

**MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY OF NEWFOUNDLAND  
ECONOMICS  
(ECONOMICS 6009 FALL 2020)**

**Course Name** Graduate Seminar  
**Program** MA Economics  
**Instructor** Roberto Martínez-Espiñeira  
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**Timetable** MON-WED 15:30 to 16:45 (and asynchronously) through Brightspace  
**Classroom** D2L Brightspace Online Room  
**Office hours** Online TU&TH 10:30-12:30 or by appointment

## 1 Textbook

*The Workflow of Data Analysis Using Stata* by J. Scott Long, Stata Press, 2009, available for purchase at the University bookstore and also online at the Stata Bookstore

In addition, you want to keep handy your Econometrics books (for example, Greene's *Econometric Analysis* and Cameron and Trivedi's *Microeconomic Analysis using Stata*), as suggested in your ECON6002 course

## 2 Software Resources

We will be using primarily but not exclusively:

- STATA, available in the Graduate Resources Room.
- MiK<sub>T</sub>E<sub>X</sub>, which is open-source, together with an editing interface of your choice (some of which are also free) that will allow you to run L<sub>A</sub>T<sub>E</sub>X.
- Reference management software. You have RefWorks available from the library and several packages that can handle BIB<sub>T</sub>E<sub>X</sub> files (extension .bib) files are also available at no cost (e.g. *JabRef* is freely available from <http://jabref.sourceforge.net/>)

## 3 Objectives of the course

- To strengthen the knowledge the student gained in previous Economics modules about how to conduct academic research and present it to an academic audience
- To develop students' capacity for self-motivated learning and problem solving during the practical process of conducting academic research

- To enhance students' research methods and skills and to prepare students for the task of writing and presenting the research output required to succeed in their graduate studies and beyond
- To equip students with the tools needed for conducting research ethically and, more practically, to navigate the usually required formal ethics protocols
- To help students develop the habits and master the techniques that will make them effective and efficient researchers, improving their ability to evaluate, plan, conduct, report, replicate, and publish economic research, as well as to collaborate with others
- To equip students for further study in Economics and/or employment in related fields

## 4 Assessment

The mark for the course comes only from coursework that involves both written project submissions and presentations. There is no final exam (See Table 1)

Table 1: Assessment summary

	date	weight	comments
Term Project: proposal	Wed Wk 5	15%	2-page proposal to be submitted
Term Project: draft	Mon Wk 9	15%	draft of full paper
Seminar Paper	Mon Wk 10	20%	
Seminar Paper presentation	Wks 10-11	5%	10-minute presentation. You must submit your ppt file on Monday Wk 10
TCPS 2 Tutorial	Wed Wk 10	5%	Completion of the Course on Research Ethics (CORE)
Term Project presentation	Wks 11-12	10%	10-minute presentation. You must submit your ppt file on Monday Wk 11
Term Project: Final paper	December 2 <sup>nd</sup>	30%	

The empirical Term Project is an important component of both this course and ECON6002 and planning for it should begin at an early stage. This Project should contain some element(s) of originality on your part and should use either primary or secondary data. The final written report on your empirical Term Project should include a copy of your raw computer output (log file) and your command file (.do file) in an Appendix. You must also submit the data you used. Late papers will be penalized at the rate of 5 points per day. The Seminar Paper and presentation count less towards the final mark but will also help students obtain valuable feedback for the preparation of their Term Paper counterparts.

## 5 Other policies

- Please e-mail me only from your MUN account
- Make sure you check your e-mail frequently (daily ideally)
- Make sure you check the website frequently (daily ideally). Many announcements pertinent to the course will only be on the website

### 5.1 Department of Economics Regulations:

- Students need to follow the MUN calendar for drop dates and deadlines
- It is not possible to drop a course once a student even sees a final exam or writes the final
- The Economics Department does NOT have Supplementary Exams.

### 5.2 Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

Plagiarism involves presenting the ideas or works of another as one's own. This applies to all material (essays, reports, term projects, seminar presentations, statistical data, computer programs, research results, theses, etc. . . ) Properly acknowledging the use of sources is a required part of scholarship and failing to do so is contrary to accepted norms of academic behaviour. Information on acceptable writing practices is available through the Writing Centre at [www.mun.ca/writingcentre](http://www.mun.ca/writingcentre)"

See also Section 6.12.4 of the University Calendar on Academic Misconduct: <http://www.mun.ca/regoff/calendar/sectionNo=REGS-0748>

### 5.3 Conduct of Examinations

Memorial University provides formal instructions for examinations (Calendar 6.8). For all examinations, students must be registered in the course; are permitted only to bring pens, pencils and, only if permitted, other items for the examination; are not allowed to use communication devices; and may not speak to each other unless part of the examination process. In this course, a student leaving the examination room will not be permitted to return. Please consult before the test with the instructor if you require accommodation regarding this norm.

A list of instructions is available online here:

<http://www.mun.ca/regoff/calendar/sectionNo=REGS-0628>:

Information on required documentation for excused absences is available in Section 6.7.5 of the General Academic Regulations (Undergraduate) in the University Calendar:

<http://www.mun.ca/regoff/calendar/sectionNo=REGS-0601#REGS-1949>

**Note: this year, due to the restrictions imposed by the measures to combat COVID19, the specific format of the tests and exams will be announced at a later date. It might involve remote examination tools, including oral online testing.**

#### **5.4 Students requiring special accommodation**

Memorial University is committed to facilitating and promoting an accessible, inclusive, and mutually respectful learning environment. Students requiring special accommodation are asked to communicate firstly with the Glenn Roy Blundon Centre ([www.mun.ca/blundon](http://www.mun.ca/blundon)) at the earliest opportunity. University policies and procedures pertaining to accommodations for students with disabilities can be found at [www.mun.ca/policy/site/policy.php?id=239](http://www.mun.ca/policy/site/policy.php?id=239)

#### **5.5 Important Dates to Remember**

A list of key dates to remember is available here:

[http://www.mun.ca/regoff/2017-2018\\_University\\_Diary.pdf](http://www.mun.ca/regoff/2017-2018_University_Diary.pdf)

## **6 Preliminary Course outline**

This document shows the general contents of the course, and the sequence of topics. For more detailed and up to date information on the lectures schedule and further reading for each section, consult the on-line *Course Schedule*. NB: this list of topics is subject to alteration during the term.

### **6.1 RESEARCH TOOLS**

1. Introduction to LaTeX and to Stata
2. Using LaTeX with Stata
3. Using reference management software with LaTeX

### **6.2 FINDING AND READING ARTICLES**

1. Sources of literature: books, articles, databases, working papers,...
2. Filing your references with reference manager software
3. What to look for in a paper

### **6.3 FINDING AND ORGANISING DATA**

1. Research Ethics Protocols
2. Data analysis and analysis replication

### **6.4 HOW TO WRITE AN ECONOMICS PAPER**

1. Research questions: Original ideas? Replication?
2. Paper sections
3. How to cite others' work and how to avoid plagiarism
4. Formatting your paper
5. How to use mathematical notation, tables, graphs, and appendices
6. How to rewrite your paper with Stata
7. How to handle collaborative work and paper revisions

### **6.5 HOW TO PRESENT AN ECONOMICS PAPER**

### **6.6 ECONOMIC LITERATURE REVIEW**

### **6.7 ECONOMETRIC PROJECT**