

Senior Research Seminar in Economics
2018-2019
Economics EC4400E-001
Department of Economics

September 2018

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- II. What and Why?
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- IV. How? Assignments/Steps to Complete Your Research
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I. The Instructional Team

Economics 4400 is a two-semester course for fourth year students in Economics Honors modules. The Course Committee consists of four faculty members (the Faculty Team), three specialized librarians, and a graduate teaching assistant. In addition, students can and should seek advice from other faculty members who have expertise in their areas of interest.

The Faculty Team & Course Committee

<p>Prof. Nail Kashaev SSC 4044 Phone: x87346 nkashaev@uwo.ca Office hours: TBA or by appointment</p>	<p>Prof. Chris Robinson SSC 85047 robinson@uwo.ca Office hours: TBA, or by appointment</p>	<p>Prof. Amanda Michaud SSC 4058 Phone: x85270 amichau9@uwo.ca Office hours: TBA, or by appointment</p>	<p>Prof. Al Slivinski <i>(Coordinator)</i> SSC 4089 Phone: x85294 aslivins@uwo.ca Office hours: M,W, 2- 3pm or by appointment</p>
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Data Librarian

Liz Hill
Data Services Librarian
Map and Data Centre
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Taylor Economics Librarian

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Teaching and Learning Librarian
Taylor Library
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SSC 4046
Pvu6@uwo.ca
Available by appointment

Undergraduate inquiries: 519-661-3507 or SSC Room 4075 or econugrd@uwo.ca

II. Course Description

This course is designed to help you develop the skills to carry out an original research project through learning by doing. Subject to the approval of, and in consultation with, the Faculty Team, you will select a question on a topic you find interesting, choose your approach and methodology for answering that question. You can do this alone or with a partner, and your work will culminate in a paper that reports on your research.

Over the year you will be required to submit 6 preliminary written reports, culminating in the final draft of your paper as the 7th. You will in addition have to make 2 oral presentations to the entire class. A schedule of all this is provided below. This structure is designed to help you stay on track, but also to give you practice in explaining ideas clearly and concisely – a very useful skill. Useful and important information is available on the course OWL website and from time to time will be circulated by email (to your Western email address). Be sure to check the OWL website and your Western email regularly.

The Course Committee will endeavour to help you with all aspects of the project. We will provide class presentations, hands-on demos, and informal consultation and feedback throughout the year. While we will provide support, this is *your* research project. It is up to you to take charge, set your direction, and carry the project through to completion. Your success will depend on the initiative, resourcefulness, effort and skill that you devote to your project.

Research is a collective endeavour. We strongly encourage you to interact with your classmates so as to generate positive externalities and form a community of scholars. We think this sort of interaction is sufficiently important that there is an award given for the student who contributes to it the most at the end of the year (see Student Choice Award below).

Research involves the following steps: finding a topic, reading the relevant literature, developing a research strategy, accessing and analysing relevant data, writing a first draft, and revising the draft to complete the final research paper. Young scholars benefit from systematically following these steps. We have structured the course and its assignments accordingly.

Students are required to submit all assignments and meet all deadlines, and to consult with and keep the Faculty Team informed of their research progress. To facilitate communication, each student (or partnership) will be assigned one member of the Faculty Team as primary supervisor. You are expected to take the initiative to communicate with your supervisor on a regular basis (we suggest *at least* every two weeks).

Within these parameters, you have considerable flexibility to follow your interests and develop your own research project.

