



Faculty Details	Professor	Teaching Assistant
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Course Details	Day/Time	Location
Lecture	Tu/Th 2:30PM-5:15PM	Online
Lab	Su 9.30AM-12.15PM	Recitation
	Tu/Th 1:00PM-2:15PM	Office Hours
Mid Term Exam	None	
Final Exam	None	

Course Description

The *final project* course is the culmination of our efforts during the master's degree. It is designed to scaffold the development of your final research project. It is a hands-on course designed to guide students on how to conduct economic research and prepare a research thesis or policy proposal. An important aspect of the course is to provide a forum to discuss project progress and provide each other with economic analysis feedback. The course has three parts. The first part is a practical guide

for using statistical software such as STATA to master handling and visualizing data, using standard statistical methods, and making inferences. The component involves a replication exercise of published economics/finance paper. The second component will covers topics on how to write a research thesis or policy report by formulating a research question and hypothesis, searching for related literature, preparing a literature review, citing literature, structuring a document, and presenting findings. The last part of the course requires students to extend on the replicated paper in a significant direction. Extensions can take numerous forms: for example, testing the validity of results in another country/firm context, using an alternative methodology, or highlighting potential heterogeneities in the existing results. The course also allows students to work on a topic of their interest under the supervision of a faculty member from the Social Science division.

This 4 credit course (50 contact hours) counts towards the Master of Science in Economics. Prerequisites are either Econometrics (ECON GH 5210) or Empirical Economics (ECON GH 5220).

Assessment

Learning Outcomes and Linkage to Program Learning Outcomes (PLO):

The following learning outcomes are anticipated upon completion of this course.

Course Learning Outcome	Linked to MSc(Econ) PLO
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use standard statistical software tools (Stata/R/Python) for data analyses. 	Computational Capacity
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Replicate and extend existing research findings. 	Computational Capacity, Critical Thinking, Continuous Learning
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Generate, research questions, and hypotheses and design a research proposal using empirical methods 	Economic Analysis, Critical Thinking, Computational Capacity, project management
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communicate about independent research with non-specialists and specialists, expressing ideas clearly 	Written and Oral Communication
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Produce a formal academic document that demonstrates planning skills and execution of a major project with appropriately selected research methodologies and sound conclusions 	Written and Oral Communication
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construct and deliver a well-structured, clear presentation of research findings, including articulate and effective discussion of complex ideas. 	Written and Oral Communication

Grading Policies:

Replication 20%
Project Proposal 10%
Project 40%
Presentations 20%
Participation 10%

Teaching Methodologies:

The faculty member guiding this seminar experience will enable a student-centered learning environment whereby participants practice and demonstrate the critical thinking skills necessary to develop their final research projects. Students are coached in seminar preparation, discussion preparation and delivery, and self-regulated research. The faculty member will guide the students in the learning process through active participation, oral presentations, and case study analysis. Students will actively participate in the learning process by providing feedback to each other and present their own research progress. Peer feedback will be deployed to sharpen the evaluative skills of the students. The learning management system, NYU Classes, will be used as medium for information and draft sharing amongst the students. Faculty will also communicate materials and resources through this website.

Graded Activities

If you are working on a project under the supervision of another member of the Social Science faculty, your evaluation for the final project will be based on whether you have provided robust findings in a compelling way. It is required that there is a formal approval by the faculty member willing to supervise as well as myself. This is to ensure that students do not work on unfeasible projects. All final submissions are double-graded whereby two faculty members apply the same rubric of criteria to the work. Policies on double grading protocols can be collected from the Dean's office. The details and breakdown of assessed activities are detailed below.

Replication Assignment (20%):

Students will demonstrate the ability to replicate the findings of other economists. Students will re-trace someone else's steps to understand deviations of thought and methods and the rationale. These will be presented and discussed in class by every student.

