



## Department of Economics Course Outline

		Term:	Winter 2014
Course:	Economics 349 [The Economics of Social Problems]	Section:	01
Time:	TR 12:30 – 13:45	Place:	ST 132
Instructor:	Dr. Robert J. Oxoby		
Office:	SS 444	Tel. no.:	(403) 220-2586
Office Hrs:	TR 10:00-11:00 & 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 economic models, we will explore and evaluate policies addressing the issues.

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.

If you find it necessary to miss a midterm test, you must notify me *in advance* and produce a physician's certificate or other documentation as soon as possible. Deferred tests will not be offered. The weight attached to the missed test will be moved to the final exam.

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:

Emily Macphail

Phone: 403-220-3911

E-mail [suvpaca@ucalgary.ca](mailto:suvpaca@ucalgary.ca)

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

[www.ucalgary.ca/sue](http://www.ucalgary.ca/sue)

Society of Undergraduates in Economics is a student run organization whose main purpose is to assist undergraduate economics students succeed both academically and socially at the University of Calgary. Services include access to the exam bank, career partnerships with the Career Centre through hosting industry nights and information sessions, recognizing achievements in teaching, and organizing social events for members. They invite you to join by contacting [sue@ucalgary.ca](mailto:sue@ucalgary.ca).

*Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources*

- Have a question, but not sure where to start? The Faculty of Arts Program Information Centre (PIC) is your information resource for everything in Arts! Drop in at SS102, call them at 403-220-3580 or email them at [artsads@ucalgary.ca](mailto: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.
- For program planning and advice, contact the Student Success Centre (formerly the Undergraduate programs Office) at 403-220-5881 or visit them on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library.
- For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at 403-210-ROCK [7625] or visit them in the MacKimmie Library Block.
- Online writing resources are available at <http://ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support/online-writing-resources>

## Notes:

- 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.
- Students seeking reappraisal of a piece of graded term work should discuss their work with the instructor *within fifteen days* of work being returned to class.

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

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RJO  
2013-10-22