<h1 style="color:#c0392b; text-align:center">THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES, MONA CAMPUS
ECON6081: APPLIED ECONOMIC RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS</h1>

<h1 style="text-align:center">Course Outline</h1>

Semester 2 2019/2020   3 credit hours

Lecturer:	Dr Kelly-Ann Dixon Hamil
Email:	kellyann.dixon02@uwimona.edu.jm
Office:	1st Floor, Social Science Block, Rm 15
Office Hours:	Tuesdays 5pm-6pm & Wednesdays 11am–12noon (or by appointment)

Course Website: The course site on OurVLE (https://ourvle.mona.edu/)

ALL STUDENTS ARE REQUIRED TO READ THIS DOCUMENT IN FULL
(Ignorance of course structure and/or policy will not be excused)

Course Requisites

Eligibility Requirements: Acceptance into the PhD Economics programme or permission of the lecturer

Prerequisites: None

Corequisites: None

Anti-requisites: None

Course Description

This course is designed to prepare students for applied research work. It will highlight the challenges associated with conducting applied economic research in a developing country context, and will expose students to other statistical methods that are not covered in the Econometric component of the programme.

Mode of Delivery

- Three contact hours per week where concepts will be taught and related examples used to concretize statistical ideas.
- Tutorials will be conducted as needed

Required Texts & Materials

This course will make extensive use of OurVLE. All course materials (lecture notes, tutorial sheets and announcements) will be posted on the course site on OurVLE. All communication about this course will be made through the OurVLE course site and/or your official email provided to you by the University. Students must therefore be able to access the course site and their UWI email frequently.

Required Text: There is no one required text for this course. However, there are required readings for each topic

Other Materials: Access to R, RStudio (statistical analysis tools), Mendeley (citation manager) and Overleaf (typsetting tool)

Learning Outcomes

At the end of this course, students should be able to:
1. Conceptualize and design a relevant research project
2. Prepare and present a research project
3. Collect and analyse primary and secondary data
4. Interpret and present the results of the data analysis in a manner that is of an adequately high quality to be presented as a conference paper
5. Critically assess the relevance of extant studies to the Caribbean region, the appropriateness of the methodologies and frameworks applied, and the soundness of the results derived

Assessment

The course will be assessed using the following methods:
- 1 Annotated Bibliography   -   20%
- 1 Research Presentation   -   20%
- 1 Research Paper   -   60%

Course Policies

Assignments

The assignments will be based on your research topic. This will be chosen from the list of topics provided to you. Please note the following:

1. The topics have been suggested by lecturers within the Department. Therefore, **the topics below belong to whoever conceptualized it**. However, depending on the amount of work you put in to the research during and after the course, there *may* be the option for you to be a co-author.
2. Topics are assigned on a first come, first serve basis.
3. You will need to collaborate with other students as lecturers.

All assignments should be written using LaTeX, a document preparation system which uses the TeX typesetting programme for formatting scientific papers. Guidelines for each assignment, including formatting will be posted on OurVLE.

Once your topic is chosen, we will meet every other week to discuss your progress. In addition to the actually work, at least 24 hours before our scheduled meeting, you are required to send an agenda, which should include any issue you would like to discuss. Also, after the meeting, you are required to email me with a summary of what was discussed including the proposed course of action.

Attendance
Students are expected to attend all lectures and tutorials. If you miss a lecture or tutorial, it is the student's responsibility to get the relevant notes from a classmate. The lecturer will not be giving completed notes, lecture slides or tutorial answers to any student.

Electronic Material
The recording of lectures and taking pictures of lectures is strictly prohibited (unless required for learning due to a disability approved by The Office of Special Student Services).

Additionally, lectures, notes and other material presented during the course of the lecture or as part of the course are protected by copyright laws. As such, students are not allowed to post, sell or otherwise barter, reproduce any of the above-mentioned en masse, either to other students or to any commercial concern. To obtain permission to sell or barter notes, the individual wishing to sell or barter the notes must be registered in the course or must be an approved visitor to the class. The lecturer may grant or not grant such permission at their own discretion and may require a review of the notes prior to their being sold or bartered. If they do grant such permission, they may revoke it at any time, if they so choose.