III. Requirements and Assessment

The formal requirements of EC 4400 are:

- To complete six written assignments on your research (the topic proposal; the research plan and literature survey; two progress reports; the draft paper; and the final paper—**see below for descriptions and due dates**)
- To consult with and keep in touch with the Faculty Team and your main supervisor
- To make presentations of your work to the class
- To provide feedback to fellow students on their presentations and on their papers.
- To attend and participate in all class meetings

The course mark will be calculated as follows:

10%	Topic proposal and presentation
5%	PR1: Data
15%	PR2: Research plan and literature survey
5%	PR3: Final update
20%	Draft paper and presentation
10%	Written commentary on another student's draft paper
35%	Final paper and response to commentary

Note: *A mark on the final paper of at least 60 is required to receive a mark of 60 or higher in the course. If the final paper's mark is below 60, the course mark will be the course average (calculated as above) or 58, whichever is lower.*

Working with a **partner** has many advantages, and we strongly encourage it. If you choose to work with a partner, you and your partner will receive the same marks on everything *except* the commentary on another draft paper, which must be done individually.

Late Penalties

Due dates for the assignments are shown in the timetable below. Grade penalties (out of 100) for late submissions will be as follows:

1-24 hours late	-10 points
24-48 hours late	-30 points
48-72 hours late	-50 points
>72 hours late	no credit

IV. Course Schedule and Detailed Instructions

Schedule

The *scheduled* class times are **Tues. 4:30-5:30** and **Thurs. 4:30-6:30** in UCC 54A.

However, note the following:

1. We will not meet on every scheduled day.
2. On some days, class meetings will occur in other rooms.
3. On some days that we do meet, the class may extend beyond the scheduled time.
4. We may need to meet on other days, also.

A schedule of all planned class meetings and events, plus all deadlines, is attached to this document, titled '**Econ 4400E 2018/19 Detailed Schedule**'. **Be sure to add all the class meeting times to your calendar, and keep all T, Th class times available even if no meeting is shown in the timetable**, in case we need to add a session.

Our classroom has been booked for the entire academic year, so you can use it when the class is not meeting to meet with your co-author, consult with classmates, and practise presentations.

A detailed set of instructions for preparing and submitting all of the 'deliverables' required for this course is also provided in another attached document, titled '**Instructions for all Submissions**'.

V. Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, students will be able to conduct independent, original economic research. Specific learning outcomes include being able to:

- formulate a clear research question
- identify and synthesize literature relevant to a research question
- design and carry out a plan to investigate a research question
- analyze data using appropriate software and empirical methods
- apply economic concepts, models and methods to address a research question
- interpret research findings and draw appropriate conclusions
- present research in a professional manner, both orally and in writing
- evaluate critically the quality of one's own research as well as that of others
- give and receive critical feedback, both orally and in writing, in a constructive, professional manner

VI. Everything Else You Always Wanted to Know

Writing Dos and Don'ts

The above-mentioned 'Instructions for all Submissions' document contains instructions and advice specific to Ec 4400. In addition, you may consult the **Guidelines for Essay Courses** posted on the course website. The **Guidelines** contain links to writing resources and assistance, information on how to cite sources, information on essay formats and styles, etc.

Plagiarism:

All your work for this course should reflect your own work and should properly cite and reference all sources. Any instances of plagiarism will be **severely** penalized. It is your responsibility to know what PLAGIARISM is and NOT do it! For more information on plagiarism, see the **Guidelines for Essay Courses**. If you are unsure about what constitutes plagiarism, please do not hesitate to ask the Course Team.

Presentations—Audio Visuals

Students should use slides for their presentations prepared with PowerPoint or some similar software program. Whatever software you use, difficulties with projecting your slides seems to be minimized if they are converted to a pdf file. The classroom is equipped with AV equipment.

Statistical Software

Students who undertake projects involving empirical work are free to use whatever statistical software they prefer. **Stata** is the **recommended software package** because the Course Committee is familiar with it, it is well suited to research topics usually undertaken by students in 4400, and it is available on the SSC network. Phuong will run sessions specifically on using Stata in Ec 4400.

An introduction to using Stata on the SSC network is available at <http://ssts.uwo.ca/support/helpdocuments/statistics/index.html>

Print copies of the full set of Stata manuals are on reserve at Weldon Library. The Map and Data Centre at Weldon has copies of Stata manuals and publications that are available for use within the Centre. Much Stata documentation is available online through its HELP command, and there are Stata sessions on the course schedule.

