

# Econ 493: Seminar

Fall 2023

Tuesdays 2:30-3:45pm and Fridays 4-5:15pm, MULH3022

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*Class Webpage (Moodle):* [Moodle.stfx.ca](http://Moodle.stfx.ca)

## **Office hours:**

Tuesdays 1-2:15pm

Thursdays 1-2:30pm

Fridays 2:30-3:45pm

## **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course is designed to introduce students to research in the field of Economics. This is a team-taught course, with each instructor presenting material related to his or her areas of research expertise. Students will also be exposed to research done at other institutions through several visiting speakers. Students are required to actively participate in the lectures and seminars.

## **Objectives and Learning Outcomes:**

- (1) To expose students to current research in Economics
- (2) To introduce students to the research process, and help them acquire the skills necessary to complete an independent research project
- (3) To help students prepare for further study of Economics at the graduate level

## COURSE OUTLINE

The course consists of lectures and seminar presentations. A detailed calendar can be found on the last page of this syllabus.

### Lectures (mostly on Tuesdays):

Three faculty members will present on topics related to their fields of study.

<b>Diana Alessandrini:</b>	Overview of empirical research methods in Economics; Current research in Economics of Education and Labour Economics
<b>Patrick Withey:</b>	Climate Change Economics
<b>Greg Tkacz:</b>	Nowcasting and New Macroeconomic Data

### Seminars:

The following classes will feature a research seminar presented by StFX faculty members or invited economists from other universities. In addition, one seminar will be on graduate school applications and graduate scholarships. All seminars and lectures will be held in MULH 3022 unless otherwise stated.

<b>Friday Sep 22***</b>	Research seminar by <b>Didier Tatoutchoup</b> (University of Moncton)
<b>Tuesday Sep 26***</b>	Research seminar by <b>Gabrielle Vasey</b> (Concordia University)
<b>Friday Oct 6</b>	<i>Information Session</i> by <b>Jon Rosborough</b> (StFX Economics) <i>Graduate school and SSHRC scholarship applications</i>
<b>Friday Oct 13</b>	Research seminar by <b>Diana Alessandrini</b> (StFX Economics)
<b>Friday Oct 20***</b>	Research seminar by <b>Patrick Alexander</b> (Bank of Canada)
<b>Friday Oct 27***</b>	Research seminar by <b>Stephanie Thomas</b> (St. Mary's University) <a href="#">in</a> <b>MULH 4032</b>
<b>Friday Nov 3</b>	Research seminar by <b>Erin Mazerolle</b> (StFX Psychology) and <b>Diana Alessandrini</b> (StFX Economics) <a href="#">in MULH 4032</a>
<b>Friday Nov 17</b>	Research seminar by <b>Greg Tkacz</b> (StFX Economics)
<b>Friday Dec 1</b>	Research seminar by <b>Patrick Withey</b> (StFX Economics)

### \*\*\* EXTERNAL SEMINARS

The remaining classes (not listed above) will consist of regular lectures as outlined in the calendar attached at the end of this document.

## EVALUATION:

- **Three Homework Assignments (75% of final grade):**  
Each assignment will be worth 25% of your final grade. To be assigned in class with due dates announced at that time. One assignment given by each faculty: Diana Alessandrini, Patrick Withey, Greg Tkacz.
- **Oral presentation in class on October 24 (15% of your final grade)**  
You will be asked to give a short presentation (a 15-minute presentation followed by a 5-minute Q&A) on a paper of your choice related to the Economics of Education. On Moodle, you will find a list of suggested papers to choose from. You can also choose a different paper but, in this case, you should talk to me first. Your presentation will be graded following the rubric uploaded on Moodle. The presentation will count for 15% of your final grade. You are very welcome to stop by my office hours if you need help understanding the paper and/or preparing your presentation.
- **Written summaries of 3 external seminars (10% of your final grade)**  
You will be asked to submit written summaries of the external seminars. There are 4 external seminars (marked with \*\*\* on the previous page). You are asked to choose 3 and write a concise summary of the papers presented during those 3 seminars. Your summary should consist of three paragraphs discussing the following aspects.

