

University of Waterloo
Department of Economics
ECON 674
Capstone Research Project
Winter 2024
Remote/M 1:00 – 2:20PM

Instructor Information

Instructor: Phil Curry
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Office Hours: By appointment
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Course Description

This course is designed to bridge the gap between your academic experience and your professional experience as an economist. Over the course of your employment, you doubtlessly encountered some problems that academic economists write about. These economic problems may have been what you were hired to work on, or perhaps they stemmed from the workplace itself. Almost certainly, these economic problems in the field were not exactly as depicted in academic writings. Your job will be to describe these economic problems as you encountered them and to discuss what academic economists have to say on the topic, as well as to either describe how people tried to solve these problems in the field, or to propose a solution yourself.

Course Goals and Learning Outcomes

As mentioned, the main goal of this course is to bring the tools you have learned in the classroom to your professional experience. You will produce a written essay to this effect.

Required/Recommended Text

There are no required texts for this course. You will have to find academic articles relevant to your experience, however.

Course Requirements and Assessment

| | Date of Evaluation (if known) | Weighting |
|-------------------|-------------------------------|-----------|
| Assessment | | |
| Paper Proposal | Feb 2 | 20% |
| Progress Report | Mar 1 | 20% |
| Final Paper | Apr 8 | 60% |
| Total | | 100% |

Paper Proposal

Specifics of your paper proposal will be worked out together with me if desired, but you need to have a firm handle on what you will be writing about by the due date.

Progress Report

Again, specifics can be determined together with me, but you need to demonstrate that you have been working on your final paper and are in good shape to finish in time.

Final Paper

What exactly your final paper will entail will be determined in meetings with me, but it should include a literature review and some original analysis on your part. Most papers will be between 15-25 pages in length.

Late Work

Late work will not be marked, so please make sure you hand in everything on time or make arrangements in advance for any extensions.

Mental Health Support

All of us need a support system. The faculty and staff in Arts encourage students to seek out mental health supports if they are needed.

On Campus

- Counselling Services: counselling.services@uwaterloo.ca / 519-888-4567 ext 32655
- [MATES](#): one-to-one peer support program offered by Federation of Students (FEDS) and Counselling Services
- Health Services Emergency service: located across the creek from Student Life Centre

Off campus, 24/7

- [Good2Talk](#): Free confidential help line for post-secondary students. Phone: 1-866-925-5454
- Grand River Hospital: Emergency care for mental health crisis. Phone: 519-749-433 ext. 6880
- [Here 24/7](#): Mental Health and Crisis Service Team. Phone: 1-844-437-3247
- [OK2BME](#): set of support services for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or questioning teens in Waterloo. Phone: 519-884-0000 extension 213

Full details can be found online at the Faculty of ARTS [website](#)

Download [UWaterloo and regional mental health resources \(PDF\)](#)

Download the [WatSafe](#) app to your phone to quickly access mental health support information

Territorial Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that we are living and working on the traditional territory of the Attawandaron (also known as Neutral), Anishinaabeg and Haudenosaunee peoples. The University of Waterloo is situated on the Haldimand Tract, the land promised to the Six Nations that includes six miles on each side of the Grand River.