Course Outline
ECON 490.012: Applied Economics – The Economics of the Family
Vancouver School of Economics, University of British Columbia
Winter II 2019/20

Instructor: Marina Adshade
Instructor Email: marina.adshade@gmail.com
Office Hours: TBD
Office Location: Iona 251

Lecture Day(s) and Time(s): TBD
Lecture Location: Iona 533

Lab Day(s) and Time(s): TBD
Lab Location: Buchannan B126

TA Office Hours and Location to be provided early in the term.

Prerequisites: This course is restricted fourth year students with in a declared BA major Economics. Students must have successfully completed all of ECON 325 and ECON 326 and one of ECON 301 / 304 and ECON 302/ 305.

DETAILED COURSE DESCRIPTION

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Description: In the first week of Econ 101 you were taught that the household is the fundamental unit of the economy. Despite that emphasis, in economics we often overlook the structure of the household and how households make important decisions that can impact all areas of both the macro and microeconomy. Family economics examines how families make choices in regards to their time spend working and going to school, number of children born, savings and spending, where to live and whether to live alone or with others. These decisions have implications that influence aggregate output, human capital accumulation, labour force participation, fertility rates, migration patterns, and health and welfare of current and future generations. The decisions of families are rapidly changing over time and vary widely between demographic and geographic groups, meaning that there is an abundance of interesting research topics in this area.

Data: We will be exploring the Statistics Canada General Social Survey: The Family that has been collected approximately every five years since 1990. The most recent GSS Family (collected in 2017) Public Use Micro File (PUMF) is scheduled to be released in the fall of 2019 and will include new areas for research. This dataset is accessible and, once mastered, will give you the knowledge to access all dataset created by Statistic Canada.

Approach to learning: The goal of this course is to help you learn how to think, write, and speak like an economist. Throughout the term you will work as a group, with your instructor one-on-one and alone on your
individual research projects. This process is designed to replicate the process followed by your professors in producing their own, publication quality, research. Students are expected to know by the beginning of the third week of class what their research topic will be. Stata skills will be taught in the lab for the first five weeks via graded lab assignments (posted on Canvas) will that be completed independently. Students will be given a detailed paper writing guide and a guide to writing an annotated bibliography (both posted on Canvas) along with a checklist for the final project. A poster session conference will be held the final week of the term.

**RECOMMENDED MATERIALS:** Early in the term you should familiarize yourself with the [library guide for economics](#) as you will be acquiring most of the materials via this portal. You should also establish a [VPN](#) to the university so that you can access materials while off-campus. Now is a good time for you to set up an account at [www.turnitin.com](#) (Class ID 20995963, Enrollment Key Econ490UBC). You should familiarize yourself with using a [citation management software](#) service for creating bibliographies. I encourage you to purchase your own copy of Stata [here](#). You will also need to bring a portable hard drive (i.e. USB stick) to every lab.

**REQUIRED READINGS:** The following must be read within the first three weeks of term to help lay the foundation for your research. You will read many, many other papers on your specific topic once you have made that decision. To be determined.

**COMMUNICATION:** Online communication in this class with your instructor and with your classmates will take place on a class Slack channel. You can sign into this channel using your @ubc.ca email address and your full name here [https://econ4902020.slack.com/signup](https://econ4902020.slack.com/signup). Please put any questions/comments that are relevant to the whole class in the #general channel. Individual questions/comments can come through direct messages. Feel free to form student groups; this will be useful for you in preparing for your lab assignments and other econometric work. One-on-one meetings will be scheduled through the calendar on Canvas at [www.canvas.ubc.ca](https://www.canvas.ubc.ca).

**ASSESSMENT METHODS:**

The final course grade will be determined according to the following weighting:

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<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Annotated Bibliography</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lab Assignments</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Econometric Files</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Presentation</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Paper</td>
<td>40%</td>
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**Annotated Bibliography:** The purpose of this work is to help guide your research (methods and data) and to prepare you to write the literature review section of your paper. Detailed instructions on how to write an annotated biography have been posted on Canvas. This work will be submitted through Turnitin.com before midnight on Feb 7th and you will receive feedback through the same service. Please make sure you carefully consider this feedback before submitting your final paper.

