposes. It provides an opportunity for students to embark on a research project, utilizing the theoretical and empirical tools acquired from the honors economics program. Moreover, it provides students with hands-on experience in effectively presenting their research findings in a structured and academically rigorous manner. These skills will be put into practice at the department's Economics Finance Research Group seminars. Guided by faculty supervision, students navigate through the process of selecting a research topic, identifying a suitable research methodology, and formally presenting their results. Their final thesis project entails a comprehensive paper that includes an introduction to the research problem, a thorough literature review, a novel theoretical or empirical model, results derived from this model, and conclusions that may influence policy decisions.

Tentative Schedule

Lecture meetings	Date	Time
(1) About this course (important)	September 5, 2025	11:30 AM - 2:30 PM
(2) Assignment 1 presentation	October 3, 2025	11:30 AM - 2:30 PM
(3) Brown-bag seminar (<i>present in class</i>)	January 16, 2026	11:30 AM - 2:30 PM
(4) Presentation of the near final draft	March 27, 2026	11:30 AM - 2:30 PM

Evaluation

Assessment	* Tentative Date	*Weight
Assignment 1: Research proposal (<i>present in class</i>)	October 3, 2025	10%
Assignment 2: First draft (<i>email to supervisor</i>)	January 9, 2026	15%
Brown-bag seminar (<i>present in class</i>)	January 16, 2026	5%
Written near final draft (<i>upload to OWL</i>)	March 20, 2026	15%
*Presentation of near final draft (<i>present in class</i>)	March 27, 2026	
*Final thesis (<i>upload to OWL</i>)	April 6, 2026	45%
Participation (<i>interact with supervisor</i>)	Ongoing	10%

***Notes:**

- Students must give their presentation of the near final draft AND submit the final thesis to pass this course. If you do not give a presentation of the near final draft or do not submit the final thesis, your maximum grade in this course will be 49%, and you will not receive course credit.**
- The weights are subject to adjustment respecting maintenance of academic standards and fairness regarding circumstances affecting one or all students, academic integrity, academic consideration/accommodation, students' achievement, technology issues, or other extenuating factors.
- Final course grades are subject to review, approval by the Dean, and calibration and reweighting (adjustment up or down in the same manner for all students) by the instructors and/or the School of Management, Economics, and Mathematics to account for the difficulty level of the assessments, academic consideration/accommodation, unanticipated events that may affect students' performance, or otherwise.

(4) Due dates are tentative and subject to changes depending on class progress, academic consideration/accommodation, unanticipated events, instructor discretion, or otherwise.

Course Assessments

1. Assignment 1: Research proposal

In September and early October, students will identify a research question of interest and create a research proposal. Students should reference at least two scholarly journal articles that relate to this research proposal, and students should equip themselves with data sources and their availability based on the University's subscription at the time of research proposal. Students present their research proposal to the class and professors for discussion and feedback. Please see the course website on OWL for additional details. Students should also feel free to contact professors for guidance.

2. Assignment 2: First draft

Over the fall term, students will work on a first draft of the thesis and email their supervising professor a first draft by the due date mentioned above. This draft is expected to have at a minimum a more complete discussion of the research question, near final literature review, advanced draft of the data and methods, and some preliminary results. Please see the course website on OWL for additional details.

3. Brown-bag seminar

Students present their research based on the first draft to the class and professors for discussion and feedback. Please see the course website on OWL for additional details.

4. Written and presentation of near final draft

Following the January assignment 2 submission, you will work to complete your near final draft. A near final draft should be submitted on OWL. You will present this near final draft to the class and all professors.

5. Final thesis

Following the presentation of your near final draft, you will incorporate any comments/suggestion in your final thesis. This final version of your thesis should be submitted on OWL by the due date mentioned above.

6. Participation

Following the October class meeting, you will be assigned a supervising professor. You are expected to meet regularly with your supervisor and make regular reports on the progress of your thesis. Your participation grade will be partly based on your meetings with your supervisor. You can also contact other professors should they have particular expertise that may be of help in the completion of your thesis.

Academic Integrity:

- It is expected that all the work you submit will be your own.
- Academic integrity policies at Western require that instructors forward to their department chair or director any evidence of academic offenses.
- Cheating is taken seriously to protect the integrity of our measures of your learning.
- Students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site:
http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf
- Instructors reserve the right to seek additional clarification about any submitted work (e.g. explain a solution) as part of any assessment.

King's is committed to fostering a culture of professionalism, honesty, and academic integrity, and all members of our community—faculty, staff, and students—have a role to play in promoting an ethical learning environment. Furthermore, through the work they submit for academic evaluation, students develop important habits of critical thinking, independent inquiry, and creativity. Thus, 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.

Policies:***Email and communication policy:***

Students must use their uwo email address when emailing the instructors so it can be verified and does not end up in spam. Subject line must include course and section number and should include the topic of the email. Emails need to be respectful and concise listing your issue, what you have done to solve it, and what you hope the faculty member can help you with.

Accommodation policies:

Students with disabilities work with accessibility services which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. The accommodation policy can be found here [academic accommodation for students with disabilities](#).

Religious accommodation:

Students should consult the University's list of recognized religious holidays, and should give reasonable notice in writing, prior to the holiday, to the Instructor and an Academic Counsellor if their course requirements will be affected by a religious observance.

Support services:

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

<https://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/student-services/>

Students experiencing emotional or mental health distress can access services at King's University College

<http://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/campus-services/student-support-services/personal-counselling/>

Mental Health@Western provides a complete list of options to obtain help:

https://www.uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/

Academic Support Services at King's University College:

<http://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/academic-support/>

University Students' Council offers valuable support services for students, including health insurance plans:

<https://westernusc.ca/your-services/>

Copyright:

Course materials, including PowerPoint presentations and outlines, 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 the course materials publicly (whether or not a fee is charged) without the express written consent of a faculty member. Similarly, students own copyright in their own original papers. If a faculty member is interested in posting students' papers on the course web site, he/she should ask for the students' written permission.

Use of Recordings:

Remote learning sessions for this course may be recorded. The data captured during these recordings may include your image, voice, chat logs, and personal identifiers (name displayed on the screen). The recordings will be used for educational purposes related to this course. The recordings may be disclosed to other individuals under special circumstances. Please contact the instructor if you have any concerns related to session recordings. **Participants in this course are NOT permitted to record the sessions**, unless it is an approved accommodation, or the participant has the prior written permission of the instructors.

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 https://www.kings.uwo.ca/kings/assets/File/currentStudents/courses_enrollment/exams_and_tests/SMC-Feb-2025.pdf.

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://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/academic_consideration_Sep24.pdf

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 (under [Special Examinations](#)).

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://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/student-services/>

Students experiencing emotional or mental health distress can access services at King's University College:

<http://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/campus-services/student-support-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/mental_wellbeing/

Academic Support Services at King's University College:

<https://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/academic-resources/>

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://www.kings.uwo.ca/about-kings/safe-campus/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.

Further supports can be found on this website: <https://www.kings.uwo.ca/about-kings/safe-campus/gender-and-sexual-violence/>

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://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/student-affairs/code-of-student-conduct1/>

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 http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

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/Originality Reports - 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.