Class Participation (10%):

Active engagement with the research material orally is required for this course. Students are expected to demonstrate their analytical skills by asking probing questions, responding with evaluative insights, and commenting on other's work in constructive ways. Class participation involves fostering a constructive team climate and facilitating the participation of others; this is done by constructively building upon or synthesizing the contributions of others. Students are expected to practice and demonstrate analytical and evaluative thinking skills in the discussions. Students will practice these skills and articulate them in class regularly. Participating respectfully is essential to good class participation. Through class discussion students will demonstrate self-evaluative abilities and take responsibility for

contributing to disciplinary knowledge and academic practices. Through leadership in seminar discussions, students will take turns taking responsibility for leading the strategic participation of ideas.

The students will receive feedback on their class participation performance near the midpoint of the semester for information purposes but can request an update on their participation grade (or any other grading component) any time during office hours.

Lab Homework is a part of your class participation assessment. Students will complete relatively well defined and self-contained exercises. These will form integral components of their individual research projects. Not all homework assignments need to be integrated into the final project but this exercise serves to reinforce key skills and competencies of economic analysis.

Attendance: Attendance for Economics MSc courses is mandatory. Every absence needs to be agreed with the professor prior to class. Unexcused absences will impact the class participation grade.

Research Project:

There are two components to the research project (1) the research project proposal, and (2) the final research project.

Draft Proposal (10%) is due beginning of Week 5. This proposal should include a clear statement of the research question and preliminary descriptive statistics of the data. Students should have a peer proofread their paper before submitting it. Students are reminded that the writing center is a valuable resource as well. Students are assessed on the (1) quality and relevance of the research questions, the (2) theoretical and empirical context, (3) the planning process laid out, and (4) use of latex for professional writing output.

Final Research Project (40%)

Demonstrate advanced skills to develop new knowledge and procedures and to integrate knowledge from relevant economic methodologies deploying highly developed cognitive and creative skills and intellectual independence.

Typical project reports will be between 10 and 20 pages. They should not exceed 30 pages. Variations from these limits should be agreed upon with the program director and the thesis advisor. The final project is double graded by two members of the faculty.

Introduction. The final project should start with a polished and detailed written introduction. The introduction should provide the context for your project (broad topic), should give a clear statement of your research question and motivate why the research question is of interest, formalize your research hypothesis, briefly explain the methodology you use to answer your research question, and discuss why the research methodology is appropriate for you to address your research question and hypothesis. It should demonstrate highly developed specialist language and explains highly advanced matters related economics.

Literature & Disciplinary Context. The project should provide a discussion of existing literature related to your research topic. Focus on the most relevant papers especially the replicated work. Summarize the papers very briefly, and focus on how your project extends on existing work. The literature review should demonstrate highly specialist knowledge in the field of economics including frontier concepts and recent developments.

Methodology. The project should have a separate section where you detail the research methodology you employ, and why it is appropriate to address the research question. The methods section should demonstrate your advanced knowledge of research principles and methods.

Analysis & Evaluation The analysis will differ greatly across projects. Regardless of the outcome project, all work should demonstrate advanced problem-solving skills to analyze highly complex issues within the context of data sourced. You should detail your data sources, provide clear and insightful summary statistics, and economic analysis of the data. Applying relevant econometric tools, show and interpret your results. Here the student will need to demonstrate knowledge of subject-specific skills and relevant computational competencies. Where relevant, the work should consistently manage complex ethical issues leading to informed and valid decisions.

Written Communication – students will be assessed on their content development, adherence to disciplinary conventions, sources of evidence, and application of resources and evidence, and control of syntax and mechanics of writing. Proper citation and formatting requirements are required.

Computational Capacity: Use standard statistical software tools (Stata/R/Python) for data analyses.

Final Presentation: (20%)

Students will prepare a final oral defense of their research project. Presentations will be approximately 25 minutes in duration, and 15 additional minutes for Q&A.

