



**Nanchang University**  
**ECON452: Economic Research Methods**  
(Last Updated in Jan. 2025)

**Credit: 6**

***Contact Hours***

This course is composed of 24 lecture sessions, 3 tutorial sessions and 9 office contact hours. Each lecture session takes 2 contact hours in length; each tutorial session takes 3 contact hours in length; There will be a Q-A review session(3 contact hours) and Final Exam (3 contact hours) at the end of this term. This course has 72 contact hours in total.

***Course Description***

This course covers the steps and process of conducting applied economic research. The Computable General Equilibrium Model will be introduced in this course. Students will learn to combine economic theory with real economic data to analyze the impacts of policies or shocks in the economy. And the final paper-writing will include the selection of topic, literature review and survey, selection of research method and approach, formulation of hypothesis, data analysis and testing, and summarizing results.

After this course, students will:

1. Be familiar with the techniques and software involved in designing general equilibrium models.
2. Explain the process of doing research in economics.
3. Learn the vast array of information available to economists over the Internet and in the library.
4. Use statistical methods to analyze and evaluate the application of economic theory and reasoning
5. Learn to write an effective research paper and be able to effectively present it to your fellow students and faculty in economics.

*Note: This Syllabus is subject to change based on the needs of the class.*

***Required Textbook***

**Textbook:** *Doing Economics: A Guide to Understand and Carrying out Economic Research* by Steven A. Greenlaw. Houghton Mifflin Company.

*Introduction to Computable General Equilibrium Models* by Mary E. Burfisher. 2nd edition. Cambridge University Press.



## ***Grading***

•Participation	10%
•Assignments	10%
•Paper	40%
•Presentation	10%
•Two Exams	30%

Letter Grade	Grade Points
High Distinction	85-100
Distinction	75-84
Credit	65-74
Pass	50-64
Fail	0-49

## ***Course Schedule***

The course has 24 class sessions in total. All sessions are 2 contact hours in length. At the end of this term, there will be a Q-A review session(3 contact hours) and Final Exam (3 contact hours).

Note: the course outline and required readings are subject to change.

### **Class 1**

Introduction to Computable General Equilibrium Models

### **Class 2**

CGE Model Structure, Database and Application

### **Class 3**

Global Trade Analysis Project

Introfuction to the Software: RunGTAP

### **Class 4**

Elements of CGE Model

### **Class 5**

Social Accounting Matrix

### **Class 6**

Elasticity Parameters

### **Class 7**

Final Demand in a CGE Model



Class 8

Supply in a CGE Model

Class 9

Factors of Production in a CGE Model

Class 10

Trade in a CGE Model

Class 11

Taxes in a CGE Model

Class 12

Midterm

Class 13

Overview of Research Process in Economics

Class 14

Paper Writing 1: Choose a Research Topic

Class 15

Surveying the Literature on a Topic in Economics

Class 16

Paper Writing 2 Literature Review, Abstract, Introduction, and Conclusion

Class 17

Introduction to Economic Writing

Class 18

Paper Writing 3 Draft Feedback and Discussion

Class 19

Theorizing and Conceptualizing the Research

Class 20

Paper Writing 4 Draft Feedback and Discussion

Class 21

Locating and Collecting Economics Data

Class 22



## Data Analysis and Empirical Testing

Class 23

Final Draft and Presentation

Class 24

Final Exam

### ***Attending Policy***

Regular and prompt attendance is required. Under ordinary circumstances, you may miss two times without penalty. Each absence over this number will lower your course grade by a third of a letter and missing more than five classes may lead to a failing grade in the course. Arriving late and/or leaving before the end of the class period are equivalent to absences.

### ***Policy on "Late Withdrawals"***

In accordance with university policy, appeals for late withdrawal will be approved ONLY in case of medical emergency and similar crises.

### ***Academic Honesty***

Nanchang University expects all students to do their own work. Instructors will fail assignments that show evidence of plagiarism or other forms of cheating, and will also report the student's name to the University administration. A student reported to the University for cheating is placed on disciplinary probation; a student reported twice is suspended or expelled.

### ***General Expectations:***

Students are expected to:

- Attend all classes and be responsible for all materials covered in class and otherwise assigned;
- Complete the day's required reading and assignments before class;
- Review the previous day's notes before class and 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;
- Refrain from texting, phoning or engaging in computer activities unrelated to class during the class period;
- While class participation is welcome, even required, you are expected to refrain from private conversations during the class period.

### ***Special Needs or Assistance***

Please contact the Administrative Office immediately if you have a learning disability, a medical



issue, or any other type of problem that prevents professors from seeing you have learned the course material. Our goal is to help you learn, not to penalize you for issues which mask your learning.