Material from Previous Years

Selected papers from previous years are available on the course website. These can give you an idea of the standards expected and of the variety of approaches used in recent years. These materials are for you to use for purposes related to Ec4400E; they should NOT be shared or circulated to anyone else.

Helpful Materials from Weldon

Weldon Library maintains a web page for students in Economics. It is full of *extremely* useful information and links. Check it out:

- <http://guides.lib.uwo.ca/economics>

Awards & Prizes for EC 4400 Students

Two awards are given each year to students in Ec4400E. The award winners receive a certificate and book prize, not to mention *eternal glory!*

Mark K. Inman Senior Essay Prize: Awarded to the author(s) of the final paper that is judged to be the best in Economics 4400E. It is given in memory of Dr. Mark K. Inman, one of the founding members of the Department of Economics and Chair of the Department from 1939-1962. With the author's or authors' consent, the winner of the Mark K. Inman Senior Essay Prize is automatically included in the [*Western Undergraduate Economic Review*](#).

Student Choice Award: Awarded to a full-time student enrolled in Economics 4400E who has made the greatest contribution to the class and is most helpful to other students in the course. Students enrolled in Economics 4400E will nominate candidates and select the winner by secret ballot. In the event of a tie, the Faculty Team will decide the winner. Nomination forms are available from the Department of Economics and must be submitted by March 15.

VII. Dos and Don'ts of Data

Do:

- Start early; right now is not too soon
- Have a firm idea of what you want to do
- After choosing a topic, ensure that data are available in the format and at the level that you need
- Recognize that confidentiality restrictions may restrict access to variables that you want to use
- Be prepared to have to pay for data if it is coming from outside the university
- Visit the Data Resources Library if you need assistance in locating data
- Visit the Data Resources Library earlier rather than later in the process
- Try to have your topic firmed up and the necessary data lined up and ready to use by the Christmas break – it will make your second term much happier and less stressful
- Check variable definitions and coding: e.g., what is “full-time work”
- Be prepared to change your topic if data are not available
- Be prepared for delays in obtaining data: if data are to be released by Statistics Canada in January, they might not come out until July
- Expect delays in getting data loaded into IDLS: it's not a five-second procedure to load a file – **LET US KNOW EARLY if you need data**

Don't:

- Put off finding your topic
- Find a paper dealing with one country, and expect to find the exact same data and be able to replicate the analysis exactly the same way for another country (e.g., Canada)
- Expect that you will have the same access to data as other authors: they may have personal ties to the organizations providing them with access to the data
- Assume that the data will be available
- Expect definitive data. Data concerning politically sensitive topics (e.g., softwood lumber) may be tinged by the political slant of the organization releasing the data, or may be suppressed
- Expect that the Data Resources Library will be able to drop what it's doing and service your requirements immediately
- Automatically believe what you find on the web
- Assume that the Data Resources Library has the data and just won't give it to you – if we can get you the data, we will. If we can't, asking us each week won't change the situation.

VIII. Registration and Prerequisites**Registration**

You are responsible for ensuring you are registered in the correct courses. If you are not registered in this course, the Department will not release any of your marks until your registration is corrected. You may check your timetable by using the Login on the Student Services website at <https://student.uwo.ca>. If you notice a problem, please contact your home Faculty Academic Counsellor immediately.

Prerequisite Note

The prerequisites for this course are **Economics 2223A/B**, **Economics 2261A/B**, and **Economics 2221A/B** (**Economics 2220A/B** for students in the Economics, Politics and Philosophy Honors Specialization). **Economics 3388A/B** is a pre- or corequisite. Students must be in their 4th year of an Honors Specialization module.

You are responsible for ensuring that you have successfully completed all course prerequisites and corequisites, and that you have not taken an anti-requisite course. Lack of prerequisites or corequisites may not be used as a basis for appeal. If you are found to be ineligible for a course, you may be removed from it at any time and you will receive no adjustment to your fees. This decision cannot be appealed.

