

School of Economics and Finance

ECON430 RESEARCH PROJECT IN ECONOMICS

Trimester One 2012

COURSE OUTLINE

Names and Contact Details

Coordinator:

Dr. Chia-Ying Chang,
Office: RH 231, Rutherford House,
Phone: (04) 463 6146
E-mail: chia-ying.chang@vuw.ac.nz
Office hours: by appointment.

Administrator:

Bonnie Riley,
Office: RH 321, Rutherford House,
Phone: (04) 463 5380
E-mail: bonnie.riley@vuw.ac.nz

Lecturers: Staff in the School of Economics and Finance will act as supervisors.

Course website: <http://www.blackboard.vuw.ac.nz/>

Trimester Dates

Monday 5 March – Friday 19 October 2012

Withdrawal from Course

1. Your fees will be refunded if you withdraw from this course on or before Friday 16 March 2012.
2. The standard last date for withdrawal from this course is Friday 24 August. After this date, students forced to withdraw by circumstances beyond their control must apply for permission on an '*Application for Associate Dean's Permission to Withdraw Late*' including supporting documentation.

The application form is available from either of the Faculty's Student Customer Service Desks.

Class Times and Room Numbers

Lecture time:

1. There are two lectures on weeks 1 and 2 of each trimester. Time and venues will be announced on Blackboard.
2. All students are expected to meet their supervisor on weekly or fortnightly basis.

Course Content

This is a supervised research project that provides students with the opportunity to undertake independent research in a specific area of economics or econometrics.

Course Learning Objectives

1. To provide students with an opportunity to study in-depth, a topic area of interest.
2. To provide students with the experience of completing a significant research paper in an intellectually independent and largely self-directed fashion.
3. To develop students' skills of critical inquiry and ability to write an academic paper that demonstrates an in-depth understanding of an area of research.

Course Delivery

Students are expected to attend lectures when scheduled (weeks 1-2 in trimester one and two), to meet with their supervisor on a weekly basis, and to attend and present in two symposia (week 6 of trimester one and week 7 of trimester two).

Expected Workload

It is expected that students will spend approximately 300 hours on their research. These hours are spread evenly over 24 teaching weeks, the two mid-trimester breaks and the mid-year break, averaging roughly 10 hours per week from the start of the course until the submission date of the project.

Readings

It is expected that all students will read and cite extensively the academic literature in their chosen area of research. The university library has extensive online access to journals.

Assessment Requirements

The assessment is 100% based on the final submitted project, which has to be submitted to Bonnie Riley (Bonnie.Riley@vuw.ac.nz) electronically via email no later than 5pm on Friday 19 October 2012. Any extension must be negotiated with the course coordinator before Friday 5 October 2012. Extensions cannot be granted by the supervisor.

Your project may be used for quality assurance purposes, such as to assess the level of achievement of learning objectives as required for accreditation and audit purposes. The findings may be used to inform changes aimed at improving the quality of FCA programmes. All material used for such processes will be treated as confidential, and the outcome will not affect your grade for the course.

Examinations

There is no examination for this course.

Penalties

Late submissions of the project must be discussed well in advance of the deadline with the course coordinator. Penalties may apply, and will depend on case-by-case basis.

Mandatory Course Requirements

1. Students must attend and present in both symposia on week 6 of trimester one and week 7 of trimester two.
2. Students must submit an acceptable research proposal to your supervisor on week 8. The proposal should be less than 2 pages, and must contain a summary of the research project and a plan for completion.
3. Students must attend at least 3 SEF seminars.

Class Representative

A class representative will be elected in the first class, and that person's name and contact details made available to VUWSA, the Course Coordinator and the class. The class representative provides a communication channel to liaise with the Course Coordinator on behalf of students.

Communication of Additional Information

Additional information will be posted on Blackboard.

Use of Turnitin

Student work provided for assessment in this course may be checked for academic integrity by the electronic search engine <http://www.turnitin.com>. Turnitin is an on-line plagiarism prevention tool which compares submitted work with a very large database of existing material. At the discretion of the Head of School, handwritten work may be copy-typed by the School and subject to checking by Turnitin. Turnitin will retain a copy of submitted materials on behalf of the University for detection of future plagiarism, but access to the full text of submissions will not be made available to any other party.

For the following important information follow the links provided:

Academic Integrity and Plagiarism

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/plagiarism.aspx>

General University Policies and Statutes

Find key dates, explanations of grades and other useful information at www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study

Find out about academic progress and restricted enrolment at

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/academic-progress.aspx>

The University's statutes and policies are available at www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy, except qualification statutes, which are available via the Calendar webpage at

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/calendar.aspx> (See Section C).

Further information about the University's academic processes can be found on the website of the Assistant Vice-Chancellor (Academic) at

www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about_victoria/avcacademic/default.aspx

AVC (Academic) Website: information including: Conduct, Academic Grievances, Students with Impairments, Student Support

http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about_victoria/avcacademic/Publications.aspx

Faculty of Commerce and Administration Offices

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/fca/studenthelp/>

Te Putahi Atawhai

Maori and Pacific Mentoring Programme

http://www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/tpa/index.aspx