



## Department of Economics Course Outline

		<b>Term:</b>	Summer 2011
<b>Course:</b>	Economics 349 [The Economics of Social Problems]	<b>Section:</b>	60
<b>Time:</b>	TR 09:00 - 11:50	<b>Place:</b>	SB 144 (subject to change)
<b>Instructor:</b>	B. Cecilia Garcia		
<b>Office:</b>	SS 220	<b>Telephone:</b>	(403) 210-6198
<b>Office Hours:</b>	TR 12:00 to 12:40	<b>E-mail:</b>	bgarcia@ucalgary.ca

### Textbook(s):

There is no book that covers social problems in Canada from an economics perspective. The basic material will be presented in class, and a variety of additional reading material will be posted in blackboard. The following are recommended books:

- *Social Problems: A Canadian Perspective*, Lorne Tepperman and Josh Curtis, Oxford University Press, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition.
- *Labor Market Economics*, Dwayne Benjamin, Morley Gunderson, and Craig Riddell. McGraw Hill. 5th edition.

### Book(s) on Reserve:

- *The Economics of Poverty and Discrimination*. Bradley R. Schiller, Prentice Hall, 10<sup>th</sup> edition.
- *Social Problems: A Canadian Perspective*, Lorne Tepperman and Josh Curtis, Oxford University Press, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition.
- *Labor Market Economics*, Dwayne Benjamin, Morley Gunderson, and Craig Riddell. McGraw Hill. 5th edition.
- *Development Economics*. Debraj, Ray. Princeton University Press, 1998, 1<sup>st</sup> edition.

### 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 incentives that may lead to 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. We will study the policy designs and policy evaluations commonly proposed to deal with social problems.

The following is a tentative list of topics to cover in class. If there are any topics you would like to discuss in the classroom, please let me know. A detailed outline will be provided the first day of class. This course requires that you are well-practiced with simple algebra and graphs.

1. Review of Economic Principles
2. The Income Distribution
3. Poverty and Inequality
4. Labor Market and Education.
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 problem sets (as indicated over the course) will be individually submitted.

Tests and final exams are marked on a numerical (percentage) basis and 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+	95 – 100	B	75 – 79	C-	56 – 59
A	90 – 94	B-	70 – 74	D+	53 – 55
A-	85 – 89	C+	65 – 69	D	50 – 52
B+	80 – 84	C	60 – 64	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

Ola Mohajer

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

[www.ucalgary.ca/sue](http://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 Location – ICT Food Court

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