

ECONOMICS OF HEALTH CARE  
ECONOMICS 2169G-001  
Department of Economics  
Western University

January 2022

**General Information:**

**Instructor:** Irene Trela

**Office Hours:** online any day, any time

**Via e-mail:** use your uwo e-mail to e-mail me at [itrela@uwo.ca](mailto:itrela@uwo.ca) (you should typically expect a reply within 24 hours, except weekends and holidays)

**Via Zoom:** A student can request a zoom meeting by emailing me using their uwo e-mail and requesting a day/time in the Eastern Time Zone; I will then set up a Zoom meeting for that individual student

**Delivery mode:** in-person and/or online either synchronously or asynchronously

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

**Undergraduate inquiries:** 519-661-3507 SSC Room 4075 or [econugrd@uwo.ca](mailto:econugrd@uwo.ca)

**Course delivery with respect to the COVID-19 pandemic:**

Although the intent is for this course to be delivered in-person, the changing COVID-19 landscape may necessitate some or all of the course to be delivered online, either synchronously (i.e., at the times indicated in the timetable) or asynchronously (e.g., posted on OWL for students to view at their convenience). The grading scheme will not change. Any assessments affected will be conducted online as determined by the course instructor.

When deemed necessary, tests and examinations in this course will be conducted using a remote proctoring service. By taking this course, you are consenting to the use of this software and acknowledge that you will be required to provide personal information (including some biometric data) and the session will be recorded. Completion of this course will require you to have a reliable internet connection and a device that meets the technical requirements for this service. More information about this remote proctoring service, including technical requirements, is available on Western's Remote Proctoring website at: <https://remoteproctoring.uwo.ca>

**Registration:**

You are responsible for ensuring you are registered in the correct courses. If you are not registered in a 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 Note:**

The prerequisites for this course are **Economics 1021A/B** and **1022A/B**, or **2001A/B**.

**Antirequisite Note:**

The antirequisite for this course is **Health Sciences 3090B if taken in 2016**

You are responsible for ensuring that you have successfully completed all course prerequisites, and that you have not taken an antirequisite course. 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 Objectives:**

Economics of health care will help students apply the tools of economics to make sense of the organization, delivery, and financing of health care. Its objective is to impart an understanding of the role of economic factors in the development of public policy concerning health and health care. The political debate surrounding health care in Canada centres on cost control, quality control and access. What is questionable is the sustainability of Canada's health care system. Health care costs are increasing, quality of care is decreasing, and waiting lists are growing. The fundamental problem is that there are no 'system brakes' for controlling spending, no incentives for decision-makers (patients and health care providers) to reduce their demand and supply of health services; in fact, the current system encourages unnecessary expenditures. Only by implementing financial incentives through changes in funding policies will effective reform be achieved. By the end of the course, students should be able to analyze critically, from an economic perspective, the various policy options for reform of the health care system in Canada.

**Course Learning Outcomes:**

Students will be able to apply economic reasoning and methods effectively to make sense of the health sector in modern societies.

Students will be able to apply economic concepts and methods to critically analyze commonly debated health issues in modern societies.

Students will be able to identify and explain economic concepts and theories related to the behaviour of economic agents, markets, and firm structures, social norms and government policies in the field of health care.

Students will be able to apply the concept of trade-off to health care policies.

Students will be able to use elementary cost-benefit analysis to measure the effectiveness of health care policies.

Students will be able to evaluate the impact of health care policies on individual and social welfare.

Students will be able to use economic reasoning to formulate and evaluate economic advice and policy for health care.

Students will be able to identify the institutional features of the Canadian health care system.

### **Textbook:**

There is no textbook for the course.

### **Course Website:**

<http://owl.uwo.ca>: this site gives you access to lecture notes, homework questions (and answers), additional practice questions (with answers), and announcements (i.e. midterm and final exam information and scheduling, and other important announcements). **Students are reminded that posted lecture notes, homework and additional practice questions will ALL be subject to examination.**

### **Communication:**

- Students should check the course OWL site for announcements and/or their uwo email for new messages posted to OWL
- Students can email me at [itrela@uwo.ca](mailto:itrela@uwo.ca) if they have any questions or personal matters they wish to discuss (expect a reply reasonably soon after sending or at least within a few hours)
- Students can book a zoom meeting with me if they wish to discuss questions in more detail. Zoom meetings can be booked almost instantaneously (if I'm monitoring my e-mail), or at least for the same day, or booked in advance.

