YORK UNIVERSITY
Department of Economics
Advanced Topics in Macro

ECON 7110

Winter 2017

Preliminary and continuously updated; this version is from 23 March, 2017

Instructor: Nils-Petter (Nippe) Lagerlöf

Email: lagerlof@econ.yorku.ca (indicate 7110 in e-mail correspondence)

Office: Vari Hall 1056

Office hours: TBD.

Teaching Assistant: None that I know of for this course.

Teaching website: http://www.nippelagerlof.com/teaching/teaching.htm

Lecture hours: Mondays and Wednesdays 11.30 am – 1 pm in RS 202. (Updated 15 January, 2017.)

Textbook: There is no textbook, but we will follow a reading list and some class notes.

Software: You will need a software with which to work with LaTex documents. I suggest you buy WinEdt (www.winedt.com), which comes at around US$40 for a student licence, but there may be other (free) options available. We will also use Matlab and Stata, which should be available WebFas.

Grading scheme: The evaluation will be based on a midterm exam; a short term paper, handed in and presented in class; and on two problem sets, also to be handed in but not presented.

Let your mark on the midterm be M and each of the two problem sets P_1 and P_2, respectively. Let X be some numerical score on your paper, and let C be a score on the presentation in class (see below for more details). All these (M, X, P_1, P_2, and C) are numbers between 0 and 1 (i.e., they lie on the interval $[0, 1]$). The overall mark (which can be labelled the "numerical

grade") is denoted W and determined by this function:

$$W = 0.15P_1 + 0.15P_2 + 0.3M + 0.3X + 0.1C.$$

Then these overall marks are converted to letter grades, according to the scheme posted here (at the time this is written):

http://gradstudies.yorku.ca/current-students/regulations/courses-grading/#grading

The paper/presentation segment: The paper should be a written note, comment, extension, or similar, based on some well-published paper related to topics discussed in class, e.g., something from the reading list. It can be theoretical, empirical, and/or quantitative.

The paper must be written in LaTex. Papers written in Microsoft Word will *not* be accepted.

The paper should be around 9-11 pages, including figure(s) and table(s), using 12 point fonts, 1 inch margins, and line spacing of 1.5. The paper should have at least one figure, created with either PsTricks, Matlab, or Stata, and a bibliography with 3-5 references. All equations should be numbered, and table(s) and figure(s) should have clear caption texts. The first page should have a title, the author's name, and an abstract, after which the first section should be titled Introduction. Subsequent sections should have suitable titles, with the last section titled Conclusions. (See example posted on the course website.)

Evaluation of the paper segment will be based on the paper handed in (in both pdf and LaTex), on the computer codes used to create figures or tables and such, and on 25-30 minute presentations and accompanying slides. The presentations are meant to mimic those you might give at conferences. For date and time for the presentations, see below.

Form and content matter in equal proportions in grading of this segment, i.e., paper, slides, and class presentation. By form, I here mean, e.g., how figures are drawn, how regression (and other) tables are structured, and how the manuscript and slides are organized. I will try to provide specifics in class.

Content is about how interesting the research idea is, how well the idea is motivated, how clearly you are thinking about the idea, how non-trivial the idea and the analysis is, how clear the notation is, and to what extent the model is set up and analyzed in a correct and meaningful way.

Date and place for presentations: The presentations will be in an extra class in VH1063 on some date towards the very end of the semester, or after the semester has ended. We may skip a few other classes to make up for this extra class.

The midterm segment: The midterm test will be about 1 hour long, and held in class, on the (preliminary) date announced below.

The problem sets segment: The problems are posted online, subject to possible updates. Solutions are to be sent electronically (i.e., by email, see address above), by the times and dates listed below. Suggested solutions will be given in class at some later point. These exercises will use some of the softwares mentioned above. The electronic submissions need to contain written solutions to problems, as well as all codes used, with comments in the code explaining what you do in each segment. The written solutions can be hand written and scanned and sent as pdf or jpg files, or they can be written in LaTex, and in that case sent in pdf format. Solutions written in Microsoft Word will *not* be accepted.

Dates and deadlines: These are the preliminary dates and deadlines for problem sets and midterm:

- Solutions to the **first problem set** are to be submitted electronically (by email) by **9 am on 8 February, 2017**.

- Solutions to the **second problem set** are to be submitted electronically (by email) by **9 am on 6 March, 2017**. (Changed from 1 March.)

- The **midterm** exam will be held in class on **22 March, 2017**.

- The presentation of the papers will be in the seminar room (VH1063) 10.00-13.00 on **17 April, 2017.**

- The slides for the presentations should be submitted electronically (by email) in pdf fomat by 9 am on **17 April, 2017**, the same day as the presentations. Each presenter as about 30 minutes, including discussion. We may take a 15-minute break after the first three papers, or so.

- The paper and accompanying codes should be submitted electronically (by email) by 9 am on **24 April, 2017**.

Note on academic integrity: York University publishes information online about the consequences of cheating:

http://www.yorku.ca/academicintegrity/