



**University of International Business and Economics
International Summer School**

ECON 336 Research Methods in Economics

Term: July 18th– August 12th, 2022

Instructor: Cong Xia

Home Institution: Central University of Finance and Economics

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Class Hours: Monday through Friday, 120 minutes each day (2,400 minutes in total)

Office Hours: TBD

Discussion Session: 2 hours each week

Total Contact Hours: 64 contact hours (45 minutes each, 48 hours in total)

Credit: 4 units

Location: WEB

Course Description:

The object of this course is to make explicit to novice researchers the detailed process of doing research, including constructing persuasive arguments supported by the theory and empirical evidence. Although many research skills are taught in traditional courses, the border skills required for research design tend not to be. Both hard skills and soft skills are needed. Students need to learn the border, creative skills required for this research.

To understand the process of doing research, students also need to make their hands dirty: they do not only learn abstract concepts, but also deal with the real data. They will learn how to search literature, download data, and analysis data. They will also learn how to interpret the results, show tables and graphs, and write research reports.

Thus, this course has several objectives:

- (1) The students should develop the ability to frame a good research question.
- (2) The students should be able to use available resources to search the literature and write an exhaustive literature review.
- (3) The students should be able to clean the data and do empirical analysis with Stata software
- (4) The students should present the results in an academic manner, and write formal reports of their findings.

Required Textbook:

1. Greenlaw, Steven A. (2009), Doing Economics: A Guide to Understanding and Carrying Out Economic Research, South-Western CENGAGE Learning.
2. Lawrence C. Hamilton - Statistics with STATA-Cengage Learning (2012)

Required Software:

Stata (version 12 or higher). The instructor will distribute Stata (version 17) software, codes and data in class.

Grading Scale:

You class performance will be graded according to the following grade scale:

A	90-100	C+	72-74
A-	85-89	C	68-71
B+	82-84	C-	64-67
B	78-81	D	60-63
B-	75-77	F	below 60

Grading Policy:

Participation: 20%

Final research project: 80%, A detailed instruction, along with a detailed grading criterion, will be distributed later in the class.

In accordance with the goals of this course, students will be expected to finish a research project independently. The topic will be assigned by the instructor and data will be provided as well. Students will analysis the data, showing summary statistics, drawing graphs and run regression analysis. Students also need to write a formal academic-style report describing their findings. A detailed instruction of the research project will be distributed later in the class.

Plagiarism & Fraud:

In this course, there is zero tolerance on academic misconduct. Academic misconduct will be admitted by the rules of School of International Education (SIE) of University of International Business and Economics. The violation of academic integrity, include, but are not limited to, copying works from a published paper or from another student, failing to cite references appropriately, manipulating the results, etc. The instructor will make a final choice on the deduction of the final grades.

Class Rules:

Students are expected to:

- Complete the day's required reading and assignments before class
- Review the previous day's notes before class; make notes about questions you have about the previous class or the day's reading
- Participate in class discussions and complete required written work on time

Course Schedule:

	Contents	Related textbook and study resources
Class 1	What is research? Research process and searching literature	Greenlaw Chapter 123
Class 2	Using writing as a toll for economic research	Greenlaw Chapter 45
Class 3	Critical reading and reasoning	Greenlaw Chapter 67
Class 4	Collecting data, and cleaning data	Greenlaw Chapter 8, Hamilton Chapter 1
Class 5	Cleaning Data using Stata	Hamilton Chapter 1+Stata
Class 6	Data management part1	Hamilton Chapter 2
Class 7	Data management part2	Greenlaw Chapter 9
Class 8	Research design and some statistics	Greenlaw Chapter 10
Class 9	Showing your data in graphs	Hamilton Chapter 3
Class 10	Summary Statistics, Tables, and ANOVA	Hamilton Chapter 56
Class 11	Linear Regression Analysis, Part 1	Greenlaw Chapter 11, Hamilton Chapter 7
Class 12	Linear Regression Analysis, Part 2	Greenlaw Chapter 11, Hamilton Chapter 7
Class 13	Advanced regression methods, Part 1	Hamilton Chapter 89
Class 14	Advanced regression methods, Part 2	Hamilton Chapter 89, and instructor's material
Class 15	Panel data	Instructor's material
Class 16	Advanced research design: Difference-in-difference	Instructor's material
Class 17	Advanced research design: Difference-in-difference	Instructor's material
Class 18	Advanced research design: Propensity score matching	Instructor's material
Class 19	Advanced research design: instrument variable	Instructor's material
Class 20	Replicating a research paper	Instructor's material