

**University of Waterloo**  
**Department of Economics**  
**ECON 606: Research Methodology**  
**Course Outline - Winter, 2017**

**Professor:** Kate Rybczynski

**Lectures:** Monday and Wednesday 1:00pm-2:20pm, AL 211

**Office:** 242 Hagey Hall

**Hours:** Monday, Wednesday 2:30pm-4:00pm, or by appointment

**e-mail:** k rybczyn at uwaterloo.ca

**web page:** <http://www.arts.uwaterloo.ca/~krybczyn/606/>

(This web page is password protected, e-mail me if you have any difficulties accessing it)

**Course Description:**

This course trains students in critical thinking, academic and non-academic writing, and informed evaluation. Lectures will review a variety of techniques to develop these skills. Lectures will also survey common research methodologies used in economics, and students will learn to evaluate the application of these methodologies. Empirical examples will focus predominantly on recent work in labour, health, and development; however a range of other examples will also be provided. The primary focus of the course is an independent paper. Each student will complete an empirical research paper (select and motivate research question(s), collect and analyze data with suitable techniques, and interpret the results). Each student must also complete a preliminary draft to obtain feedback and guidance. Additional coursework includes two mini-presentations, a final presentation and two assignments. The assignments are: an annotated bibliography and a policy brief. The policy brief will enhance the student's ability to translate academic research for a non-specialized audience. General writing skills will also be developed through the practical experience offered in this writing intensive course.

By the end of the course, each student is expected to be able to: (1) Identify and propose well-specified research question(s); (2) Search, summarize and critically review the literature related to the research question(s); (3) Determine and explain appropriate data and methodology to address the research question(s); (4) Present research in a variety of formats and tailor writing to reach target audiences. A major component is to be able to clearly identify the innovation and contribution of the research.

This course is lecture based with a high expectation of student participation. Students are expected to present their work, as well as discuss the work presented by their classmates. Students are also expected to positively contribute to class discussions. Students should aim to attend departmental seminars when their schedule permits.

There will be two guest lecturers during the term: Sandra Keys (Economics Liaison Librarian) and Ron Champion (Business Development Manager, English, and Language Centre Manager, Renison). Ron Champion's segment will include an individual tutorial session which you will schedule with his assistant. There is a \$60 fee if you miss your scheduled tutorial session. However, you will not be charged if you provide 24 hours notice that you cannot make the session.

**Topics:**

1. Introduction
2. Critical Thinking
3. Writing Policy Briefs
4. Economics Research
5. Grammar and Effective Writing
6. Working with Data
7. Writing an Informative Critique
8. Targeted Writing
9. Research Presentation Skills

A detailed schedule of topics, by date, is available on the course web page.

## Readings:

All assigned readings will be posted on the course web page.

## Course Requirements and Grading Scheme:

Assignments (2)	20%	January 16 (Annotated Bibliography), January 30 (Policy Brief)
Mini-Presentations (2)	10%	February 8, March 1
Participation	5%	All Term (discussion in class + Panel Event)
First Draft	15%	March 6
Final Presentation	10%	March 27 & 29
Final Paper	40%	April 3

Assignments and papers (final and draft) are due by 12 noon on LEARN on the date indicated. Late work will be penalized: 10% on the first day, 5% for each day thereafter. There is no final exam for this course.

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## University and Department Policies:

### Academic Integrity

In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo 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 offences and types of penalties, students should refer to [Policy 71 - Student Discipline](#). (For typical penalties see [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. [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 student may appeal the finding and/or penalty in a decision made under Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances (other than regarding a petition) or Policy 71 - Student Discipline if a ground for an appeal can be established. A student who believes he/she has a ground for an appeal should refer to [Policy 72 - Student Appeals](#).

### Accommodation for Students with Disabilities

*Note for students with disabilities:* The [AccessAbility Services office](#), located in Needles Hall Room 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.

### Economics Department Deferred Final Exam Policy

For all courses with an exam, please read the Economics Department's [Deferred Final Exam Policy](#).

### Cross-listed courses

Please note that a cross-listed course will count in all respective averages no matter under which rubric it has been taken. For example, a PHIL/PSCI cross-list will count in a Philosophy major average, even if the course was taken under the Political Science rubric.