

NAME OF THE COURSE
ECONOMICS EC4400E-001
Department of Economics
Western University

September 2023

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 Hatchondo. In addition, students can and should seek advice from other faculty members who have expertise in their areas of interest.

Instructors

Juan Carlos Hatchondo

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Nail Kashaev

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Email: nkashaev@uwo.ca

Office hours: Thursdays, 2:00-3:00

Delivery mode: In-person.

Meeting time(s): Tuesdays 5:00-6:00 and Thursdays 3:00-5:00

Classroom: WIRB-1170

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

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

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/Antirequisite Note:

The prerequisite(s) for this course is are **Economics 2223A/B**, **Economics 2261A/B**, and **Economics 2221A/B**. In addition, **Economics 3388A/B** is a pre- or co-requisite. Student must be in their 4th year of an Honours Specialization module.

The prerequisites and antirequisites for the 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 Description:

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. 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 Objectives:

The aim of this course is to help you develop the skills and techniques needed to carry out an original research project. This involves choosing a research question, using economics tools to answer the proposed question, and communicating your findings through a written paper and a presentation. Projects with empirical content will demand learning where to find appropriate data, learning to choose suitable econometric techniques for the question and data available, and learning to interpret your findings. Projects with theoretical models will demand learning to write down a model with interesting economics for the proposed question. The empirical and theoretical approaches are by no means exclusive. We expect that most papers will feature a combination of both approaches.

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) and Course Materials:

There is no required textbook for 4400. Instruction slides will be posted on OWL

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*

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.

Assessments and 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%	Sep 22
Progress report I	5%	Oct 27
Research plan and literature survey	15%	Nov 21
Progress report II	5%	Jan 25
Draft paper and presentation	20%	Feb 29
Written commentary on a student's draft paper	10%	Mar 12
Final Paper and response to classmate's comments	35%	Apr 4

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 %

24-48 hours late: -30 %

48-72 hours late: -50 %

More than 72 hours late: no credit

- **Note:** missed work can *only* be excused through one of the mechanisms above. Being asked not to attend an in-person course requirement due to potential COVID-19 symptoms is **not** sufficient on its own. Students should check the Western website to see what directives for Covid are to be followed. Western has been and will continue to follow directives established by the Middlesex-London Health Unit. That directive will state whether students should or should not come to campus/class and any other requirements (e.g., masks are mandatory). Please check on your own and do not email the instructor, the Department Undergraduate Advisor/Coordinator or the Faculty of Social Science Academic Counselling Office.
- Late penalties may be delayed or waived in cases where students have followed the required procedures to obtain an approved, documented, official accommodation.
- All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

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 of the instructor.
- Recordings (audio or video) are not permitted without explicit, written permission of the instructor. Permitted recordings may not be distributed or shared.

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.

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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.

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 (subject to change). 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 Fall 2023

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

1. **Guidelines, policies, and your academic rights and responsibilities** are posted online in the current Western Academic Calendar at: <http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca>. Claiming that “you didn’t know what to do” is not an acceptable excuse for not following the stated policies and procedures.
2. Students must familiarize themselves with the “**Rules of Conduct for Examinations**” http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/exam/administration.pdf.
3. **Cheating as an academic offence:** Students are responsible for understanding what it means to “cheat.” The Department of Economics treats cheating incidents 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 other Economics courses or programs. The University may impose further penalties such as suspension or expulsion.
4. **Plagiarism:** Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. When taking an idea/passage from another author, it must be acknowledged with quotation marks where appropriate and referenced with footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is an academic offence (see Scholastic Discipline for Undergraduate Students in the Western Calendar at http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryId=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_20).

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.

5. It is a Department of Economics policy that **NO** assignments be dated, stamped or accepted by staff. Students must submit assignments to the instructor.
6. **Appeals:** University policies and procedures for appealing a mark can be found in the Student Academic Appeals section in the current Western Academic Calendar at: http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryId=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_14. **Please note the relevant deadlines.**

Department of Economics procedures for appealing a mark can be found here: https://economics.uwo.ca/undergraduate/program_counselling/responsibilities_policies.html#appeals. 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 proceed to submit an appeal to econugrd@uwo.ca. Please follow the instructions and use the appeal form shown in the above link.

7. **Systematic adjustments of a class grade distribution** (either up or down) can occur in Economics courses. The fact that grades have been adjusted is **not** grounds for an appeal.

8. Note the following **add and drop deadlines**:

- Deadline to ADD OR DROP a first term full or half course: **Fri, Sept 15, 2023**
- Deadline to WITHDRAW from a first term full or half course: **Mon, Nov 13, 2023**

Policy Regarding Makeup Tests and Final Examinations

Faculty of Social Science policy states that oversleeping or misreading an exam schedule is NOT grounds for a makeup. This rule applies to midterm and final exams in the Department of Economics.

Policies Regarding Academic Accommodation

- Academic accommodation will not be granted automatically on request. Students must demonstrate by documentation that there are compelling medical or compassionate grounds before academic accommodation will be considered. The Faculty of Social Science's policies on academic accommodation are found at https://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/academic_consideration.html
- **Accommodation for Students with Disabilities:** Students with disabilities or accessibility challenges should work with Accessible Education (formerly SSD, see http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/accessible_education/index.html), 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](#).
- **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. Students must also book travel arrangements AFTER final exam dates have been posted as they must not conflict with test or final exams.
- Unless medically incapable of doing so, students must notify their instructor prior to the test date or at least within **24 hours** when requesting a makeup exam. Failure to follow this procedure may result in denial of academic accommodation and a grade of zero. Students should also set up an appointment as soon as possible to meet with their instructor. If the instructor is not available, send an email message to the instructor, copying the Undergraduate Coordinator at econugrd@uwo.ca. **Notifying instructors of a missed exam does not automatically entitle students to a makeup.**
- For medical illnesses, students may consult Student Health Services and request a Student Medical Certificate from the physician. If assessed by an off-campus doctor,

students must obtain a certificate from his/her office at the time of the visit/assessment. Student Medical Certificate (SMC) is available here: https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf

- **Documentation for Accommodation:** 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.
- **Western University policy on Consideration for Student Absence** is available here: https://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/probation_rtw/appeals.html
- **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.

Statement on Remote Proctoring: While Western intends to hold most classes, mid-terms and finals in-person, the London-Middlesex Health unit may require western to teach in a remote format. If this occurs, all assessments will be done remotely and may involve the use of remote proctoring software (i.e., Proctorio, ProctorTrack). Instructors will provide information on the details should the need arise.