



Department of Economics Course Outline

		Term:	Summer 2010
Course:	Economics 349 [The Economics of Social Problems]	Section:	60
Time:	TR 09:00 to 11:50	Place:	ST 130
Instructor:	B. Cecilia Garcia		
Office:	SS 409	Telephone:	(403) 220-4631
Office Hours:	TR 12:00 to 12:40	E-mail:	bgarcia@ucalgary.ca

Textbook(s):

The Economics of Poverty and Discrimination, 10th ed., Bradley R. Schiller, Prentice Hall.

Additional readings will be posted in blackboard and outlined in a detailed course outline provided in the first class.

Book(s) on Reserve:

Schiller, Bradley R. *The Economics of Poverty and Discrimination*, Prentice Hall
Debraj, Ray. *Development Economics*, 1st ed. Princeton University Press, 1998.

Course Outline:

This course explores how individuals behave in a social context. The objective is to contribute to our knowledge of various social problems using tools of economic analysis. Emphasis will be put on individual's incentives that may lead to social problems. We will study policy design and policy evaluation commonly proposed to deal with social problems. Topics regarding the distribution of income (poverty, inequality, mobility), social environment (discrimination, crime, addiction, multiculturalism), and provision of social insurance (health care, education, pensions, unemployment insurance) will be covered in class.

The following is a tentative list of topics we will discuss. If there are any topics you would like to see covered, please let me know. A detailed outline will be provided the first day of class. You should be comfortable with simple algebra and graphs.

1. Review of Economic Principles
2. The Income Distribution
3. Poverty
4. Labor Market

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5. Discrimination
6. Crime and Punishment
7. Drugs and Addiction
8. The Environment
9. Aging, Health Care, and Pensions
10. Multiculturalism and Immigration

Grade Determination and Final Examination Details:

Course grades will be determined as follows:

Assignments	20%
Participation and lab session (1)	10%
Midterm Exam	30%
Final Exam	40%

You will have at least one week to complete each assignment. Late work will not be accepted. It is recommended to work together in the assignments, but some assignments (as indicated over the course) will be submitted individually.

Tests and final exams are marked on a numerical (percentage) basis, then converted to letter grades. The course grade is then calculated using the weights indicated above. As a guide to determining standing, these letter grade equivalences will generally apply:

A+	90 – 100	B	72 – 75	C-	56 – 59
A	85 – 89	B-	68 – 71	D+	53 – 55
A-	80 – 84	C+	64 – 67	D	50 – 52
B+	76 – 79	C	60 – 63	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.

Non-programmable calculators WILL be allowed during the writing of tests or final examinations.

There will be a Registrar scheduled final examination, lasting **two** hours.

Tests and exams WILL NOT involve multiple choice questions.

Students' Union Vice-President, Academic

Alyssa Stacy

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Society of Undergraduates in Economics (S.U.E.)

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www.ucalgary.ca/sue

Notes:

- Students seeking reappraisal of a piece of graded term work (term paper, essay, etc.) should discuss their work with the Instructor within seven days of the work being returned to the class.
- It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations. If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodation and have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, please contact their office at 403-220-8237. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. You are also required to discuss your needs with your instructor no later than seven (7) days after the start of this course.

Safewalk / Campus Security: 403-220-5333
Emergency Assembly Point – Professional Faculties Food Court

BCG/mi
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