If you find that you do not have the course prerequisites, it is in your best interest to drop the course well before the end of the add/drop period. Your prompt attention to this matter will not only help protect your academic record, but will ensure that spaces become available for students who require the course in question for graduation.

Please Note

Department Policies for 2018-2019

Remember that the University expects all students to take responsibility for their own Academic Programs. Students should also check their registration to ensure they are enrolled in the correct courses.

1. Guidelines and policies for the Faculty of Social Science and the Department of Economics are posted online in the current Western Academic Calendar at: <http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca>.
2. Students must familiarize themselves with the “Rules of Conduct for Examinations” http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/exam/administration.pdf.
3. **Cheating as an academic offence:** Students are responsible for understanding what it means to “cheat”. The Department of Economics treats cheating incidents very seriously and will investigate any suspect behavior. Students found guilty will incur penalties that could include a failing grade or being barred from future registration in other Economics courses or programs. The University may impose further penalties such as a notation on an official academic transcript, suspension or expulsion.
4. **Plagiarism:** Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. When taking an idea/passage from another author, it must be acknowledged with quotation marks where appropriate and referenced with footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is an academic offence (see Scholastic Discipline for Undergraduate Students in the Western Academic Calendar at http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_20).

Western University uses software to check for plagiarism and students may be required to electronically submit their work. Those found guilty will be penalized as noted in point 3.

5. It is a Department of Economics policy that **NO** assignments be dated, stamped or accepted by staff. Students must submit assignments in class or to the instructor during office hours.
6. When appealing a mark, students should refer to the Student Academic Appeals section in the current Western Academic Calendar at: http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_14. Please note the relevant deadlines.

The Department will not consider an appeal unless an attempt has been made to settle the matter with the instructor first. Students who remain dissatisfied with the outcome may proceed with a written appeal (e-mails are not acceptable) to the Undergraduate Director in Economics, stating the reasons for their appeal. A checklist is provided at:

http://economics.uwo.ca/undergraduate/program_counselling/responsibilities_policies.html#appeals.

7. Systematic adjustments of a class grade distribution (either up or down) can occur in Economics courses. The fact that grades have been adjusted is **not** grounds for an appeal.
8. Note the following add and drop deadlines:

Deadline to add a full year course:

Friday September 14, 2018

Deadline to drop a full year course:

Friday November 30, 2018

9. Faculty of Social Science policy states that oversleeping or misreading an exam schedule is NOT grounds for a makeup. This rule applies to midterm and final exams in the Department of Economics.

Policy Regarding Makeup Tests and Final Examinations

*Academic accommodation will **not** be granted automatically on request. Students **must** demonstrate by documentation that there are **compelling** medical or compassionate grounds before academic accommodation will be considered.*

Students who proceed to write a test or examination must be prepared to accept the mark. Rewriting tests or examinations, or having their value reweighted on a retroactive basis, is **not** permitted. Students must also book travel arrangements **AFTER** final exam dates have been posted as they must not conflict with test or final exams.

Unless medically incapable of doing so, students must notify their instructor prior to the test date or at least within **24 hours** when requesting a makeup exam. Failure to follow this procedure may result in denial of academic accommodation and a grade of zero. Students should also set up an appointment as soon as possible to meet with their instructor. If the instructor is not available, send an email message, copying the Undergraduate Coordinator at econugrd@uwo.ca. **Notifying instructors of a missed exam does not automatically entitle students to a makeup.**

Students who seek a makeup exam must also provide supporting medical or other relevant documentation that their absence from a scheduled test or exam is beyond their control. Documentation should be submitted to the Academic Counselling Office of the student's *home* Faculty **as soon as possible (preferably within 24 hours of the scheduled test)**. Failure to follow this procedure may result in denial of academic accommodation and a grade of zero. If the documentation submitted is not acceptable, students will receive a zero for the missed test.

