



Econ3398G 570
Research Seminar in Economics and Finance
Winter 2026

Instructor: Renfang Tian
Email: rtian@uwo.ca

Course Information

Mode of Instruction:

Calendar Description:

This course focuses on an in-depth discussion of research articles in various Economics and Finance research areas. It will be jointly taught by faculty from the School. The professors will provide the suggested research articles separately based on their expertise.

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

Anti-requisite(s): Economics 3313E.

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 3398G (570)
RESEARCH SEMINAR
Winter 2026

Instructor: Renfang Tian

Email: rtian2@uwo.ca

(Please use UWO email address when emailing the instructor, so it does not end up in spam.)

Course Materials and Technical Requirements

- Referred Textbooks (not required):
 - *Introduction to Econometrics*, by James H. Stock and Mark W. Watson, 3rd edition;
 - *Introductory Econometrics: A modern approach*, by Jeffrey M. Wooldridge, 4th edition;
 - *Statistics for Business and Economics*, by P Newbold et al, 8th Edition.
- Software:
 - R (Students are expected to bring a reliable fully charged laptop that meets the system requirements for R to (at least some of the) lectures). We will use R base < <https://www.r-project.org/> > and RStudio < <https://posit.co/download/rstudio-desktop/> >. Instructions for downloading and installing the software will be provided in OWL.
 - STATA (You will be added to the remote server which hosts Stata. Here is the instructions on connecting: <https://www.kings.uwo.ca/its/support/remote-application-server-access/>)

OWL Page, Teaching Methodology and Expectations

The course is in person. Course components and announcements will be posted on OWL. It is the students' responsibility to check the course website frequently for any updates on course materials and information of upcoming events. Students are expected to interact regularly with each other and with the instructor. We will all be responsible for contributing to the growth of our learning community through our participation in all course activities and assessments.

Course Objectives and the tentative schedule

The course introduces ways to conduct research in applied economics, by using the following approaches:

- Review on fundamental econometrics (Week 1)
- Introduction to panel data analysis (Week 2 – Week 4)
 - Introduction to panel data basics;
 - Fixed and random effects;
 - Application
- Replication exercises (Week 5 – Week 7)
- Research paper development (Week 8 – Week 13)

Evaluation

- Assignment 1 (10%): on fundamental econometrics and panel data analysis (tentatively due at 11:59pm on Jan 30; submissions are accepted until 11:59pm the following Monday without penalty)
- Assignment 2 (35%): on replication exercises and research proposal (tentatively due at 11:59pm on Feb 27; submissions are accepted until 11:59pm the following Monday without penalty)

- Term paper (30%): due at 11:59 on Apr. 9th; submissions are accepted until 11:59pm the following Monday without penalty
- Term paper presentation (15%): recorded videos
- Participation/attendance (10%): in-class

NOTE: students **must complete the term paper AND the presentation** to pass this course. If you do not complete the term paper or the presentation, your maximum grade in this course will be 49%, and you will not receive course credit

If a student misses any assignment(s),

- the instructor must be notified within 24 hours, **and**
 - the student must submit their one self-report or an academic consideration request with proper supporting documentation(s) to Academic Advising (see policy page below),
- so that the weight of the missed assignment(s) will be transferred to the term paper; otherwise, the student will be given a 0 for the missed assignment(s).

The lectures will be interactive, and students are expected to attend and participate regularly. The grade component will be calculated as follows. If a student answers less than 80% of the in-class exercise questions, the mark will be $18.75y$, where y is the proportion of all questions the student answered. For example, if you answer 70% of the questions, your participation/attendance mark will be $18.75 * 70\% = 13.125$ out of 15; if you answer 80%, your mark will be 15. **There are no make-ups or exceptions for missed participation/attendance for any reason, as it is already taken into consideration in the marking scheme.**

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.

Intellectual Property Statement

Course content created by a faculty member is considered the faculty member's intellectual property; it should not be distributed, shared in any public domain, or sold by a student or other third party without prior written consent of the faculty member. Sharing, posting, selling or distributing this material outside your personal use in this course is considered to be an infringement of intellectual property rights.

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 your 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.