### **Technical Requirements:**

- Laptop or computer
- Stable internet connection
- Microphone and Webcam
- Scanner/ Smartphone

This equipment is needed for the following purposes: (1) to access the resources and announcements on OWL, (2) to participate in virtual office hours using Zoom, (3) when necessary, to write exams on OWL and for virtual proctoring of any exams, and (4) to be prepared for unforeseen circumstances. One such circumstance is that, if an OWL exam is disrupted by technical difficulties, students may be required to scan or take pictures of handwritten answers and send these images to the instructor via email.

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:**

Essay (2500-3000 words) (Due Wed, March 23 4:00 PM (Eastern Time)) worth 31% of grade

Midterm Exam\* worth 31% of your grade, tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, March 1, 5:00PM-7:00PM eastern time, but subject to change.

Final Exam\* worth 38% of your grade, to be scheduled by the Registrar's Office. It will be a 2 hour exam and will be cumulative.

\*The midterm and final exams will be in mixed format, containing some or all of the following types of questions:

- True/False Questions
- True/False 'Grouped' questions
- Fill-in-the-blank Questions
- Fill-in-the-blank 'Grouped' Questions
- Multiple Choice Questions

'Grouped' questions are a series of questions pertaining to a diagram or word statement.

Exams will be administered in-person (or when deemed necessary, online in OWL). Details to follow at a later date.

### **Essay Assessment and Grading Details:**

You are instructed to write an essay on "Drug Pricing in Canada: Rationale, Effects, and the Case for National Pharmacare." A list of questions that you MUST address in your essay is posted on OWL under Resources>Essay>Essay Winter 2022.

- Your essay must be more than 2500 words (an automatic fail will be given to papers less than 2500 words) but no more than 3000 words (words in excess of 3000 will not be read) (*note: word count EXCLUDES words in tables, figures, appendices, footnotes and bibliography*).
- Your essay must be double-spaced and in 12 point font, and your in-text citations and end-of-essay bibliographic references must be in the Author-Date Chicago Manual of Style.
- Your essay is due Wednesday, March 23 at 4:00 PM (Eastern Time) and must be submitted electronically to *Turnitin* on the Assignments page of the course website. Late submissions will not be accepted and will be given a zero grade and automatic fail in the course, and these rules will be FIRMLY ENFORCED.
- **Students are required to demonstrate *competence* in essay writing in order to pass the course. Therefore, any student who does not turn in an essay will be given a failing grade.**

- If you need further assistance in writing your essay (i.e., introduction, thesis statement, body of essay, and conclusion), visit the course webpage Resources>Essay>Structure of An Essay. For in-text citations and end-of-essay bibliographic references you must adopt the Author-Date Chicago Manual of Style (for details of this style see the *Guidelines for Essay Courses* section of this syllabus for details; and be sure to also read the “Plagiarism” section of this guideline for information about what needs to be sourced). Also make note of the grading rubric posted on the course webpage Resources>Essay>Grading Rubric for Essay.

### **Policy Regarding Missed Assessments:**

Students **must** follow Western University’s procedures for approval of their absence from any exam in order to receive an accommodation. Please see the **Please Note Department Policies for 2021-2022** section of this syllabus for details on these procedures. If during the Winter 2022 term Western University announces any changes to these procedures, please follow those procedures.

**STUDENTS WHO MISS ANY EXAM MUST ALSO E-MAIL ME OF THEIR ABSENCE FROM THE EXAM AT LEAST 1 HOUR PRIOR TO THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE EXAM.**

Students with an approved absence from the original scheduled midterm exam will have the weight of the midterm transferred to the final exam. No makeup exam will be given.

Students with an approved absence from the original scheduled final exam AND who e-mailed me at least 1 hour prior to the commencement of the final exam will be required to write a final makeup exam that may be zoom-proctored and have a different format than the original scheduled final exam. Students with an approved absence from the original scheduled final exam but who neglected to e-mail me of their absence at least 1 HOUR PRIOR to the commencement of the original scheduled final exam, will need to contact me for additional steps.

### **Online Proctoring Notice:**

Makeup exams in this course may be conducted using Zoom. If so, you will be required to keep your camera on for the entire session, hold up your student card for identification purposes, and share your screen with the invigilator if asked to do so at any time during the exam. The exam session will not be recorded.

More information about the use of Zoom for exam invigilation is available in the Online Proctoring Guidelines at the following link:

<https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/onlineproctorguidelines.pdf>.

