

# Econ 493: Seminar

Fall 2020

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

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*Professor:* Diana Alessandrini

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*Office Phone:* (902) 867-3982

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

<b>Virtual Office Hours on Collaborate (Moodle)</b>	
<b>Tuesdays</b>	11:15 AM - 12:15 PM
<b>Thursdays</b>	9:45-11:45 AM
<b>Fridays</b>	2:30-3:30 PM

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## **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. Each faculty member will design their own assignment which students must fulfill for completion of the course.

### **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

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## COURSE OUTLINE

### Lectures (mostly on Tuesdays):

Faculty members will present on topics related to their fields of study and/or related to the key elements of an economic research paper. Tentative schedule of topics:

- Diana Alessandrini:** Intro to writing a research paper in Economics; Current research in Economics of Education
- Teng Leo:** Matching
- Fraser Summerfield:** How to write a literature review; Current research in Labour Economics
- Patrick Withey:** Climate Change Economics
- Zeynep Ozkok:** Political Economy and Institutions; How to write the conclusions section of a research paper

### Friday Seminars:

Most Fridays feature a research seminar presented by StFX economists or invited economists from other universities. One Friday will involve a seminar on graduate school applications and graduate scholarships.

- Sept 25th** Research seminar by **Barbara Sadaba** (Bank of Canada)  
*Cyclicality of schooling: new evidence from unobserved components models*
- Oct 2nd** Research seminar by **Diana Alessandrini** (StFX Economics)  
*The intergenerational effects of recessions*
- Oct 9th** Research seminar by **Teng Leo** (StFX Economics)  
*Circumstances Underlying Perverse Aversion for Redistribution: A Latent Class Semi-Parametric Mixture Model of the U.S. Income Distribution 1976-2016*
- Oct 16th** Research seminar by **Mevlude Akbulut** (Dalhousie University)  
*Labour economics*

- Oct 23rd** Research seminar by **Fraser Summerfield** (StFX Economics)  
*Topic: TBA*
- Oct 30th** Research seminar by **Nazanin Behzadan** (University of Prince Edward Island)  
*The Paradox of Transfers: Distribution and the Dutch Disease*
- Nov 6th** *Information Session – Graduate school and SSHRC scholarship applications*  
**Jon Rosborough** (StFX Economics)
- Nov 20th** Research seminar by **Patrick Withey** (StFX Economics)  
*Climate change economics*
- Nov 27th** Research seminar by **Zeynep Ozkok** (StFX Economics)  
*Topic: TBA*

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

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## **EVALUATION**

Course grades will be determined by assignments given during the term. Each faculty member will present on their own topic and will assign students a related exercise and/or presentation. Hand-out and due-dates are determined by each faculty member.

5 Assignments      Each assignment will be worth 20% of the final grade. To be assigned in class with due dates announced at that time. One assignment given by each faculty: Diana Alessandrini, Teng Leo, Fraser Summerfield, Patrick Withey, Zeynep Ozkok.

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## **COURSE POLICIES**

- **Attendance and Participation:**  
Students are expected to actively participate in class and attend all lectures and seminars unless they fall ill, they need to quarantine, 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)

<http://www2.mystfx.ca/accessible-learning/>

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 and 3 Business Days' notice is required for booking all accommodated tests and exams. To book an appointment please use the following link: <https://stfxcal.mywconline.com/>

- **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:** <http://www2.mystfx.ca/registrars-office/academic-integrity>

- **November 13<sup>th</sup>** 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.

### September 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15 Course Intro	16	17	18 Econ of education	19
20	21	22 Econ of education	23	24	25 B Sadaba (Bank of Canada)	26
27	28	29 Econ of education	30			

### October 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 D Alessandrini (StFX)	3
4	5	6 Matching	7	8	9 T Leo (StFX)	10
11	12	13 Matching	14	15	16 M Akbulut (Dalhousie)	17
18	19	20 Literature reviews	21	22	23 F Summerfield (StFX)	24
25	26	27 Literature reviews	28	29	30 N Behzadan (UPEI)	31

### November 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat
1	2	3 Literature reviews	4	5	6 SSHRC J Rosborough (StFX)	7
8	9	10 Climate change econ	11	12	13 Climate change econ	14
15	16	17 Climate change econ	18	19	20 P Withey (StFX)	21
22	23	24 Political economy	25	26	27 Z Ozkok (StFX)	28
29	30					

### December 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Political economy	2	3	4	5

Research seminars

Graduate school applications and scholarships

Lectures:

D Alessandrini Intro; Economics of Education

T Leo Matching

F Summerfield Literature reviews; Labor Economics

P Withey Climate Change Econ

Z Ozkok Political Economy and Institutions; How to write conclusions