

# THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES, MONA

## ECON3030

### Selected Topics in Economics

Pre-requisite: ECON2001, ECON2003, and permission of lecturer

**Lecturer:** Christine Clarke

**Office:** Rm 16, Economics Block

**Office Hours:** Thursday 9am – 1pm

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### Description

This is a final year elective that will expose students in their final semester to specially chosen topic in economics. It is a **RESEARCH** course at the undergraduate level and will require the student to develop and demonstrate skills relating to research. Each year, the topics covered within the module are likely to change to reflect the heterogeneity of specialist research interests of teaching staff, the changing issues within the discipline and the changing topics taught elsewhere within the Economics degree programmes. In doing this, the course aims to provide students with an opportunity to study a variety of topics drawn from the broad field of economics. In selecting topics, the main criteria will include: (i) scope for the topic to provide a context in which, through application, students can begin to develop their understanding of key concepts in economics and econometrics, (ii) importance of the topic within the general field of Economics, (iii) policy relevance of the topic, (iv) complementing topics covered elsewhere within the degree programmes.

### Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of the course, the student should be able to

- Demonstrate an advanced capacity for analytical thinking, reasoning and application
- Demonstrate the ability to abstract and problem solve
- Develop a well-developed understanding of economic principles, applied economics, economic information, and research issues
- Demonstrate data skills, mathematical/statistical skills and written communication skills.
- Demonstrate key research skills: the ability to define a research question; find and critically review previous studies on their chosen subject; and, the ability to carry out data analysis at a first degree level

### Modes of Delivery

Two lecture hours face to face. Students are encourage to informally book time in my office hours every week to ensure they are keeping pace with their research project.

# Assessment

|                       |               |     |
|-----------------------|---------------|-----|
| Concept Paper         | Sept 25, 2019 | 10% |
| Research Proposal     | Oct 9, 2019   | 20% |
| Research Presentation | Nov 6, 2019   | 30% |
| Final Research Paper  | Nov 29, 2019  | 40% |

## Research Topics

Students are advised that the topics below are the active research topics of the lecturer for the course. Where students choose to work on these topics for their coursework, they must understand that it may form part of the lecturer's future research output with appropriate credit attributed to the student where the student puts in no further work beyond submission of the coursework. Authorship will be negotiated where the student decides to continue working with the lecturer on the project.

### 1. Climate Policies, Health and Development

- a. What does the literature say?
- b. Which countries have Climate Policies and what are the key policy elements?
- c. Are there any nuances relating to this for developing countries.
- d. Propose policy solutions

### 2. Tracking Development using Indices

- a. What is a composite index
- b. What methodologies are used?
- c. Where does the data come from?
- d. How do you determine what should be included
- e. Comparing well-known indices

### 3. Central Bank Independence: Relevance to SIDS

- a. Motivation and Prerequisites
- b. Monetary Policy in SIDS – effectiveness, challenges,
- c. Pros and Cons
- d. Accountability and Monitoring

### 4. Fiscal Council

- a. Effective design, Roles, Responsibilities
- b. Experience of SIDS or other Developing Countries with Fiscal Councils
- c. Best design for Jamaican context
- d. How will we know if it is effective?

### 5. Financial Inclusion

- a. Objectives
- b. Prerequisites?

- c. Policy and Legislative framework
- d. Indicators of Financial inclusion

I have readings for most of the topics listed above however the websites for the following entities will be invaluable.

1. The International Monetary Fund
2. The World Bank
3. The Inter-American Development Bank
4. The African Development Bank
5. The Caribbean Development Bank
6. The Caribbean Disaster and Emergency Management Agency
7. United Nations Development Programme

To do well, students will have to have to have excellent skills in research, namely:

1. Internet search for **ACADEMIC** sources (no sites ending with edia should be referenced or cited in your work of any kind. Please visit the main library for guidance.
2. Reading and synthesizing what you have read
3. Writing – please remember writing is a process, not an event
4. Rereading and reading further
5. Presentation and practice
6. Writing Literature Reviews – not simply stating what the paper said
7. Collecting and analyzing data
8. Making sensible and coherent policy recommendations

Handouts and other materials about the research process will be posted on OURVLE for the lecture sessions. These sessions will take the form of discussion about these readings and not a traditional lecture format. Therefore, students must prepare well ahead of time to facilitate reflection on material read and your ability to get the most out of the course.

### **UWI Policy on Plagiarism**

Students are reminded that all work submitted for review or grading must be your own words. “Paraphrasing” and quotations longer than 1 line are not acceptable in the social sciences. You must read, interpret, write, read what you have written and rewrite. In many cases, you may find that you have to start from scratch. If you are found to have used someone else’s work inappropriately regardless of whether you acknowledged their work, your work will be sent through the established UWI procedures. Students are responsible to familiarize themselves with the UWI Policy on Plagiarism – particularly the definition of plagiarism, it might differ from what you think it is – and the procedures for suspected breaches.