

Economics 311 (L01) (Computer Applications in Economics)

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Lecture Location: ZOOM Delivery
Lecture Days/Time: TR 09:00 – 11:45

Office: ZOOM Delivery
Office Hours: TR 13:00 – 14:00

(Summer 2020)

Course Description:

The main goal of this blended learning course is to provide proficiency in practical applications of economics using computers. Students 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 Learning Outcomes:

By the end of the course students are supposed to 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. This includes selecting and using the appropriate format for graphing different types of data;
- able to explain the time value of money, the underlying concepts, and 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, and to perform a sensitivity analysis using advanced Excel techniques;
- able to use advanced Excel database tools to compile, summarize and organize data including creating Pivot Tables.

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. Database Management Applications
 - a. Database Tools
 - b. Statistical Functions
 - c. Statistical Functions for Databases

d. Pivot Tables

Prerequisites/corequisites:

Economics 201

Required Textbook(s):

None.

Recommended Textbook(s):

Parsons, J. J., Oja, D., Carey, P., and DesJardins, C. (2016). *New Perspectives Microsoft® Office 365 & Excel 2016: Comprehensive*. Nelson Publisher.

Online Delivery:

This course will be delivered online. Students are expected to be able to participate online in accordance with this Course Outline. Lectures, assignments, office hours, exams, readings and other course material, etc. all require online access and this access is the responsibility of the student.

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.

Lectures:

Lectures will be delivered online at the Registrar scheduled times and delivered using ZOOM. The lectures will be recorded and subsequently posted to D2L.

Grade Determination and Final Examination Details:

3 Assignments	8% each	24%
1 Project		16%
1 Midterm Examination		20%
Final Examination		40%
		<hr/> 100%

The official grading system will be used. See <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/f-1-1.html>.

Students must receive a passing grade on the final exam to pass the course.

If a student's letter grade on the final exam exceeds their midterm(s) letter grade, the weight of the midterm(s) may be transferred to the final exam at the discretion of the instructor. The student must have written the midterm(s) or provided supporting documentation for the absence(s) such as a medical note or statutory declaration.

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. See <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/e-2.html>.

The final examination will be an open-book, take-home exam. The exam will be available on D2L 24 hours before the end of the Registrar's scheduled final exam time. Students will hand in their exam, as an unlocked Excel file, on D2L prior to the end of the scheduled completion time of their final exam

using Dropbox. The exam is intended to be completed in 2 hours. Students will have four hours to complete the exam, at the time of their choosing, within the 24-hour period.

The midterm exam will be an open-book, take-home exam. The exam will be available on D2L 24 hours before the end of scheduled midterm exam time. Students will hand in their exam, as an unlocked Excel file, on D2L prior to the end of the scheduled completion time using Dropbox. Students will have three hours to complete the exam, at the time of their choosing, within a designated 24-hour period. The exam is intended to be completed in 75 minutes.

Tests and exams WILL NOT involve multiple choice questions.

All other course components will also be accessed, submitted, and returned through D2L.

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 <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/g-6.html>. Under no circumstance will this be accommodated by the Department.

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

THERE WILL BE NO MAKEUP OR DEFERRED QUIZZES/TESTS/EXAMS under any circumstances, nor may the quizzes/tests/exams be written early. Students unable to write the quizzes/tests/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.

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 Honesty, 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:

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. 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>.

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

Personal information is collected in accordance with FOIP. Assignments can only be returned to the student and will be accessible only to authorized faculty and staff. For more information, see <http://www.ucalgary.ca/legalservices/files/legalservices/faq-students.pdf> and http://www.ucalgary.ca/legalservices/files/legalservices/faq-faculty_0.pdf.

Copyright Legislation:

See the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright at www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-material-protected-by-copyright.pdf. Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy.

Recording of Lectures:

Recording of lectures is prohibited, except for audio recordings authorized as an accommodation by SAS or an audio recording for individual private study and only with the written permission of the instructor. Any unauthorized electronic or mechanical recording of lectures, their transcription, copying, or distribution, constitutes academic misconduct. See <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/e-6.html>.

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
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! 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].

Student Support and Resources:

- See <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/course-outlines> for information on campus mental health resources, the Student Ombuds' Office, Student Success Centre, Safewalk, and Emergency Evacuation and Assembly.
- Online writing resources are available at <https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success/writing-support>.

Notes:

1. Students are responsible for all assigned material, e.g., supplementary material posted on D2L, regardless of whether or not the material was covered in class.

2. Assignments and the project are to be submitted by 23:55 PM 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.
3. 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 this course outline.

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