**Lab Assignments:** You will have five independent lab assignments that will provide the foundation for your own empirical work in your final paper. To help you prepare for these assignments, each week you will be given, in advance, a list of Stata skills (on Slack) that will be covered in the lab. At the end of each lab you will upload any do, log, or png files to Canvas for grading and feedback. As the work on these files is cumulative, is
it strongly recommended that you make any corrections to previous weeks labs before arriving for the subsequent lab assignment.

**Econometrics Files**: We will be reviewing the econometrics files for your final paper together before the paper is submitted. Those files (do, log and png) will be uploaded to Canvas before midnight on March 12th where you will find detailed instructions. We will schedule one-on-one meetings the following week to discuss those files.

**Presentations**: The class will be holding a poster session conference at the end of the term to present the results of the research. Each presentation will consist of a pictorial and graphic summary of the research in the form of a poster and a 3-minute presentation of the results. Students will be asked to peer evaluate five other student presentations. The grade for the presentation will be 10 marks for the presentation and 5 marks for the peer evaluation.

**Final paper**: Your final paper will be submitted in hard copy form at the VSE reception before 4:00pm on Thursday April 10th. You must also submit an electronic copy through turnitin.com and your Stata file (do, log, png) to Canvas before midnight on that day. Please see the rules below on submitting your work after the due date and time. You have been given extensive checklist for that paper, please be certain to review it before submitting.

**POLICY ON ATTENDANCE/PARTICIPATION**: We will meet regularly for approximately the first six weeks of the term and then once more at the end of the term. On days that we do not meet your instructor will be available to you for help during our class time in her office. Attendance in on days that we meet is mandatory. Your instructor reserves the right to fail any student who does not attend class, labs, or in office meetings without a legitimate excuse.

**PENALTY FOR LATE /UNSUBMITTED WORK**: Your instructor reserves the right to fail any student who does not submit any element of their work when it is due, regardless of whether the work is graded or not. Failing to submit your annotated bibliography, econometric work, or final paper on the due date will result in the following lost points from your grade: 2/10 points if submitted within 24 hours, 4/00 points if submitted within 24-48 hours, 6/10 points if submitted within 48 - 72 hours, 8/10 points if submitted after 72 hours. No work will be accepted after 96 hours after the due date.

**STATEMENT ON ACADEMIC HONESTY**: It is the policy of the Vancouver School of Economics to report all violations of UBC’s standards for academic honesty to the office of the Dean of Arts. Those standards can be found here. In addition to the explicitly stated violations in that document (for example, plagiarism), any student who hires a tutor/editor to help with any portion of their work will be given an automatic grade of zero on their final paper. Additionally, students who falsify their references, or act in any such dishonest manner, will also be given a grade of zero on their final paper. Further penalties may be levied by the President’s Advisory Committee on Student Discipline. Those further penalties could include a notation on your transcript indicating that you have committed an academic offence, failure of the course, a grade of zero in the course and/or suspension from the university. Speak to your instructor in person if you have any questions regarding the standard for academic honesty at UBC.

**COURSE SCHEDULE**: To Be Determined.
RELATED POLICIES

Academic Concession
http://www.calendar.ubc.ca/vancouver/index.cfm?tree=3,48,0,0

Academic Honesty and Standards
http://www.calendar.ubc.ca/vancouver/?tree=3,286,0,0

Attendance
http://www.calendar.ubc.ca/vancouver/index.cfm?tree=3,36,0,0

Grading Practices
http://www.calendar.ubc.ca/vancouver/index.cfm?tree=3,42,0,0

Student Conduct and Discipline
http://www.calendar.ubc.ca/vancouver/index.cfm?tree=3,54,0,0

Religious Accommodations and Exams
http://students.ubc.ca/enrolment/exams/exam-policies/religious-accommodations

Viewing Marked Work
http://www.calendar.ubc.ca/vancouver/index.cfm?tree=3,41,93,0