

SENIOR RESEARCH SEMINAR IN ECONOMICS
ECONOMICS EC4400E-001
Department of Economics
Western University

September 2020

General Information:

Delivery mode: Online synchronous via Zoom

Meeting times: T 5:30-6:30 ET; TH 4:30-6:30 ET (times on either day may go longer as noted in schedule; all times are Eastern/Toronto Time Zone (ET))

Course website: <https://owl.uwo.ca/portal>

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

Course Team:

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

The Faculty Team:

Audra Bowlus

Office: SSC 4009

Phone: x85359

Email: abowlus@uwo.ca

Office hours: T 10-12 ET

or by appointment

Juan Carlos Hatchondo

Office: SSC 4033

Phone: x85302

Email: jhatchon@uwo.ca

Office hours: TH 10-12 ET

or by appointment

Greg Pavlov

Office: SSC 4017

Phone: x86786

Email: gpavlov@uwo.ca

Office hours: W 10-12 ET

or by appointment

The Library and Data Team:

Liz Hill

Data Services

Librarian

Map and Data Centre

Phone: x85049

Email: ehill@uwo.ca

Christy Sich

Teaching & Learning

Librarian

Taylor Library

Phone: x84714

Email: csich@uwo.ca

Kristi Thompson

Research Data

Management Librarian

Map and Data Centre

Phone: x80959

Email: kthom67@uwo.ca

Kevin Oswald

Co-op Student

Taylor Library

Email: koswald@uwo.ca

Graduate Teaching Assistant:

Robert Millard

Office: SSC 4012

Email: rmilla9@uwo.ca

Office hours: by appointment on Zoom

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 prerequisite(s) for this course are **Economics 2223A/B, Economics 2261A/B, Economics 2221A/B**. In addition, **Economics 3388A/B** is a pre- or co-requisite.

Prerequisite(s) and antirequisites for your course can be found in the Western Calendar at: <http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca/Courses.cfm?Subject=ECONOMIC&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID>

You are responsible for ensuring that you have successfully completed all course prerequisites, and that you have not taken any anti-requisite courses. Lack of prerequisites 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.

Course Objectives/Description:

The aim of this course is to help you develop the skills and techniques needed 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, and conduct the research needed to answer it. You can do this alone or with a partner. Your work will culminate in a paper that reports on your research.

Over the year you will be required to submit 5 preliminary written reports, culminating in the final draft of your paper as the 6th written submission. In addition, you will make 2 oral presentations to the entire class, provide comments on other students' work and provide a response to comments on your work. This structure is designed to help you stay on track, but also to give you practice in explaining ideas clearly and concisely, which is a very useful skill.

The main form of communication will be the OWL website for the course. Here you will find the course schedule in the calendar including due dates and reminders. Useful and important information regarding assignments, how to write a paper, how to conduct research, how to analyze data, and how to reference sources is also available on the course OWL website. Information will also be posted on the OWL site regarding the zoom codes needed to participate

in the class. At times the Team may also use your Western email. So 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 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: (1) finding a topic, (2) reading the relevant literature, (3) developing a research strategy, (4) conducting the research by accessing and analyzing relevant data, running an experiment, developing a model and numerically solving and simulating it, or proving theorems, (5) writing a first draft, and (6) revising the draft based on feedback received 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 a 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.

Course 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
- apply economic concepts, models and methods to address a research question
- conduct research appropriate to the question which may include analyzing data using appropriate software and empirical methods, conducting an experiment, numerically solving and simulating a model, or proving theorems and propositions
- 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 in a constructive, professional manner

Textbook(s):

There is no required textbook for 4400.

Attendance Requirements:

Class attendance at all Zoom class meeting times is strongly encouraged. Each session is designed to cover topics that will help students find a topic, research their ideas, and present their work in oral and written formats. No special provisions will be made for students who miss classes, except for those with officially approved accommodations. Students are warned that absences could adversely affect performance in this class, and, therefore, students who are unable to attend regularly do so at own risk.

For security reasons, only participants using UWO credentials will be given access to the class via Zoom.

