

Economics 311(L01) Computer Application in Economics

Instructor: Daniel Ma
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Lecture Location: SS 020
Lecture Days/Time: MW 12:00 - 14:45

Office: SS 407
Office Hours: MW 3:00-5:00 pm
Or by appointment

Summer 2018

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.

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.

Course Outline:

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.
 - a. Interest Rates
 - b. Mortgage Loans
 - c. Present Worth Analysis
4. Project Evaluation.
 - a. Cash Flow Analysis
 - b. Sensitivity Analysis
5. Downloading economic data from CANSIM II, OECD, and other web sources and importing it into Excel.

6. Database Management Applications.
 - a. Database Tools
 - b. Statistical Functions
 - c. Statistical Functions for Databases
 - d. Pivot Tables (if time permits).

Prerequisites/corequisites:

Econ 201 and 203

Required Textbook(s):

N/A

Recommended Textbook(s):

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

Books on Reserve:

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

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 emails go to your University of Calgary e-mail addresses only.

Grade Determination and Final Examination Details:

Midterms Examination		30%	July 25, 2018
4 Assignments	5% each	20%	Due dates: July 16th, July 23rd, August 7th and August 15th, 2018
Final Examination		50%	Scheduled by the Registrar
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		100%	

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.

As per the Writing Across the Curriculum Statement in the Calendar, writing and grading thereof will be a factor in the evaluation of student work.

Any student work which remains undistributed after the last day of classes will be available to students through the instructor's office during his office hours.

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.

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

Assignments

1. Assignments are to be submitted on the date due via Dropbox, before the folder becomes unavailable. Answers to assignments will be either discussed in class shortly after each assignment falls due or posted on the D2L. For this reason, late assignments will be given a **score of zero**, although you may still wish to have the work corrected and returned without a score being recorded. Please **do not email assignments** to me – they will not be marked.

2. Students are encouraged to discuss the assignments with their classmates, but each must write up their own answers. Copying or misrepresenting someone else's work as your own is a serious offence, which will not be tolerated. Your attention is directed to the "Statement of Intellectual Honesty" in the 2017-2018 Calendar. Taking credit for someone else's work is something for which I show zero tolerance.

Examinations

1. Tests and exams will not involve multiple choice questions.

2. All examinations will be computer based. NO calculators, cellphones, tablets or laptops are allowed in any midterm or final exam.

3. The midterm will be held in computer lab during regular lecture hours and will last 2 hours.

4. There will be a Registrar scheduled final examination, lasting 2 hours. It will be a comprehensive examination of all-material covered in the course, computer-based exam.

5. The exam must be completed during the specified time. Extra time will not be given for any reason.

6. THERE WILL BE NO MAKEUP OR DEFERRED 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. Any student who finds it necessary to miss the midterm tests must notify the instructor in advance and produce a valid medical certificate or other required documentation in order to have the weighting adjusted. This adjustment will result in the final exam counting for 60% of the final grade and the other test and the assignments counting for 40% of the final grade.

7. Examinations will not be given before the indicated examination date. For further information see the 2017-2018 Calendar.

8. The exact date for the in-class midterm will be announced at least one week in advance.

Reappraisal of Grades and Intellectual Honesty:

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>

Statement of Intellectual Dishonesty, see Calendar K.4

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-4.html>

Plagiarism and Other Academic Misconduct, , see Calendar K.5

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-5.html>

Academic Accommodations:

The student accommodation policy can be found at: ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy.

Students needing an accommodation because of a disability or medical condition should communicate this need to Student Accessibility Services in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.

Students needing an Accommodation based on a Protected Ground other than disability should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to the course instructor.

Important Dates:

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

Student Organizations:

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

Economics Department Representative

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

Society of Undergraduates in Economics:

<https://www.ucalgarysue.com/>.

Society of Undergraduates in Economics is a student run organization whose main purpose is to assist undergraduate economics students to succeed both academically and socially at the University of Calgary. Services include access to the exam bank, career events such as Industry Night and information sessions, mentorship programs, and social events for members. They invite you to join by contacting SUE at societyofundergradsineconomics@gmail.com.

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 assembly point for this classroom is Social Science - Food Court.

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.**

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act:

Personal information is collected in accordance with FOIP. For more information, see <http://www.ucalgary.ca/legalservices/foip/foip-hia>.

Internet and Electronic Communication Device information:

The use of cell phones for any purpose in class is prohibited. Computers and tablets may be used for note-taking only.

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