The general format includes: (i) Introduction of context (broad topic); (ii) clearly articulate your specific research question, and motivate why the research question is important; (iii) discuss how your projects is related to existing literature; (iv) briefly discuss hypothesis; (v) briefly discuss your research methodology and why it is appropriate to address your research question and test your hypothesis; (vi) present your data and methodology using summary statistics; (vii) present your results clearly; (viii) conclude by indicating the take-away messages from your work. Presentations will be graded based on (i) demonstration of skills in economic analysis, (ii) oral communication and clarity, (iii) content assessment.

Grade Distribution: Students need to obtain a grade of C or better to count the course towards their intended degree for required courses or economics electives. Course percentages will be translated into letter grades based on these intervals:

A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D	F
[90;100	[90;85)	[80;85)	[75;80)	[70;75)	[65;70)	[60;65)	[55;60)	[50;55)	[0;50)
]									

Academic Integrity:

At NYU Abu Dhabi, a commitment to excellence, fairness, honesty, and respect within and outside the classroom is essential to maintaining the integrity of our community. By accepting membership in this community, students, faculty, and staff take responsibility for demonstrating these values in their own conduct and for recognizing and supporting these values in others. In turn, these values create a campus climate that encourages the free exchange of ideas, promotes scholarly excellence through active and creative thought, and allows community members to achieve and be recognized for achieving their highest potential.

Students should be aware that engaging in behaviors that violate the standards of academic integrity will be subject to review and may face the imposition of penalties in accordance with the procedures set out in the NYUAD policy: <https://students.nyuad.nyu.edu/campus-life/student-policies/community-standards-policies/academic-integrity/>

New York University is committed to providing equal educational opportunity and participation for students with disabilities. CSD works with NYU students to determine appropriate and reasonable accommodations that support equal access to a world-class education. Confidentiality is of the utmost importance. Disability-related information is never disclosed without student permission. Find further information at: <https://www.nyu.edu/students/communities-and-groups/students-with-disabilities.html>

Contact: mosescsd@nyu.edu

Required Readings

“A Guide for the Young Economist” by William Thomson, MIT Press, 2001.

Course Schedule

Below is a tentative schedule of the topics we are planning to cover. Dates are subject to confirmation and may. Please make sure to go over the readings before coming to class.

Class	Date	Schedule	Submissions & Weights	Presentation Weights
1	25 May	Present Fetzter Paper		2.5%
2	27 May	Present Feyrer Paper		2.5%
3	1 June	Writing Paper		
4	3 June	Literature Review and Citations Latex Workshop		
5	8 June	Present Literature Review	SUBMIT LITERATURE REVIEW [0%] (8th June)	5%
6	10 June	Discuss Proposal	SUBMIT CODE AND OUTPUT REPLICATION [20%] (15th June)	
7	15 June	Discuss Proposal	Individual Class	
8	16 June	Discuss Proposal	Individual Class	Note: this class is on 16th June
9	22 June	Present Proposal	SUBMIT PROPOSAL [10%] (22nd June)	
10	24 June	Discuss Preliminary results (proposal)	Individual Class	
11	29 June	Study Hall	Optional [by appointment]	
12	1 July	Discussion of draft	Individual Class	
13	6 July	Present		10%
14	8 July	Present	SUBMIT FINAL PROJECT [40%] (UPDATED: 8th July)	
1-14	All semester	Class participation	10%	

The syllabus is subject to change at the discretion of the Instructor.

	Recitations
May 23 rd	Stata Refresher Class (Kostantinos)
May 30 th	Replicate Jorda et. al Paper (Naima)
June 6 th	Replication Fetzter (provide help if needed) (Kostantinos)
June 13 th	Replication Feyrer (provide help if needed) (Naima)
June 20 th	Latex working shell (Kostantinos)
June 27 th	Block these recitations to help each student when needed with the code and allow time to write their final projects in Latex (Naima)
July 4 th	Block these recitations to help each student when needed with the code and allow time to write their final projects in Latex (Kostantinos & Naima)

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