For medical illnesses, students may consult Student Health Services and request a Student Medical Certificate from the physician. If assessed by an off-campus doctor, students must obtain a certificate from his/her office at the time of the visit/assessment. The off-campus medical certificate form must also be used and can be found at: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf. Notes stating "For Medical Reasons" are not considered sufficient.

For religious or compassionate circumstances, students should ask their Academic Counsellor what documentation to provide. If documentation is judged sufficient, the Academic Counsellor will issue a Recommendation for a Special Examination (a single form for midterms or a triple-color form for final exams). Once students have this form, they must contact their instructor as soon as possible to make arrangements. Even if approved by their Academic Counsellor, there is no guarantee that students will be allowed to write the makeup test/exam.

For final examinations, students need to seek permission from their *home* Faculty Counsellor, Instructor, and the Department Undergraduate Director. Failure to follow this procedure may result in a grade of zero. Students must ensure that the Special Examination form has been signed by the Instructor and Department Undergraduate Director and that the form is returned to the Academic Counselling Office for approval without delay. If approved, makeup examinations will be written within one month of the end of the exam period.

Policies Regarding Academic Accommodation

The Faculty of Social Science's policies regarding academic accommodation is found at http://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/having_problems/index.html.

"Academic Rights and Responsibilities" are also outlined in the Western Calendar at <http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?PolicyCategoryID=1&command=showCategory&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=>. Claiming that "you didn't know what to do" is not an acceptable excuse for not following the stated procedures.

Policy Regarding Class Attendance

If the instructor deems a student's class attendance as unsatisfactory, that student may be prohibited from writing the final examination. If there is intent to make use of this University policy, the student will be notified in writing.

Statement on Mental Health and Support Services

Students under emotional/mental distress should visit http://uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/ for more information and a complete list of resources on how to obtain help.

Guidelines for Essay Courses

Essay Courses¹

An essay course is a course in which the cumulative amount of written work, excluding written work in examinations, is at least 2,500 words for a half course.

To pass an essay course students must exhibit a minimal level of competence in essay writing in addition to comprehension of the course content.

English Language Proficiency for Assignment of Grades²

Written work that demonstrates a lack of English proficiency will be failed or, at the discretion of the instructor, returned to the student for revision to an acceptable level.

To foster competence in the English language, *all instructors will take English proficiency into account when marking.* This policy applies to all courses, not only essay courses.

Recycling of Assignments

Students are prohibited from handing in the same paper for two different courses. Doing so is considered a scholastic offence and will be subjected to academic penalties.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is defined as “the act or an instance of copying or stealing another’s words or ideas and attributing them as one’s own.”³

Plagiarism applies to ALL assignments including essays, reports, diagrams, statistical tables, and computer projects. Examples of plagiarism include:⁴

Submitting someone else’s work as your own

Buying a paper from a mill, website or other source and submitting it as your own

Copying sentences, phrases, paragraphs, or ideas from someone else’s work, published or unpublished, without citing them

Replacing selected words from a passage and using it as your own without citing them

Copying multimedia (graphics, audio, video, internet streams), computer programs, music compositions, graphs, or charts from someone else’s work without citing them

Piecing together phrases and ideas from a variety of sources to without citing them

Building on someone else’s ideas or phrases without citing them

Plagiarism is a serious scholastic offence. Possible consequences of plagiarism include a mark of 0% on the assignment, a mark of 0% for the course, and expulsion from the university.

Instructors may require students to submit written work electronically to <http://www.turnitin.com>. This is a service that assists instructors in detecting plagiarism.

Students seeking further guidance on avoiding plagiarism should consult their instructor. Claiming ignorance is not an acceptable excuse.

¹From the UWO Academic Handbook. See http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/registration_progression_grad/coursenumbering.pdf

² From the UWO Academic Handbook. See http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/exam/english.pdf

³Excerpted from HC Black, *Black’s Law Dictionary*, West Publishing Co., 1999, 7th ed., p. 1170.

⁴ From the San José State University Plagiarism Tutorial <http://tutorials.sjlibrary.org/tutorial/plagiarism/>

The key to avoiding plagiarism is to correctly cite reference sources.

