

## ECON 4903 (X2) - Honours Seminar

Department of Economics

Acadia University

2020 - 2021

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Instructor	Justin Beaudoin
Email	justin.beaudoin@acadiau.ca
Office Location	Virtual (Microsoft Teams)
Office Hours	By appointment
Meeting Times	10-11am, every other Tuesday (Microsoft Teams)

### Course Description

The objective of this course is to provide a foundation for an honours thesis. This class does not meet in the same manner as traditional classes. Instead, we will have informal meetings every other week where we can discuss your progress, I can provide general and specific advice and suggestions, and you can ask any questions that you may have. The course assigns a three-credit-hour letter grade that is awarded independently of your honours supervisor's assessment of your completed thesis. Prerequisite: Concurrently taking ECON 4996: Honours Thesis.

### Class Format

The meetings will be arranged through Microsoft Teams and will occur every other Tuesday. This will be a chance for me to have a discussion with all of the students in the Honours program. Individual meetings can be arranged outside of this time. In these meetings, I may have a brief presentation from time to time, though it will generally focus on informal discussions.

### Technology Issues & Support

If there are any issues with my internet connection, please wait approximately 10 minutes for me to troubleshoot the problem. In the case that the problem persists, I will provide an update to address any necessary adjustments to the schedule (such as re-scheduling the meeting).

If you are having technological issues, please contact the Service Desk for support. The Consultants will help you work through any issues that you're having. There are several contact methods:

Live Chat: [ts-chat.acadiau.ca](https://ts-chat.acadiau.ca)

HUB Service Portal: [hub.acadiau.ca](https://hub.acadiau.ca) or [ts.acadiau.ca](https://ts.acadiau.ca)

Phone: 902-585-4357 or 1-888-609-3330

Email: helpdesk@acadiau.ca

## Grading

Written Updates (5)	25%
Presentation 1	20%
Presentation 2	30%
Participation/Effort	25%

There are no exams for the course. I will provide feedback (written comments and grades) as we proceed. I will not utilize ACORN for this course. The grade scale for the course is below:

Letter Grade	GPA	% Range	Rating
A+	4.33	90 - 100%	Excellent
A	4.0	85 - 89%	
A-	3.67	80 - 84%	
B+	3.33	77 - 79%	Good
B	3.0	73 - 76%	
B-	2.67	70 - 72%	
C+	2.33	67 - 69%	Average
C	2.0	63 - 66%	
C-	1.67	60 - 62%	
D+	1.33	57 - 59%	Pass
D	1.0	53 - 56%	
D-	0.67	50 - 52%	
F	0.0	0 - 49%	Failure

## Written Updates

The objective is to make steady progress on your thesis throughout the course of the year. While there will inevitably be stretches where you make less progress than other periods, the written updates are intended to help you avoid leaving your thesis work untouched for long periods of time, and for you to put your thoughts onto paper. In order for me (and other Economics faculty members) to provide some structured feedback and guidance, you're required to pass in a brief summary of where you are in your work, what you've recently been doing, next steps, etc, on a regular basis. These should be a maximum of one page each. You do not need to worry about style or formatting here and you are not being judged on your writing - I just want you to get the content down on paper. These will be circulated among all faculty.

The dates for the written updates are as follows:

- October 30
- November 30

- December 18
- January 29
- February 26

## **Presentations**

You will have two presentations. This year, the presentations will be over Teams, and all of the Economics faculty will be invited to attend. The objectives of both presentations are to give you valuable experience in preparing and giving a presentation. The first presentation should be approximately 10-12 minutes, and is designed to give you early feedback on your research question and preliminary work. This presentation will be scheduled in January (date to be determined). The second presentation should be approximately 15-18 minutes and will be scheduled at the end of the academic year. This feedback will help you prepare your final written draft of your thesis.

## **Participation/Effort**

In a typical year, this part of the grade revolves around the student making a good-faith effort to be involved in departmental activities, such as participating in things like departmental seminars, local conferences, economics extracurricular events, economics society, etc. This expectation will continue this year, though there will likely be very few events. Instead, I will evaluate the effort that you put into preparing for our discussions and the other course requirements.

## **Class Schedule**

The following is a preliminary schedule for the days that we will meet for our informal meetings. These dates may need to change if there are scheduling issues for the instructor or the students. We will do our best to follow this schedule, but we will also be flexible with each other:

- Meeting: Tue, Oct 20
- First Writeup Due: Fri, Oct 30
- Meeting: Tue, Nov 3
- Meeting: Tue, Nov 17
- Second Writeup Due: Mon, Nov 30
- Meeting: Tue, Dec 1
- Meeting: Tue, Dec 15
- Third Writeup Due: Fri, Dec 18

- Meeting: Tue, Jan 12
- First Presentation: Between Jan 12-26
- Meeting: Tue, Jan 26
- Fourth Writeup Due: Fri, Jan 29
- Meeting: Tue, Feb 9
- Meeting: Tue, Feb 23
- Fifth Writeup Due: Fri, Feb 26
- Meeting: Tue, Mar 9
- Meeting: Tue, Mar 23
- Second Presentation: Between Apr 1-13
- Meeting: Tue, Apr 13

### **Course Policies**

Course dates/policies are outlined at the beginning of the course and are the student's responsibility; please communicate any issues, concerns or scheduling conflicts *well before* the relevant deadline so that we can address the issue appropriately.

Please communicate with me if an illness or other issue will cause you to have issues with any due dates.

### **University Policies**

Please refer to the following link for the latest University updates and any policy information regarding Covid-19:

<https://www2.acadiau.ca/covid-19.html>

Please review and adhere to the University's Mask Policy:

<https://www2.acadiau.ca/covid-19/mask-policy.html>

Please review and adhere to the Student Code of Conduct:

<https://www2.acadiau.ca/files/files/COVID-19/StudentCodeofConductBriefing.pdf>

You should also review the Student Services Plan:

<https://www2.acadiau.ca/files/files/COVID-19/StudentServicesPlanningModel.pdf>

## **Accessibility**

If you are a student with documentation for accommodations who anticipates needing supports or accommodations, please contact Marissa McIsaac, Accessibility Resource Facilitator at 902-585-1520, [disability.access@acadiau.ca](mailto:disability.access@acadiau.ca) or Emily Duffett, Accessibility Officer, 902-585-1823, [disability.access@acadiau.ca](mailto:disability.access@acadiau.ca).

## **Academic Ethics**

It is the responsibility of students to familiarize themselves with the University's policy on academic ethics. Copying, plagiarism and other academic offenses will not be tolerated. Penalties are severe and may result in suspension from a program/course and expulsion. A complete list of Academic Regulations can be found on the Policies page of the University's website. I strongly recommend that all class members review the sections in the 2020-21 academic calendar dealing with Academic Policy and Regulations. It is a serious offense to engage in academic misconduct.

*Last updated: October 7, 2020*