RESEARCH QUESTION (1<sup>st</sup> paragraph): what is the main research question of the paper? Most papers focus on the relationship between a dependent variable (y) and one independent variable (x). Which relationship is the author studying and estimating?

MOTIVATION (2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph): why is it important to study this topic/relationship? What are the policy implications? Does knowing the answer to this question improve our understanding of the economy?

MAIN RESULTS (3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph): What research method is the author using and what are the main results of the paper?

You are very welcome to stop by my office hours if you need help understanding the papers and/or preparing your summaries. Summaries are due on November 13 and should be submitted on Moodle.

## COURSE POLICIES

- **Attendance and Participation:**

Students are expected to actively participate in class, and attend all lectures and seminars unless they fall ill or other extenuating circumstances happen.

- **Accommodations through the center for accessible learning:**

Students who would like to request accommodations are asked to contact the Tramble Centre for Accessible Learning:

Phone 902.867.5349

Email: [tramble@stfx.ca](mailto:tramble@stfx.ca)

<https://tramblecentre.stfx.ca/custom/misc/home.aspx>

The Tramble Center welcomes students with documented permanent disabilities and offers them a student-centered program of support. Located in Room 108 of the Angus L MacDonald Library, new and returning students meet with program staff to discuss options for support. Deadline for registering with the Center is two weeks prior to the end of classes each semester.

- **Equitable learning:**

Everyone learns more effectively in a respectful, safe and equitable learning environment, free from discrimination and harassment. I invite you to work with me to create a classroom space – both real and virtual – that fosters and promotes values of human dignity, equity, non-discrimination and respect for diversity.

- **Academic Integrity Policy:** <https://www.stfx.ca/applications-admissions/registrar-office/academic-integrity>

- **November 1st** is the last day to drop the course. If you decide to drop the course, you must do so online through Banner. Permission to drop or change a course after the deadline can only be granted by the Dean's office.

- **Please note that the last week of classes in the Fall term will have a unique teaching schedule:**

Monday December 4	regularly scheduled classes will occur
Tuesday December 5	Monday classes will be offered again
Wednesday December 6	Friday classes will be offered

**This means that our last class will be on Wednesday Dec 6<sup>th</sup> from 4-5:15pm rather than on Tuesday Dec 5<sup>th</sup>.**

### September 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat.
					Sep 1	2
3	4	5 Course Intro	6	7	12 Regression analysis	9
10	11	12 Regression analysis	13	14	15 Regression analysis (applied to Education)	16
17	18	19 Regressions (applied to Education)	20	21	22 D. Tatoutchoup (U Moncton)	23
24	25	26 G. Vasey (Concordia)	27	28	29 No classes Holiday	30

### October 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wed.	Thurs.	Friday	Saturday
Oct 1	2	3 Regressions (applied to Labor Econ)	4	5	6 Graduate School applications	7
8	9	10 Regression discontinuity	11	12	13 D. Alessandrini (StFX)	14
15	16	17 Regression discontinuity	18	19	20 P. Alexander (Bank of	21
22	23	24 Oral presentations	25	26	27 S. Thomas (St. Mary's)	28
29	30	31 Nowcasting				

### November and December 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat.
			Nov 1	2	3 E. Mazerolle + D. Alessandrini (StFX)	4
5	6	7 Study Break	8	9	10 Study Break	11
12	13	14 Nowcasting	15	16	17 G. Tkacz (StFX)	18
19	20	21 Nowcasting	22	23	24 Climate change econ	25
26	27	28 Climate change econ	29	30	Dec 1 P. Whitey (StFX)	2
3	4	5	6 Climate change econ			

#### Research seminars

Graduate school applications and scholarships

#### Lectures:

D Alessandrini Research Methods; Econ of Education

G Tkacz Nowcasting and New Macroeconomic Data

P Withey Climate Change Economics