

**University of Waterloo**  
**Department of Economics**  
**ECON472-01**  
**Senior Honours Essay**  
**Winter 2020**  
**T Th 11:30-12:50pm RCH 209**

**Instructor Information**

Instructor: Dr. Barb Bloemhof  
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Resource People for the Course:

Amy Greene, Writing & Communication Centre, [amy.greene@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:amy.greene@uwaterloo.ca)  
Sandra Keys, Dana Porter Library, [skeys@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:skeys@uwaterloo.ca)

This course outline draws on the work of past instructors, especially Trien Nguyen and Lori Curtis.

**Course Description**

This course helps students learn the skills of scholarly research and communication needed for the workplace or graduate schools in social science disciplines. Unlike the traditional lecture format, this course provides students with an interactive classroom environment to develop critical thinking skills, research methodology, economic analysis, library tools, data handling, peer review, interpersonal communication, and work ethics. Previous experience in writing term papers is not required. Students must find a faculty supervisor who agrees to work with them on a research topic of mutual interest.

**Course Goals and Learning Outcomes**

The main course goal is research experience, signified by the completion of a senior honours essay, which is due on the last day of class (Friday, April 3, 2020). The senior honours essay evolves out of research experience, fostered by a supervisor as the student works consistently over the term on a topic of mutual interest. Students receive guidance and assistance from other students, their supervisor and the course instructor as they complete and turn in work in progress over the term. An important related goal is effective project and self-management skills development, encompassing the skills of time management, collaboration and peer support. These latter aspects of the research process support and enhance the main goal over the course.

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

- A. Carry a research experience to completion through
  - Making effective and intelligent use of supervisor, instructor and peer feedback
  - Using the rhetoric of economics to inform on a research question of mutual interest to the student and the supervisor

- B. Collaborate with an economist on a research project through
  - Maintaining a consistent and mutually agreeable meeting schedule with a research supervisor outside of class
  - Participating during class on activities that hone the skills of collaboration
- C. Write a research paper utilizing the rhetoric of economics through
  - Finding and appraising contributions to the literature around your topic area
  - Integrating the scholarly literature into a review of what is known so far about your topic area, clearly indicating the limits of knowledge in the discipline and the contribution your project makes to that knowledge
- D. Communicate the process of research to a diversity of audiences through
  - Presenting final results in a “4 Minute Thesis” session at the end of the term (date TBA)
  - Participating in all formal and informal conversations about your individual research process that happen in class from time to time over the term.

**Required Text**

There is no required text for this course. Students are required to check into our classroom e-space on LEARN at least weekly in order to access and prepare the required resources that will be posted there for use during and outside of class time.

**Course Requirements and Assessment**

Students are required to maintain an appropriate conversation about their research project with their supervisor; consequently any student who has not kept regular contact with their supervisor will receive a failing grade. A significant amount of the course is participatory, intended to develop and hone your proficiencies with professional collaboration and communication at the same time as you expand your research proficiencies and information literacy. This requires that you attend every class without fail, turn in assignments on time and review feedback for the assignments to improve future work. Any student who misses class without a medical or other university-approved reason risks failing the course.

Assessment	Date of Evaluation (if known)	Weighting
Class activities/participation	Throughout the term	25%
Literature Review Draft	4:30pm February 24 on (LEARN)	10%
Other written assignments	Throughout the term	15%
Research essay	4:30pm April 3 (hard copy to supervisor AND instructor)	25% + 25%
<b>Total</b>		<b>100%</b>

**Class Participation**

In order to achieve full credit for participation, students are required to attend fully (arriving on time and staying for the full class, engaging fully with class activities, using electronic devices solely and exclusively for classroom activities without distracting or disrupting others in the class, and setting aside cell phones when that is appropriate). Given the interactive nature of the class activities, there will be no substitutions or weight transfers for missed classes and/or course activities. Submission of a research paper without interaction with the class, instructor, and supervisor is not enough to pass the course.