Completion of this course will require you to have a reliable internet connection and a device that meets the system requirements for Zoom. Information about the system requirements are available at the following link: <https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us>

Please note that Zoom servers are located outside Canada. If you would prefer to use only your first name or a nickname to login to Zoom, please discuss this with your instructor in advance of the test or examination.

## Course Outline:

The chapters of the lecture notes in this course follow the chapters in the textbook by Hurley, Jeremiah E. (2010). Health Economics, (1st Edition). McGraw-Hill Ryerson. Unfortunately, the textbook is now out of print and no best alternative is currently available. Nonetheless, the course lecture notes are quite detailed and will provide students with all the necessary information for learning the course material.

Health and Health Care Systems: An Introduction	Lecture Notes Ch. 1
Essential Economic Concepts	
• Efficiency and Equity	Lecture Notes Ch. 2
- scarcity	
- equity-efficiency tradeoff	
• The Basics of Markets	Lecture Notes Ch. 3
- demand, supply, and social welfare	
- taxes and subsidies	
- externalities, public goods, informational problems and market power	
• Methods of Economic Evaluation	Lecture Notes Ch. 4
- cost-benefit, cost-effectiveness and cost-utility analysis	
Economics of Health	
• Production, Demand and Determinants of Health	Lecture Notes Chs. 5 & 6
- health production function	
- determinants of health	
- utility analysis and the demand for health	
Demand for Health Care and Health Insurance	
• Demand for Health Care	Lecture Notes Chs. 7 & 8
- a derived demand	
• Demand for Health Insurance	Lecture Notes Chs. 9 & 10
- Private health insurance	
- the problems of adverse selection and distributive justice	
- Public health insurance	
- the problems of moral hazard, supplier-induced demand, and cost-plus pricing	
Reforming Canada's Health Care System	Lecture Notes Chs. 11-14, 16
- waiting list management	
- single-payer, universal system	
- fund holding	
- capitation/fee-for-service and other blends of funding	
- integration/coordination of services	
- multi-disciplinary teams	
- electronic information service	

## **How to do well in the course:**

1. Start each week by reading the course notes provided to you (including notes on the additional application topics).
2. Work the questions in your notes as well as the homework questions and additional practice questions. These questions will not be graded but are vital in doing well in the course. So why the importance of working questions? Because economics requires active learning. The midterm and final exams will test students not on their ability to memorize the course material but rather on their ability to understand and use logical step-by-step reasoning to arrive at answers. Passively reading your notes rarely results in a passing grade.
3. If you have any questions, please email me. I will be monitoring my email daily, and you should typically expect a reply reasonably soon after your message is sent or at least within a few hours, excluding weekends and holidays.
4. If you would like to discuss course-related material in more detail than what may be possible in an e-mail, best to book a zoom meeting with me. A meeting can be booked almost instantaneously, or at least for the same day, or booked in advance.

## **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.
- Students are expected to follow online etiquette expectations provided on OWL (if applicable; otherwise delete this bullet point)
- Students will be expected to take an academic integrity pledge before some assessments.

## Please Note

### Department & University Policies for Winter 2022

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](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](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](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](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](mailto: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 a second term half course:

**Tuesday January 18, 2022**

Deadline to drop a second term half course:

**Monday March 14, 2022**

### **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**

- The Faculty of Social Science's policies on academic accommodation are found at [https://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/academic\\_consideration.html](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](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. Self-Reported Absences cannot be used once a student has proceeded to start to write a test or exam.
- **Self-Reported Absences:** Students will have two opportunities during the fall and winter terms to receive academic consideration if they self-report a missed assessment using the online self-reported absence portal, provided the following conditions are met: the assessment is missed due to an absence of no more than 48 hours in duration, and the assessment for which consideration is being sought is worth 30% or less of the student's final grade. Students are expected to contact their instructors within 24 hours of the end of the period of the self-reported absence, unless noted otherwise on the syllabus. Students are not able to use the self-reporting option in the following circumstances:
  - for exams scheduled by the Office of the Registrar (e.g., final exams)
  - absence of a duration greater than 48 hours
  - assessments worth more than 30% of the student's final grade
  - if the student has opened or started the test or exam
  - if a student has already used the self-reporting portal twice during the fall/winter terms

If the conditions for a Self-Reported Absence are *not* met, students will need to provide a Student Medical Certificate (SMC) if the absence is medical or provide appropriate

documentation if there are compassionate grounds for the absence in question. Students are encouraged to contact their Faculty academic counselling office for more information about the relevant documentation. It is strongly recommended that students notify the instructor as soon as possible, ideally before the assessment, when they become aware of an absence. University policy is that students must communicate with their instructors no later than 24 hours after the end of the period covered by the SMC or immediately upon their return from their documented absence. Failure to follow University policy and procedures may result in denial of academic accommodation and a grade of zero.