Use of Technology in Classes
During lectures and tutorials:
- students may use their laptops or tablets to take notes or for any other uses as directed by your lecturer or tutor. Students found using technological devices for any other reason will be required to leave the classroom.
- all cell phones MUST be turned off or put on silent (see Social Sciences Code of Conduct). If your phone rings during class time, you will be required to leave the classroom.
- students are not allowed to answer their cell phones while in the classroom. If there is an emergency, you must take your call (including answering the phone) outside of the classroom with minimal disruption to your fellow classmates and/or your tutor or lecturer. Students failing to do so will be required to leave the classroom.
- the use of earbuds is strictly prohibited.
- Failure to leave will result in the lecturer/tutor leaving the classroom and the material assigned for that day assumed to be taught (see Social Sciences Code of Conduct).

Communication
Communication between lecturer and students and vice versa should be done using official UWI email addresses. All emails must include:
- a relevant subject;
- a proper salutation – includes a greeting and who you are addressing (e.g. Dear Dr Dixon Hamil);
- proper grammar (text language and short-hand type messages are not accepted)
- clear and complete sentences;
- a proper closing – includes a closing and who is sending the email (e.g. Regards, Keisha);

Emails sent to lecturers and tutors between Monday and Thursday (8am – 5pm) will be responded to within 24 hours. Emails sent between Friday and Sunday will be responded to on the next valid work day. This also applies emails sent during a holiday period.

Students with Disabilities
Students with disabilities MUST register with The Office of Special Student Services (OSSS) **and** your lecturer so that the necessary accommodations may be made for you. Also see Section II of the Assessment Regulations for First Degrees, Associate Degrees, Undergraduate Diplomas and Certificates 2017-2018 document.
(https://www.mona.uwi.edu/registry/sites/default/files/registry/uploads/Assessment Regulations 2017-2018 Final.pdf)

Academic Dishonesty

Acts of dishonesty, including cheating, plagiarism, and directly or indirectly aiding and/or abetting persons in committing a dishonest act, will not be tolerated. Students found to be committing an act of dishonesty, will be given a zero for the related assessment and will be reported to the Head of Department who can in turn report it to the Campus Registrar for further action. Please refer to Section IX of the Assessment Regulations for First Degrees, Associate Degrees, Undergraduate Diplomas and Certificates 2017-2018 document (https://www.mona.uwi.edu/registry/sites/default/files/registry/uploads/Assessment Regulations 2017-2018 Final.pdf). In this section, plagiarism refers to the "presentation of work by a student for evaluation, whether or not for credit, but do[es] not apply to invigilated written examinations".

Course Website & Other Details

In addition to the home page, the OurVLE course website is divided into 3 main sections/folders.

I. **Course Notes**: This section contains summary notes for each topic. Where possible it will also contain readings and links to readings which are required for each topic

II. **Resources**: This folder contains supplementary material to assist with the software being used in the course.

III. **Assignments**: The following information is contained in this section:
   - Instructions for completing the assignment
   - Additional paperwork to be submitted with the assignment

Students are strongly encouraged to adhere to the instructions and ensure that the requisite documentation is submitted along with the assignment.

Course Topics

The Fundamentals of Research (1 week)
>What is research?
>Choosing a topic
>Ethics in research

Literature Reviews (1 week)
>Literature Sources
>Method
>Structure

Introduction to Useful Software (1 week)
>Mendeley
>TeX
>R/RStudio

Review of Basic Statistical Analysis (1 week)
>Types of Data
>Data Sources
>Descriptive Statistics – graphical and numerical
>Inferential Statistics

Advanced Statistical Methods (5 weeks)
>Hierarchical/Mixed Effect Models
>Spatial Analysis (including Kriging, working with lattice data, geographic weighted regression)
>Poisson Regression
>Survival Analysis

Writing the Report (1 week)
>Format
>Structure for each Section

Tasks to Complete within the First Week of the Semester

1. Download and install
   - R
   - RStudio

2. Sign up for Mendeley and notify lecturer of the email address you used

3. Sign up for Overleaf and/or download and install a TeX programme (e.g. TeXstudio, TeXmaker)

Useful Resources & Websites

Software Resources
https://www.r-project.org/
https://rstudio.com/products/rstudio/download/
https://www.mendeley.com/?interaction_required=true
https://www.overleaf.com/

Other Resources
https://scholar.google.com/
https://www.jstor.org/
http://www.phrasebank.manchester.ac.uk/introducing-work/