

Economics 311(L01) (Computer Applications in Economics)

Instructor: Marian Miles
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Lecture Location: SS 020
Lecture Days/Time: MWF 9:00 – 9:50

Office: SS 350
Office Hours: T 12:45 – 13:45, W 1:10 – 2:10 Fall 2016

Course Description

The main goal of this blended learning course is to provide proficiency in practical applications of economics using computers. Students will learn about the elementary and advanced features of spreadsheets using Excel, and using the economic databases to find economic data. Examples will be drawn from Engineering Economics and Financial Economics.

The following topics will be discussed in the course:

1. Introduction to Spreadsheets with Graphs and Charts
2. Graphing and summarizing data using Excel.
3. Basic Concepts of Financial Economics
 - Interest Rates
 - Mortgage Loans
 - Present Worth Analysis
4. Project Evaluation
 - Cash Flow Analysis
 - Sensitivity Analysis
5. Downloading economic data from CANSIM II, OECD, and other web sources and importing it into Excel.
6. Database Management Applications
 - Database Tools
 - Statistical Functions
 - Statistical Functions for Databases
 - Pivot Tables (if time permits)

Course Objectives/Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course students will be

- ✓ Literate in Excel (comprehend terminology, apply appropriate techniques) for various types of data summaries and analysis.
- ✓ Able to obtain data from various sources and import it into Excel.
- ✓ Able to select and use the appropriate format for graphing different types of data.
- ✓ Able to assess loans, mortgages, bonds, term deposits and other business projects using multiple methods in Excel
- ✓ Able to defend his/her choice of the most profitable alternative.
- ✓ Able to explain the time value of money, and the underlying concepts.
- ✓ Able to perform a sensitivity analysis using advanced Excel techniques.

- ✓ Able to use advanced Excel database tools to compile, summarize and organize data.
- ✓ Able to create a PivotTable using Excel.

Prerequisites/corequisites

Economics 201 and 203.

Required Textbook(s): NONE

Recommended Textbook(s): *New Perspectives Microsoft® Office 365 & Excel 2016 : Comprehensive*, by Parsons, et al, Nelson Publisher.

Reserved Readings: *New Perspectives Microsoft® Office 365 & Excel 2016 : Comprehensive*, by Parsons, et al, Nelson Publisher.

Course Requirements/Assessments:

5 assignments (Oct. 7, Oct. 19, Nov. 14, Nov. 25, Dec. 8)	20%
2 Midterm Examinations, (Oct. 21 & Nov. 18 th , in class)	40%
Final Exam (Scheduled by the Registrar)	40%

Desire2Learn This course will make use of the Desire2Learn (D2L) platform. Students who are registered in the course can log on at <http://d2l.ucalgary.ca> through their student centre. Please note that D2L features a class e-mail list that may be used to distribute course-related information. These e-mails go to your University of Calgary e-mail addresses only.

Grade Determination and Final Examination Details

Department of Economics Criteria for Letter Grades. Economics professors use the following criteria when assigning letter grades:

Grade	Grade Point Value	Description	Grade	Grade Point Value	Description
A+	4.00	Outstanding	C+	2.30	
A	4.00	Excellent-superior performance, showing-comprehensive understanding of subject matter	C	2.00	Satisfactory – basic understanding of the subject matter
A-	3.70		C-	1.70	Receipt of a grade point average of 1.70 may not be sufficient for promotion or graduation. (See individual undergraduate faculty regulations.)
B+	3.30		D+	1.00	
B	3.00	Good – clearly above average performance with knowledge of subject matter generally complete.	D	1.00	Minimal pass – marginal performance; generally insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject.
B-	2.70		F	0	Fail – unsatisfactory performance or failure to meet course requirements

				I	0	Incomplete – unsatisfactory (effective January 2007)
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Grading Scale

A+	95 – 100	B	73 – 76	C-	60 – 62
A	85 – 94	B-	70 – 72	D+	56 – 59
A-	80 – 84	C+	67 – 69	D	50 – 55
B+	77 – 79	C	63 – 66	F	0 – 49

A passing grade on any particular component of the course is not required for a student to pass the course as a whole.

The format and due dates of the assignments and midterms will be discussed during the first week of classes. Late assignments will not be accepted.

The midterms and final exam will be computer based. **No** calculators, cellphones, tablets or laptops are allowed in any midterm or final exam. Tests and exams **WILL NOT** involve multiple choice questions.