- **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. **All required documentation for absences that are not covered by the Self-Reported Absence Policy must be submitted to the Academic Counselling office of a student's Home Faculty.**
- **Western University policy on Consideration for Student Absence** is available here: [Policy on Academic Consideration for Student Absences - Undergraduate Students in First Entry Programs.](#)
- **Student Medical Certificate (SMC):** This form is available here: [http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf)
- **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 [https://uwo.ca/health/mental\\_wellbeing/](https://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 unity 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.

## Guidelines for Essay Courses

### Essay Courses<sup>1</sup>

An essay course is a course in which the cumulative amount of written work, excluding written work in examinations, is at least 2,500 words (for a half course).

To pass an essay course, students must exhibit a minimal level of competence in essay writing in addition to comprehension of the course content.

### English Language Proficiency for Assignment of Grades<sup>2</sup>

Written work that demonstrates a lack of English proficiency will be failed or, at the discretion of the instructor, returned to the student for revision to an acceptable level.

To foster competence in the English language, *all instructors will take English proficiency into account when marking*. This policy applies to all courses, not only essay courses.

### Recycling of Assignments

Students are prohibited from handing in the same paper for two different courses. Doing so is considered a scholastic offence and will be subjected to academic penalties.

### Plagiarism

Plagiarism is defined as “the act or an instance of copying or stealing another’s words or ideas and attributing them as one’s own.”<sup>3</sup>

Plagiarism applies to ALL assignments including essays, reports, diagrams, statistical tables, and computer projects. Examples of plagiarism include:<sup>4</sup>

- Submitting someone else’s work as your own
- Buying a paper from a mill, website or other source and submitting it as your own
- Copying sentences, phrases, paragraphs, or ideas from someone else’s work, published or unpublished, without citing them
- Replacing selected words from a passage from someone else’s work and using it as your own without citing them
- Copying multimedia (graphics, audio, video, internet streams), computer programs, music compositions, graphs, or charts from someone else’s work without citing them
- Piecing together phrases and ideas from a variety of sources without citing them
- Building on someone else’s ideas or phrases without citing them

Plagiarism is a serious scholastic offence. Possible consequences of plagiarism include a mark of 0% on the assignment, a mark of 0% for the course, and expulsion from the university.

Instructors may require students to submit written work electronically to <http://www.turnitin.com>. This is a service that assists instructors in detecting plagiarism.

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<sup>1</sup>From the UWO Academic Handbook. See [http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/registration\\_progression\\_grad/course numbering.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/registration_progression_grad/course numbering.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> From the UWO Academic Handbook. See [http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/exam/english.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/exam/english.pdf)

<sup>3</sup>Excerpted from HC Black, *Black’s Law Dictionary*, West Publishing Co., 1999, 7th ed., p. 1170.

<sup>4</sup> Adapted from the San José State University Plagiarism Tutorial <https://libguides.sjsu.edu/plagiarism>

Students seeking further guidance on avoiding plagiarism should consult their instructor. ***Claiming ignorance is not an acceptable excuse.***

The key to avoiding plagiarism is to correctly cite reference sources.

### **Referencing and Citation Guidelines**

The Economics Department has adopted the citation guidelines used in *The Chicago Manual of Style*, 16<sup>th</sup> edition. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2010. You can find an online version on the Western Libraries website. Go to <https://www.lib.uwo.ca/essayhelp/index.html> and click on 'style guides'. For off-campus access, use the *OffCampus Access* sign-in on the Library's homepage.

Economics papers often use the in-text **author-date** style of citations and references. Details and examples of this style are shown in chapter 15 of the *Chicago Manual of Style Online*. See also the handy "Chicago-Style Citation Quick Guide" under Tools on the homepage.

In the body of an essay, in-text citations list the last names of the authors of the piece that are referenced, the year of publication, and, where relevant, page numbers. In-text citations refer the reader to a complete list of bibliographic references at the end of the essay. Papers that cite multiple works by the same author(s) with the same publication year should add a lower case letter after the date in both the in-text citation and References (e.g., 1993a and 1993b). In doing so, the in-text citation points the reader to the relevant work.

