GLEF4090 - Research Project on Global Economics and Finance
2024-25 Term 1
Course Outline

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Office hours: By appointment in ELB 1007B, please email or ask in class.

Course Description

This course requires the student to conduct an individual research project on a topic in global economics and finance under the instructor's supervision. The course teaches students to communicate ideas effectively and results in a research paper on a topic of their own choice. The course aims to help students to write their own research project and to become independent researchers. To achieve these goals the course consists of a combination of lectures, discussions, and assignments. Significant class time will be dedicated to discussing students' own research.

Learning Outcomes

The course aims to help students in mastering the skills of independent research and of clear, coherent, and concise writing. Upon completion of the course, students will be able to:

- Formulate a research topic and write a proposal.
- Conduct a literature search and write a literature review.
- Compile datasets and carry out empirical analyses.
- Write a final report and present the findings.

Assessment

- Research proposal (week 2, 10%)
- Presentation 1 (week 6, 10%)
- Partial draft (week 8, 20%)
- Presentation 2 (week 12, 10%)
- Final report (due by Monday 16 December, 40%)
- Class participation (10%)

Meeting Schedule

We will meet regularly throughout the term to discuss your progress. The group meetings will take place in person. The individual meetings preferably take place in person, but can also be scheduled online. Below are the minimum requirements, you are welcome to schedule additional individual meetings with me.

Week 1 (Sep 2 or Sep 3)	Individual
Week 3	Group (lecture + discuss research proposal)
Week 6	Group (student presentations)
Week 9	Group (lecture + discuss partial draft)
Week 12	Group (student presentations)

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Assignment Descriptions

- Research proposal, 1-2 pages. Write a research proposal containing two research ideas in separate paragraphs. State the topic and research question, why it is interesting and important, and how you plan to answer the question. Ideally, the question is clear, concise, specific, relevant, researchable, and open.

- Presentation 1. Present your research. Cover your topic and research question, why it is interesting and important, how you will answer the question (e.g., research design and data gathering methodology), basic data patterns, and preliminary results (if any).

- Partial draft, 2-8 pages. Write a first draft of your paper's introduction, background, and data sections.

- Presentation 2. Present your research. Assume that the audience partially remembers your Presentation 1, so do not give a full recap of your first presentation but do briefly introduce the topic and research question. Then present the data, empirical analysis, and results.

- Final report, 10-20 pages. Rewrite your paper's introduction, background, and data sections, and write the sections on the empirical analysis, results, conclusion, and references. Attach the VeriGuide report (see below) to your submission. Late submission will be penalized.

Assignment Requirements

For the written assignments, follow these requirements:

- The following information should be at the top of the first page in the middle in separate lines: Project title, name, email address, date.

- Font type: Times New Roman or a similar standard font type.

- Font size: 12

- Line spacing: 1.5

- Margins: 1 inch (2.5 cm)

- File type: .docx or .pdf

- Put page numbers at the bottom of the page in the middle. Indent paragraphs. Number and title graphs, figures, and tables.

- Read your draft to fix spelling errors, to correct awkward and repetitive phrases, and to reorganize sentences and paragraphs to improve flow and eliminate redundancies.

Course Material

There is no required textbook for this course, but I recommend the following resources:

- Bellemare, M.F. (2022). *Doing Economics: What You Should Have Learned in Grad School – But Didn't*. The MIT Press. ISBN: 9780262543552.

- McCloskey, D.N. (2019). *Economical Writing*, Third Edition. The University of Chicago Press. ISBN: 978-0-226-44807-7.

- Strunk Jr., W., and E.B. White. (2000). *The Elements of Style*, Fourth Edition. Allyn & Bacon. ISBN: 0-205-30902-X.
- Thomson, W. (2011). *A Guide for the Young Economist*, Second Edition. MIT Press. ISBN: 978-0-262-51589-4.
- Turabian, K.L. (2007). *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, Seventh Edition. The University of Chicago Press. ISBN: 978-0-226-82338-6.
- Weisbach, M.S. (2021). *The Economist's Craft: An Introduction to Research, Publishing, and Professional Development*. Princeton University Press. ISBN: 0691216487.
- Williams, J.M., and J. Bizup. (2014). *Style: Lessons in Clarity and Grace*, Eleventh Edition. Pearson Education, Inc. ISBN: 0-321-89868-0.

Academic Honesty

Attention is drawn to University policy and regulations on honesty in academic work, and to the disciplinary guidelines and procedures applicable to breaches of such policy and regulations. Details may be found at http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/.

With each assignment, students will be required to submit a signed declaration that they are aware of these policies, regulations, guidelines and procedures. For group projects, all students of the same group should be asked to sign on the declaration.

For assignments in the form of a computer-generated document that is principally text-based and submitted via VeriGuide, the statement, in the form of a receipt, will be issued by the system upon students' uploading of the soft copy of the assignment. Assignments without the receipt will not be graded by teachers. Only the final report should be submitted via VeriGuide.

Use of AI Tools

All use of AI tools is prohibited in assignments and assessment tasks. For assignments and assessment tasks that count towards the final course grades, students are not allowed to submit work which is produced with the collaboration of or supported by the use of any generative AI tools (e.g., ChatGPT). Any breach of the regulations will be considered an act of academic dishonesty and will be handled according to the University's Procedures for Handling Cases of Academic Dishonesty. In case of queries, students should seek advice from the course teacher.