University of Alberta – Department of Economics – Winter 2020
ECON 591 – Graduate Research Workshop I – Marchand

COURSE OUTLINE

Website
https://sites.ualberta.ca/~jmarchan/teaching.htm

Class Hours Instructor
Friday Joseph Marchand
Tory B 100: 12:00 - 2:50 PM jmarchan@ualberta.ca

Description
Graduate Research Workshop I (ECON 591) at the University of Alberta serves as a doctoral-level course that establishes the skills necessary for students in the second year of their PhD to conduct independent empirical research in economics. The course will aid students in their presentation and paper writing skills, as well as in the professionalism required of a PhD candidate. All enrolled students are expected to participate, present, and produce research over several scheduled intervals throughout the entire semester.

This course is (currently) restricted to second-year PhD graduate students.

Resources
There are no specific materials for this course. However, a few handouts will be provided.

Evaluation
Students enrolled in this course must actively participate in class, present their own research, and submit a dissertation chapter draft. The purpose of these tools is for you to fully demonstrate your level of understanding of the production of research in economics.

Your numerical grade for the course is calculated with the following relative weights:

- 33.0% Active Class Participation (from January 10th to April 3rd)
- 33.0% Presentations of Research (from January 10th to April 3rd)
- 34.0% Dissertation Chapter Draft (due before 3:00 pm, April 10th)

Your letter grade is then determined based on your absolute and relative performance to the rest of the class, with a historical grade point average of ~ 3.5 out of 4.0 (~A-/B+).

Active class participation is based on: 1) attendance of workshops, 2) contributions made during workshops, and 3) attendance of economics seminars (especially job market talks). Treat our time like a language course; we will only use our time to talk about research.

Presentations are your opportunity to defend your research to your peers and instructor. These talks should emulate a department seminar, with questions from your audience. Video recording will take place for select presentations (each student gets their own file).
Your potential advisors will be identified and then invited to your final presentation. Dissertation chapter drafts will progress in various forms throughout the semester (from portfolios, to 1st presentation, to chapter draft, to 2nd presentation, to the final chapter). To begin, you will show and tell us about every research paper you have ever written and the ideas you would like to pursue as a dissertation chapter (portfolios). You will then begin to pursue the best idea, while providing detail for each ingredient (1st presentation). Next, you will provide more detail, formatting these ingredients like a typical economics working paper (chapter draft) and a more formal research synopsis (2nd presentation). Finally, the only form of your research you will submit should be as close to perfection as possible (final chapter). Thus, you should be writing, and rewriting, all semester long.

Presentations and drafts will be evaluated through the following research ingredients:

1) A clear statement of your research question.
2) An explanation of its importance (use numbers).
3) A description of the market and/or policy you examine.
4) Your synthesis of the relevant literature with references.
5) Potential data sources that you can and do use.
6) A theoretical explanation of the main relationships.
7) Your identifying variation and empirical strategy.
8) The visualization of your evidence (figures and tables).
9) Your original contribution to the economics literature.

Grammarly software is also available to help clean up your presentations and drafts.

Policy

“Policy about course outlines can be found in the Evaluation Procedures and Grading System section of the University Calendar.” (If there is a problem, let me know ASAP.)

“The University of Alberta is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. Students are expected to be familiar with these standards regarding academic honesty and to uphold the policies of the University in this respect. Students are particularly urged to familiarize themselves with the provisions of the Code of Student Behavior (online at www.governance.ualberta.ca) and avoid any behavior which could potentially result in suspicions of cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation of facts and/or participation in an offence. Academic dishonesty is a serious offence and can result in suspension or expulsion from the University.” (Dean’s office makes decisions.)

“Audio or video recording, digital or otherwise, of lectures, labs, seminars, or any other teaching environment by students is allowed only with the prior written consent of the instructor or as part of an approved accommodation plan. Student or instructor content, digital or otherwise, created and/or used within the context of the course is to be used solely for personal study, and is not to be used or distributed for any other purpose without prior written consent from the content author(s).” (Includes picture taking too. Any perceived recording device should remain stowed away during class or office hours.)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10th</td>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>Start: My Only Lecture, Handouts, Course Outline</td>
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<tr>
<td>17th</td>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>First Round: Portfolios (#1, #2, #3), Homecoming ('18)</td>
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<td>24th</td>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>First Round: Portfolios (#4, #5, #6), Homecoming ('19)</td>
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<td>31st</td>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>First Round: Portfolios (#7, #8, #9), Librarian</td>
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<td>7th</td>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>Second Round: 1st Presentations (#1, #2, #3)</td>
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<tr>
<td>14th</td>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>Second Round: 1st Presentations (#4, #5, #6)</td>
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<tr>
<td>21st</td>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>Second Round: 1st Presentations (#7, #8, #9) (read week)</td>
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<td>28th</td>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>Third Round: Chapter Drafts (#1, #2, #3)</td>
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<tr>
<td>6th</td>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>Third Round: Chapter Drafts (#4, #5, #6)</td>
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<tr>
<td>13th</td>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>Third Round: Chapter Drafts (#7, #8, #9)</td>
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<td>20th</td>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>Fourth Round: 2nd Presentations (#1, #2, #3)</td>
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<td>27th</td>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>Fourth Round: 2nd Presentations (#4, #5, #6)</td>
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<td>3rd</td>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>Fourth Round: 2nd Presentations (#7, #8, #9) (final class)</td>
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<td>10th</td>
<td>(FP)</td>
<td>End: Final Chapters (#1-9) (due by email before 3:00 pm)</td>
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NOTE: Economics seminars are typically on Fridays from 3:30 to 5:00 pm. However, given that we are hiring, job market talks may be any day, from January to March.