Referencing and Citation Guidelines

The Economics Department has adopted the citation guidelines used in *The Chicago Manual of Style*, 16th edition. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2010. An online version is available from Western Libraries <http://www.lib.uwo.ca>. Search the catalogue by title “Chicago Manual of Style.” For off-campus access, use the *OffCampus Access* sign-in on the Library’s homepage.

Economics papers often use the author-date style of references. Further details and examples of this style are available in chapter 15 of the *Chicago Manual of Style Online*. See also the handy “Chicago-Style Citation Quick Guide” under Tools on the homepage.

In the body of an essay, in-text citations list the last names of the authors of the piece that are referenced, the year of publication, and, where relevant, page numbers. In-text citations refer the reader to a complete list of bibliographic references at the end of the essay. Papers that cite multiple works by the same author(s) with the same publication year should add a lower case letter after the date in both the in-text citation and References (e.g., 1993a and 1993b). In doing so, the in-text citation points the reader to the relevant work.

Examples of in-text citations:

Diamond (1981, 1982) and Mortensen (1982a, 1982b) find these externalities can cause an inefficient level of search activity...

The “new view of unemployment” which emerged during the 1970s emphasized the importance of turnover in the labour force and the brief duration of many employments spells (Hall 1970, 1972; Perry 1972; Marston 1976).

The primary objectives of the LMAS are “1. To provide measures of the dynamic...the Labour Force Survey” (Statistics Canada 1990, 5).

The list of references at the end of the essay should be titled References or Works Cited. It provides complete bibliographic information about each source cited. In addition, students should also provide adequate referencing of any data sources. This should be done in a data appendix following the text of the paper and before the References.

Below are examples of the author-date style. For sources with two or more authors, only the first author’s name is inverted and a comma appears before and after the first author’s given name or initial.

BOOKS:

Wonnacott, Thomas, and Ronald Wonnacott. 1984. *Introductory Statistics for Business and Economics*. 3rd edition. Toronto: John Wiley & Sons.

JOURNAL ARTICLES OR ARTICLES IN A BANK REVIEW:

Geweke, John F., and David E. Runkle. 1995. "A Fine Time for Monetary Policy." *Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis Quarterly Review* 19: 18-31.

GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS:

Statistics Canada. 1983. *Logging: Annual Census of Forestry*. Catalogue No. 25-201.

U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census. 1975. *Median Gross Rent by Counties of the United States, 1970*. Prepared by the Geography Division in cooperation with the Housing Division, Bureau of the Census. Washington, DC.

NEWSPAPERS:

Sicular, Terry, and Kathleen Hartford. 1989. "China's Looming Rural Crisis." *Asian Wall Street Weekly*. July 3.

CHAPTERS IN EDITED BOOKS OR CONFERENCE VOLUMES:

Fafchamps, Marcel. 2001. "The Role of Business Network in Market Development in Sub-Saharan Africa." In *Communities and Markets in Economic Development*, edited by Masahiko Aoki and Yujiro Hayami, 186-214. New York: Oxford University Press.

ONLINE BOOKS:

Mäler, Karl-Göran, and Jeffrey R. Vincent, eds. 2005. *Handbook of Environmental Economics, Vol. 3: Economywide and International Environmental Issues*. Amsterdam: Elsevier.
<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/handbooks/15740099> (July 23, 2007).

ONLINE JOURNAL ARTICLES: please use DOI (digital object identifier) or URL

Caucutt, Elizabeth M., and Krishna B. Kumar. 2008. "Africa: Is Aid an Answer?" *The B.E. Journal of Macroeconomics* 8(1): 1935-1690. doi: 10.2202/1935-1690.1761

Ruffle, Bradley J., and Richard Sosis. 2007. Does it Pay to Pray? Costly Ritual and Cooperation. *B.E. Journal of Economic Analysis and Policy* 7(1): Article 12. <http://www.bepress.com/bejeap/vol7/iss1/art18> (Aug. 7, 2007).

