



## Department of Economics Course Outline

		Term:	Winter 2011
Course:	Economics 349 [The Economics of Social Problems]	Section:	01
Time:	MWF 10:00-10:50	Place:	SA 104
Instructor:	Dr. Robert J. Oxoby		
Office:	SS 444	Tel. no.:	(403) 220-2586
Office Hrs:	MW 11:00-noon & by appointment.	E-mail:	<a href="mailto:oxoby@ucalgary.ca">oxoby@ucalgary.ca</a>

### **Textbook(s):**

There is no textbook required for this course. Rather, required readings will be posted on Blackboard.

### **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

### **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, 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+	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.

Tests and exams will not involve multiple-choice questions.

Students' Union Vice-President, Academic

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[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 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

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