



Department of Economics Course Outline

		Term:	Winter 2010
Course:	Economics 349 [The Economics of Social Problems]	Section:	01
Time:	MWF 12:00-12:50	Place:	ST 132
Instructor:	Dr. Robert J. Oxoby		
Office:	SS 444	Tel. no.:	(403) 220-2586
Office Hours:	MW 1:00-2:00 and by appointment.	E-mail:	oxoby@ucalgary.ca

Textbook(s):

The Economics of Poverty and Discrimination, 10th ed., Bradley Schiller, Prentice Hall.
Additional readings will be assigned during the course.

Book(s) on Reserve:

Schiller, *Economics of Poverty and Discrimination*, Prentice Hall
Miller, Benjamin and North, *The Economics of Public Issues*, Norton, 2001
Sharp, et al., *Economics of Social Issues*, Irwin/McGraw Hill, latest edition
Becker & Becker, *The Economics of Life*, McGraw Hill
Lowenstein & Elster, *Choice over Time*, Sage, 1992
Aaron, *Behavioral Dimension of Retirement Economics*, Russell Sage, 2000
Elster, *Addiction: Entries & Exits*, Russell Sage
Blau et al, *Economics of Women, Men & Work*, Prentice Hall
Frank, *Economics & Behavior*, McGraw Hill
Eaton et al, *Microeconomics*, Prentice Hall
Crouch, *Human Behavior*
Aronson, *The Social Animal*
Tepperman, *Social Problems: A Canadian Perspective*

Course Outline:

This course will use the tools of economic analysis to contribute to our knowledge of various social problems. Using the economic model of the rational agent, we will explore how individuals behave in social context and evaluate policies addressing the issues in question. Topics to be covered include discrimination, crime, health care, income inequality, and poverty. The following is a tentative list of the topics we will be discussing. This is only a tentative

schedule: If there are any topics you would like to see covered, please let me know.

1. Review of Economic Principles
2. The Income Distribution
3. Poverty
4. Discrimination
5. Crime and Punishment
6. Addiction
7. The Environment
8. Aging, Health Care, and Pensions

Grade Determination and Final Examination Details:

Final grades will be based on a midterm exam (25%, date to be announced), a final exam (30%, date set by the Registrar's office), problem sets (20%), and a term paper (25%). Late work will not be accepted.

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+	97 – 100	B	83 – 86	C-	70 – 72
A	93 – 96	B-	80 – 82	D+	67 – 69
A-	90 – 92	C+	77 – 79	D	60 – 66
B+	87 – 89	C	73 – 76	F	0 – 59

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 2 hours. The final exam will be comprehensive.

Tests and exams will not involve multiple choice questions.

Blackboard:

This course will make use of Blackboard – students who are registered in this course can log on at <http://blackboard@ucalgary.ca/webapps/login>. Please note that Blackboard features a class email list that I will use. It is your responsibility to ensure that Blackboard uses the e-mail address of your choice. The default is your University of Calgary e-mail address.

Students' Union Vice-President, Academic

Meg Martin

Phone: 403-220-3911

E-mail: suypaca@ucalgary.ca

Students' Union Faculty Representative (Social Sciences)

Chris Kalantzis

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

E-mail: sue@ucalgary.ca

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 fifteen 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 fourteen (14) days after the start of this course.

Safewalk / Campus Security: 403-220-5333
Emergency Assembly Point – Social Sciences Food Court

RJO
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