INTERNET SITES:

McDonald's Corporation. "Our History." Accessed July 19, 2016. <https://www.mcdonalds.com/us/en-us/about-us/our-history.html>

Writing an Economics Essay: Starting Points

To start a written assignment, review your professor's instructions and published work written by Economists. Examples of economic writing can be found in the course outline, economic journals, working papers series, and other economic publications.

Two sources that provide information on writing for economics are:

McCloskey, Dierdre N. 2000. *Economical Writing, 2nd edition*. Prospect Heights, Illinois: Waveland Press.

Greenlaw, Steven A. 2006. *Doing Economics: A Guide to Understanding and Doing Economic Research*. New York: Houghton Mifflin Co.

Writing an Economics Essay: Resources

The Resources Link on Western University's Department of Economics website (<http://economics.uwo.ca/resources/index.html>) provides a list of sources for published and unpublished economic papers, articles, books, theses, government publications, data, etc.

DB Weldon Library has a collection of bibliographies, indexes, handbooks, and periodicals in economics. Library holdings, the online library catalogue, and other resources are available electronically from the Western Libraries Homepage <http://www.lib.uwo.ca/>. These can be accessed off-campus with the OffCampus Proxy Server on the Library main page.

Students are encouraged to take a library orientation tour to learn about where sources of information are located both physically and online. Consult library staff for questions.

The New Palgrave Dictionary of Economics is the most comprehensive dictionary of economics in existence today. It is available online through the library catalogue, or in print in the Weldon's Reference section (call # HB 61.N49 2008 v. 1-8).

EconLit (Economic Literature) is a comprehensive, indexed electronic bibliography of Economic literature from 1969 to the present. It covers journals, articles in collective volumes (essays, proceedings, etc.), books, book reviews, dissertations, and working papers. It also provides citations, selected abstracts, and links to Western's full-text resources. Students can also print records by downloading marked records to a text file, sending marked records by email, or exporting them to a citation manager such as *Refworks*. *EconLit* is available through the Library's catalogue or list of Databases under "Research Tools" (<http://www.lib.uwo.ca/>).

Refworks is a bibliographic and citation software tool that is used to construct citations and reference lists in the author-date and other styles. Search the library catalogue (title search) for *Refworks* using Western's group access code.

CANSIM (Canadian Socio-economic Information Management System) is Statistics Canada's computerized database of time series data covering a wide variety of economic aspects of Canadian society. Access the database by a Title Search on the Western Library's Catalogue, or from the Library's list of Databases found under "Research Tools" on the Library's homepage <http://www.lib.uwo.ca/>.

Western Undergraduate Economics Review (WUER)

The Department of Economics encourages students to consider submitting their essays to the *Western Undergraduate Economics Review*, a journal published annually by the Department that showcases student work in economics. For further information, please visit http://economics.uwo.ca/undergraduate/undergraduate_economics_review.html

Alumni Essay Prizes in Economics

The following criteria will be used:

Students can only win an Alumni Prize once.

Two prizes may be awarded at the end of the academic term. One for a student registered in a 2100 level course and one for a student registered in a 2200 or higher level course. Each prize is valued at \$550.

Economics 4400E is not eligible for this prize as it has its own paper award.

Instructors will nominate students for the prize. The paper should be submitted to the Undergraduate Coordinator for consideration by the Essay Prize Committee, which will decide the winner.

The Essay Prize Committee will consist of the Undergraduate Program Director, WUER Faculty Advisor and one other faculty member. The decision of the Committee is final and cannot be appeal.

Papers will be judged on content, originality, use of references, spelling and grammar.

The grade given to the paper will not influence the decision of the Essay Prize Committee as all comments by the original marker will be removed.

The deadlines for submissions are:

Fall courses: January 1st

Winter courses: May 1st

The winner of the essay prize is encouraged to submit their paper to the Western Undergraduate Economics Review. Other appropriate papers may also be submitted.