Communication:

All communication with students will be done through the OWL site or Western email. Students should check the course OWL site and their Western email every 24-48 hours. Students should communicate with individual course team members through the email addresses given above.

Technical Requirements:

- Laptop or computer
- Stable internet connection
- Microphone
- Webcam

For technical support, see the OWL Help page or contact Western Technology Services Helpdesk (<https://wts.uwo.ca/about-wts/contact.html>). Google Chrome or Mozilla Firefox are the preferred browsers for OWL; update your browser frequently.

Grading:

The formal requirements of EC 4400 are:

- To complete seven written assignments on your research
 - Topic proposal
 - Progress report I
 - Research plan and literature survey
 - Progress report II
 - Draft paper
 - Final paper
 - Response to commentary
- To consult with and keep in touch with the Faculty Team and your main supervisor
- To make two formal presentations of your work to the class; and to provide informal updates 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:

| | Percentage | Due Date |
|---|------------|---------------|
| Topic proposal and presentation | 10% | Sept 25, 2020 |
| Progress report I | 5% | Oct 29, 2020 |
| Research plan and literature survey | 15% | Nov 24, 2020 |
| Progress report II | 5% | Jan 22, 2021 |
| Draft paper and presentation | 20% | Feb 25, 2021 |
| Written commentary on a student's draft paper | 10% | Mar 9, 2021 |
| Final paper and response to commentary | 35% | April 1, 2021 |

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.

Partnerships: 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 on the OWL site in the calendar and in the schedule document. Grade penalties (out of 100) for late submissions are 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 |

Late penalties may be delayed or waived in cases where students have followed the required procedures to obtain an approved, documented, official accommodation. For self-reported absences, late penalties will begin following the end of the period of the self-reported absence unless otherwise determined by the course coordinator in consultation with the student(s).

Professionalism, Privacy and Copyright:

- Students are expected to follow the [Student Code of Conduct](#).
- All lectures and course materials, including slides, presentations, outlines, and similar materials, are protected by **copyright**. Students may take notes and make copies of course materials for their own educational purposes only.
- Students may not record lectures, reproduce (or allow others to reproduce), post or distribute lecture notes, assessments, or any other course materials publicly and/or for commercial purposes without written consent.
- Students are expected to follow online etiquette expectations provided on OWL.

Notice of Recordings:

Class sessions that are lecture-based for this course will be recorded. Student presentations, discussion sessions, meetings and office hours will not be recorded. The data captured during these recordings may include your image, voice recordings, chat logs and personal identifiers (name displayed on the screen). The recordings will not be posted and will only be used for the course teams' reference and, with approval from the course coordinator, may be shared with members of the class for their individual use.

If you have concerns regarding your information on the recordings, please contact the course coordinator (abowlus@uwo.ca) using your UWO email. In the email, please state your name and an appropriate alias that you will be using (i.e. Purple007) during the learning session.

Participants in this course are not permitted to record the sessions, except where recording is an approved accommodation, or the participant has the prior written permission of the instructor.

Additional Course Information:

Writing Dos and Don'ts

The OWL website contains instructions and advice for all course assignments. In addition, you may consult the **Guidelines for Essay Courses** posted on the course website, which contain links to writing resources and assistance, information on how to cite sources, and information on essay formats and styles.

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. All written assignments will be submitted to Turnitin through the OWL website as a possible means of detecting cases of plagiarism. 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, make sure that the slides share on screen appropriately in Zoom. Information on how to create and share materials for Zoom is given on the OWL site.

Statistical Software

Students who undertake projects involving empirical work are free to use whatever statistical software they prefer. **Stata and R** are the **recommended software packages**. The Course Team is familiar with Stata but not R and the Graduate TA will run sessions specifically on using Stata in 4400. Those choosing R (or any other software package than Stata) will need to seek help from other faculty members familiar with the package. The 3388 instructor, Professor Charles Saunders, has agreed to answer R-related questions for 4400 projects.

An introduction to using Stata on the SSC network is available at <http://ssts.uwo.ca/support/helpdocuments/statistics/index.html>. Stata licenses for students can also be purchased at a reduced price here <https://www.stata.com/order/new/edu/gradplans/student-pricing/>. Students interested in purchasing a Stata license should wait until they know the data set they will be using and can determine the appropriate version, and until the 6 month window covers the final paper deadline.