The midterms will be written during class time on Oct. 21, and Nov. 18 in the computer lab.

There will be a Registrar scheduled final examination, held in the computer lab, lasting 2 hours.

Please note that the following types of emails will receive **no response**: emails not addressed to anyone in particular; emails where the recipient's name is not spelled correctly; anonymous emails; emails in which the sender has not identified which course and section he/she is taking; and, emails involving questions that are specifically addressed on the course outline.

The use of cell phones for any purpose in class is prohibited. The classroom is a no cell phone zone. Laptops and tablets may only be used for note-taking purposes.

Reappraisal of Grades

For reappraisal of graded term work, see Calendar I.2

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i-2.html>

For reappraisal of final grade, see Calendar I.3

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i-3.html>

A student who feels that a piece of graded term work (e.g., term paper, essay, test) has been unfairly graded, may have the work re-graded as follows. The student shall discuss the work with the instructor within 15 days of being notified about the mark or of the item's return to the class; no reappraisal of term work is permitted after the 15 days. If not satisfied, the student shall immediately take the matter to the Head of the department offering the course, who will arrange for a reassessment of the work within the next 15 days. The reappraisal of term work may cause the grade to be raised, lowered, or to remain the same. If the student is not satisfied with the decision and wishes to appeal, the student shall address a letter of appeal to the Dean of the faculty offering the course within 15 days of the unfavourable decision. In the letter, the student must clearly and fully state the decision being appealed,

the grounds for appeal, and the remedies being sought, along with any special circumstances that warrant an appeal of the reappraisal. The student should include as much written documentation as possible.

Plagiarism and Other Academic Misconduct

Intellectual honesty is the cornerstone of the development and acquisition of knowledge and requires that the contribution of others be acknowledged. Consequently, plagiarism or cheating on any assignment is regarded as an extremely serious academic offense. Plagiarism involves submitting or presenting work in a course as if it were the student's own work done expressly for that particular course when, in fact, it is not. Students should examine sections of the University Calendar that present a Statement of Intellectual Honesty and definitions and penalties associated with Plagiarism/Cheating/Other Academic Misconduct, <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-2.html>

Academic Accommodation

Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services; SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities Visit www.ucalgary.ca/access/.

Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected ground other than disability should communicate this need in writing to their Instructor. The full policy on Student Accommodations is available at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.pdf>

Absence from an Exam

THERE WILL BE NO MAKEUP OR DEFERRED ASSIGNMENTS /EXAMS under any circumstances, nor may the exams be written early. Students unable to write the exams because of documented illness, family emergency, religious observance, or university-sanctioned event will have the weight shifted to the final examination; otherwise a grade of zero will be assigned. If a student cannot write their final exam on the date assigned by the Registrar's Office, they need to apply for a deferred exam www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/exams/deferred_final Under no circumstance will this be accommodated by the department.

Important Dates

Please check: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/academic-schedule.html>

Faculty of Arts Students' Association (F.A.S.A.):

Economics Department Representative

Office: SS 803, E-mail: econrep@fasaucalgary.ca Web: www.fasaucalgary.ca

Society of Undergraduates in Economics

www.ucalgarysue.com

Society of Undergraduates in Economics is a student run organization whose main purpose is to assist undergraduate economics students succeed both academically and socially at the University of Calgary. Services include access to the exam bank, career partnerships with the Career Centre through hosting industry nights and information sessions, recognizing achievements in teaching, and organizing social events for members. They invite you to join by contacting sue@ucalgary.ca.

Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources

- Have a question, but not sure where to start? The Arts Students' Centre is your information resource for everything in Arts! Drop in at SS102, call them at 403-220-3580 or email them at artsads@ucalgary.ca. You can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate> which has detailed information on common academic concerns, including program planning and advice.
- For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at 403-210-ROCK [7625] or visit them in the MacKimmie Library Block.
- Online writing resources are available at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/resources/writing-support>

Evacuation Assembly Point

In case of an emergency evacuation during class, students must gather at the designated assembly point nearest to the classroom. The list of assembly points is found at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/home/evacuation-assembly-points>

Please check this website and note the nearest assembly point for this course

Safewalk

The Safewalk program provides volunteers to walk students safely to their destination anywhere on campus. This service is free and available 24 hrs/day, 365 days a year.

Call 403-220-5333

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