Examples of in-text citations:

Diamond (1981, 1982) and Mortensen (1982a, 1982b) find these externalities can cause an inefficient level of search activity...

The "new view of unemployment" which emerged during the 1970s emphasized the importance of turnover in the labour force and the brief duration of many employments spells (Hall 1970, 1972; Perry 1972; Marston 1976).

The primary objectives of the LMAS are "1. To provide measures of the dynamic...the Labour Force Survey" (Statistics Canada 1990, 5).

The list of references at the end of the essay should be titled References or Works Cited. It should provide complete bibliographic information about each source cited. In addition, students should also provide adequate referencing of any data sources. This can be done in a data appendix following the text of the paper and before the References.

Examples of the format and content of references can be found here: <https://www.lib.uwo.ca/files/styleguides/ChicagoStyleAuthorDate.pdf>.

### **Writing an Economics Essay: Starting Points**

To start a written assignment, review your professor's instructions. Read published work written by economists, which will give you examples of the structure and content of economics writing. Examples are readings in the course outline, journals, working papers, etc.

Two helpful sources that give information about how to write for economics are:

McCloskey, Dierdre N. 2000. *Economical Writing, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition*. Prospect Heights, Illinois: Waveland Press.

Greenlaw, Steven A. 2006. *Doing Economics: A Guide to Understanding and Doing Economic Research*. New York: Houghton Mifflin Co.

## Writing an Economics Essay: Resources

The **Resources Link** on Western University's Department of Economics website (<http://economics.uwo.ca/resources/index.html>) provides a link to a list of sources for published and unpublished economic papers, articles, books, theses, government publications, data, etc. Western Libraries has a very useful economics resource page <https://guides.lib.uwo.ca/economics>.

**DB Weldon Library** has a collection of bibliographies, indexes, handbooks, and periodicals in economics. Library holdings, the online library catalogue, and other resources are available electronically from the Western Libraries Homepage <http://www.lib.uwo.ca/>. These can be accessed off-campus with the OffCampus Proxy Server on the Library main page.

Students are encouraged to take a library orientation tour to learn about where sources of information are located both physically and online. Consult library staff for questions

*The New Palgrave Dictionary of Economics* is the most comprehensive dictionary of economics in existence today. It is available online through the library catalogue, or in print in the Weldon's Reference section (call # HB 61.N49 2008 v. 1-8).

*EconLit (Economic Literature)* is an electronic bibliography of literature from 1969 to the present. It covers journals, collected articles, books, book reviews, dissertations, and working papers. It also provides citations, selected abstracts, and links to Western's full-text resources. Students can also print records by downloading marked records to a text file, sending marked records by email, or exporting them to a citation manager such as *Zotaro*. For a list of citation software, see <https://www.lib.uwo.ca/essayhelp/citationmanagementsoftware.html>.

**CANSIM (Canadian Socio-economic Information Management System)** is Statistics Canada's database of time series data covering a variety of economic aspects of Canadian society. Access the database by a Title Search on the Western Library's Catalogue, or from the Library's list of Databases under "Research Tools" on the Library's homepage.

### Western Undergraduate Economics Review (WUER)

The Department of Economics encourages students to consider submitting their essays to the *Western Undergraduate Economics Review*, a journal published annually by the Department that showcases student work in economics. For further information, please visit [http://economics.uwo.ca/undergraduate/undergraduate\\_economics\\_review.html](http://economics.uwo.ca/undergraduate/undergraduate_economics_review.html).

## ***Essay Prize in Economics***

Two prizes may be awarded at the end of the academic year. One prize is for a student registered in a 2100 level course, and one is for a student registered in a 2200 or higher level course. Each prize is valued at \$500.

Students can only win the Essay Prize in Economics once. Economics 4400E is not eligible for this prize as it has its own essay award.

Instructors will nominate student essays for the prize. The essay should be submitted to the Undergraduate Coordinator for consideration by the Essay Prize Committee, which will decide the winner. The Essay Prize Committee will consist of the Undergraduate Program Director, WUER Faculty Advisor and one other faculty member. The decision of the Committee is final and cannot be appeal.

Papers will be judged on content, originality, use of references, spelling and grammar.

The grade given to the paper will not influence the decision of the Essay Prize Committee as all comments by the original marker will be removed.

The deadlines for instructor submissions are:

Fall courses: January 1<sup>st</sup>

Winter courses: May 1<sup>st</sup>

***The winner of the essay prize is encouraged to submit their paper to the Western Undergraduate Economics Review. Other appropriate papers may also be submitted.***