R can be downloaded for free at <https://www.r-project.org/>.

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. A lot of Stata documentation is available online through its HELP command.

Forums

A forum has been set up on the OWL site for students to communicate with each other. In the past, students have found that communicating and helping each other has made the course more enjoyable and easier to navigate. Given the course will be online this year, students are encouraged to use the forum to communicate. Members from the Course Team will monitor the forum and may also comment from time to time.

Material from Previous Years

Selected submissions from previous years are available on the OWL site. 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 4400. 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 at <http://guides.lib.uwo.ca/economics>. This information is also available on the OWL site.

Awards & Prizes for EC 4400 Students

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

Mark K. Inman Senior Essay Prize

Book 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 1939-62. 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*.

Ronald J. Wonnacott Economics Prize

Cash prize awarded annually for the best paper by an undergraduate student completing fourth year in an Honors Program in Economics. The Chair of the Department of Economics (or designate) will select the recipient. This award was established with a generous gift from the Estate of Dr. Ronald J. Wonnacott (BA '55) and members of his family. Dr.

Ronald Wonnacott was a member of the Western Economics Department from 1958 until his retirement in 1996.

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.

Copyright

Lectures and course materials, including power point presentations, outlines, and similar materials, are protected by copyright. Students may take notes and make copies of course materials for their own educational purposes. Students may not record lectures, reproduce (or allow others to reproduce), post or distribute lecture notes, wiki material, and other course materials publicly and/or for commercial purposes without written consent.

Please Note
Department & University Policies for 2020-2021

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

Academic Rights and Responsibilities: Students should be familiar with their “Academic Rights and Responsibilities” as outlined [here](#) in the Western Academic Calendar. Claiming that “you didn’t know what to do” is not an acceptable excuse for not following stated procedures.

Guidelines and Policies for Students are posted online in the current Western Academic Calendar at <http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca>. Undergraduate information for the Faculty of Social Science can be found at: <https://www.ssc.uwo.ca/undergraduate/index.html> and for the Department of Economics at: <https://economics.uwo.ca/undergraduate/index.html>.

Rules of Conduct for Examinations: Students are expected to know the university’s Rules of Conduct for Examinations, available [here](#).

Cheating and Academic Offences: Students are responsible for understanding what it means to “cheat.” The Department of Economics treats cheating and other academic offences 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 Economics courses or programs. The University may impose further penalties such as suspension or expulsion.

Plagiarism: Plagiarism is an academic offence. Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Ideas/passages taken from another author must be referenced with footnotes or citations and acknowledged with quotation marks where appropriate. 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. See Scholastic Discipline for Undergraduate Students [here](#) in the Western Academic Calendar.

Academic Appeals: Students should refer to the Student Academic Appeals section [here](#) in the Western Academic Calendar. Please note the relevant deadlines.

Department Appeals Procedures: 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 submit a written appeal to the Undergraduate Director in Economics, stating the reasons for their appeal. Information on the Department of Economics’ appeals procedure and the appeals form are available [here](#).

Systematic Adjustments: Systematic adjustments of class grade distributions (either up or down) can occur in Economics courses. The systematic adjustment of a class grade distribution is **not** grounds for an appeal.

Add/drop deadlines:

Deadline to add this course:

Thursday September 17, 2020

Deadline to drop this course:

Thursday November 30, 2020

Oversleeping or Misreading the Exam Schedule: Faculty of Social Science policy states that oversleeping or misreading the exam schedule is NOT grounds for a makeup. This rule applies to all exams in the Department of Economics.

End of Term Travel: Students must book travel arrangements AFTER final exam dates have been posted; travel is not an acceptable excuse for absence from a final exam.

Rewriting Exams and Retroactive Reweighting are NOT Permitted: Students who proceed to write a test or examination must be prepared to accept the mark. Rewriting tests or examinations, or retroactive reweighting of marks, is **not** permitted.

Accommodation Policies: Students with disabilities should work with Accessible Education (formerly SSD), 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](#).