## **Assignments**

All assignments are due before midnight on LEARN on the due date unless otherwise specified. Any student who does not hand in all assignments will be at risk of failing participation. All students are required to provide their supervisors with a complete printed copy of the final draft of the research essay on or before the due date (4:30pm April 3) and any requested printouts of drafts or work in progress as negotiated with their individual supervisor.

## **Course Outline and Schedule of Activities**

The schedule of activities will depend on the needs of students in the class; a general outline is as follows:

1. Introduction and overview
2. Resources from the Library and Writing & Communication Center
3. Resources from the Office of Research
4. Writing the introduction and abstract
5. Writing the literature review
6. Writing the economic research report.

Note that the order of the activities listed here is not linear; each activity (including the overview of the course) will be revisited numerous times during the course.

## **Late Work**

Work submitted late will not be considered without a university-sanctioned documentation. Consult the undergraduate calendar <http://ugradcalendar.uwaterloo.ca/page/Acad-Regs-Accommodations> to see how to comply with the university's policy on late assignments and documentation.

## **Information on Plagiarism Detection**

Students will learn to use text-matching software (Turnitin®) to pre-screen their work for potential issues around academic integrity. See the additional information below under Integrity Screening.

## **Electronic Device Policy**

Intelligent and resourceful use of laptops and tablets in the pursuit of learning and collaboration are welcome in this classroom. Disruptive use of electronics (arising from but not limited to such activities as: consulting cell phones for personal communications in class; IM during class; any online activities not directly related to activities, and so on) are not allowed and will impact participation marks. The recording of classroom activities or lectures (audio or video) is prohibited. The use of photography is prohibited, including cell phone picture taking. Please set phones to silent/airplane mode during class.

## **Attendance Policy**

Attendance is mandatory. An exception will only be made for university-accommodated religious holiday or documented emergency or illness (using the Verification of Illness Form <https://uwaterloo.ca/campus-wellness/sites/ca.campus-wellness/files/uploads/files/VIF-online.pdf> ). It is the student's responsibility to provide the instructor with the original VIF within three days.

## **Institutional-required statements for undergraduate course outlines approved by Senate Undergraduate Council, April 14, 2009**

### **Academic Integrity**

In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo community are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility. See the [UWaterloo Academic Integrity webpage](#) and the [Arts Academic Integrity webpage](#) for more information.

### **Discipline**

A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offences, and to take responsibility for his/her actions. A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offence, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offences (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about “rules” for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course professor, academic advisor, or the Undergraduate Associate Dean. When misconduct has been found to have occurred, disciplinary penalties will be imposed under Policy 71 – Student Discipline. For information on categories of offenses and types of penalties, students should refer to [Policy 71 - Student Discipline](#). For typical penalties check [Guidelines for the Assessment of Penalties](#).

### **Grievance**

A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of his/her university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. [Read Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances, Section 4](#). When in doubt, please be certain to contact the department’s administrative assistant who will provide further assistance.

### **Appeals**

A decision made or penalty imposed under Policy 70, Student Petitions and Grievances (other than a petition) or Policy 71, Student Discipline may be appealed if there is a ground. A student who believes he/she has a ground for an appeal should refer to [Policy 72, Student Appeals](#).

### **Note for Students with Disabilities**

The [AccessAbility Services](#) office, located on the first floor of the Needles Hall extension (NH 1401), collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with the AS office at the beginning of each academic term.

### **Integrity Screening**

**Turnitin.com:** Text matching software (Turnitin®) will be used to screen assignments in this course. This is being done to verify that use of all material and sources in assignments is documented. Students who would like an alternative form of academic integrity screening should bring this to Dr. Bloemhof’s attention in writing or by email no later than January 24<sup>th</sup> 2020 so that alternative arrangements may be made. It is the student’s responsibility to understand and adhere to the university’s [academic integrity practices](#) and [integrity policies](#).