Academic Consideration for Student Absence: Students will have up to two (2) opportunities during the regular academic year to use an on-line portal to self-report an absence during the term, provided the following conditions are met: the absence is no more than 48 hours in duration, and the assessment for which consideration is being sought is worth 30% or less of the student's final grade. Students are expected to contact their instructors within 24 hours of the end of the period of the self-reported absence, unless noted on the syllabus. Students are not able to use the self-reporting option in the following circumstances:

- for exams scheduled by the Office of the Registrar (e.g., December and April exams)
- absence of a duration greater than 48 hours
- assessments worth more than 30% of the student's final grade
- if a student has already used the self-reporting portal twice during the academic year

If the conditions for a Self-Reported Absence are *not* met, students will need to provide a Student Medical Certificate if the absence is medical or provide appropriate documentation if there are compassionate grounds for the absence in question. Students are encouraged to contact their Faculty academic counselling office for more information about the relevant documentation. It is strongly recommended that students notify the instructor as soon as possible, ideally before the assessment, when they become aware of an absence. University policy is that students must communicate with their instructors no later than 24 hours after the end of the period covered by the SMC or immediately upon their return from their documented absence. Failure to follow University policy and procedures may result in denial of academic accommodation and a grade of zero.

Individual instructors are not permitted to receive documentation directly from a student, whether in support of an application for consideration on medical grounds or for other reasons. **All required documentation for absences that are not covered by the Self-Reported Absence Policy must be submitted to the Academic Counselling office of a student's Home Faculty.**

For Western University policy on Consideration for Student Absence, see:
[Policy on Academic Consideration for Student Absences - Undergraduate Students in First Entry Programs.](#)

For the Student Medical Certificate (SMC), see:
http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf.

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. Additional information is given in the [Western Multicultural Calendar](#).

Policy Regarding Class Attendance and Engagement: If the instructor deems a student's attendance or engagement in the class to be unsatisfactory, that student may be prohibited from writing the final examination. Examples of unsatisfactory class engagement include frequent absences from an in-person or synchronous online class, lack of assignment submissions, and inadequate use of online course materials. Instructors who intend to make use of this policy will notify the student in advance.

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 from someone else’s work 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 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.

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 Adapted from the San José State University Plagiarism Tutorial <https://libguides.sjsu.edu/plagiarism>

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.***

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. You can find an online version on the Western Libraries website. Go to <https://www.lib.uwo.ca/essayhelp/index.html> and click on 'style guides'. For off-campus access, use the *OffCampus Access* sign-in on the Library's homepage.

Economics papers often use the in-text **author-date** style of citations and references. Details and examples of this style are shown 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 should provide complete bibliographic information about each source cited. In addition, students should also provide adequate referencing of any data sources. This can be done in a data appendix following the text of the paper and before the References.

Examples of the format and content of references can be found here: <https://www.lib.uwo.ca/files/styleguides/ChicagoStyleAuthorDate.pdf>.

Writing an Economics Essay: Starting Points

To start a written assignment, review your professor's instructions. Read published work written by economists, which will give you examples of the structure and content of economics writing. Examples are readings in the course outline, journals, working papers, etc.

Two helpful sources that give information about how to write 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 link to a list of sources for published and unpublished economic papers, articles, books, theses, government publications, data, etc. Western Libraries has a very useful economics resource page <https://guides.lib.uwo.ca/economics>.

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 an electronic bibliography of literature from 1969 to the present. It covers journals, collected articles, 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 *Zotaro*. For a list of citation software, see <https://www.lib.uwo.ca/essayhelp/citationmanagementsoftware.html>.

CANSIM (Canadian Socio-economic Information Management System) is Statistics Canada's database of time series data covering a 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 under "Research Tools" on the Library's homepage.

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.

Essay Prize in Economics

Two prizes may be awarded at the end of the academic year. One prize is for a student registered in a 2100 level course, and one is for a student registered in a 2200 or higher level course. Each prize is valued at \$500.

Students can only win the Essay Prize in Economics once. Economics 4400E is not eligible for this prize as it has its own essay award.

Instructors will nominate student essays for the prize. The essay 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 instructor 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.