

Economics 349 (L01) (The Economics of Social Issues)

Instructor:	Rob Oxoby	Lecture Location:	SB 103
Phone:	403.220.2586	Lecture Days/Time:	TR 8:00-9:15
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Office:	SS 340		
Office Hours:	TR 10:00-11:00 & by appointment	Winter 2024	

Course Description:

This course will use economic analysis to develop our understanding of social issues. Using the economic model, we will explore how individuals behave in social context and evaluate policies addressing various social issues including discrimination, crime, health care, income inequality, and poverty.

Course Learning Outcomes:

1. Enhance proficiency in employing and interpreting economic methods and models.
1. Introduce the application of economic metrics for growth and development, emphasizing broader socio-economic and distributional indicators.
2. Explore economic research on the causes and consequences of income inequality, presenting diverse theories of economic allocations and their philosophical foundations.
3. Acquire understanding of various poverty measures and economic theories explaining poverty's origins, encompassing a grasp of poverty components and their associated theories.
4. Understand theories of taste-based and statistical discrimination, recognizing the repercussions of each type, and explore discrimination theories from other disciplines.
5. Gain insight into economic theories shaping criminal behavior and the judicial system; develop familiarity with the Canadian criminal justice system.
6. Develop the concept of externalities concerning environmental issues and develop an understanding of methods employed to alleviate environmental problems.
7. Develop the theory of human capital as it relates to population health and cultivate familiarity with single-payer and private insurance healthcare systems.
8. Cultivate research skills encompassing the formulation of research questions, selection of appropriate methodologies, literature review, and effective communication of research findings, including professional skills honed through peer review exercises.

Course Outline:

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

Prerequisites/Corequisites:

Econ 201

Required Textbook(s):

None. Course readings will be posted on D2L.

Recommended Textbook(s):

I encourage you to have an introductory microeconomics textbook available to review core concepts. You can purchase a used introductory microeconomics textbook from Bound & Copied.

Books on Reserve:

Schiller, *Economics of Poverty and Discrimination*, Prentice Hall
 Register, Grimes, and Sharp, *The Economics of Social Issues*, McGraw Hill, 2015.
 Miller, Benjamin and North, *The Economics of Public Issues*, Norton, 2001
 Becker & Becker, *The Economics of Life*, McGraw Hill
 Blau et al, *Economics of Women, Men & Work*, Prentice Hall
 Frank, *Economics & Behavior*, McGraw Hill

Required Access to Technology:

Students will require access to software for recording their presentations in an acceptable format.

Desire2Learn:

This course will make use of the Desire2Learn (D2L) platform. Students who are registered in the course can log on at <http://d2l.ucalgary.ca> through their student centre. Please note that D2L features a class e-mail list that may be used to distribute course-related information. These e-mails go to your University of Calgary e-mail addresses only.

Grade Determination:

Final grades will be based on six “policy reports” and a term project. Late work will not be accepted.

Policy Reports (6)	40%
Term Project (written)	40%
Term Project (video)	10%
Term Project (peer review)	10%
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	100%

This course will emphasize writing and analysis.

- Policy reports will be one to two-page written assignments evaluating a given policy using concepts and methods from class. Policy reports are tentatively due at midnight on January 18, February 1, February 15, March 7, March 21, and April 4. Late policy reports will not be accepted.
- The term project will be a research project based on a social issue of your choosing. This will involve a written term paper (5-10 double-spaced pages), a 3–5-minute video presentation, and participation in a peer review process. The term paper and video presentation are due by midnight on Monday April 22nd, 2024. Students must receive a passing grade on the term paper to receive a passing grade in the course.

- There will be no final exam.

Grading Policies:

The official grading system will be used. See <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/f-1-1.html>.

As per the Writing Across the Curriculum Statement in the Calendar, writing and grading thereof will be a factor in the evaluation of student work. See <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/e-2.html>.

Any student work which remains undistributed after the last day of classes will be available to students through the instructor's office during the instructor's office hours.

Reappraisal of Grades:

For Reappraisal of Graded Term Work, see Calendar I.2

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i-2.html>

For Reappraisal of Final Grade, see Calendar I.3

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i-3.html>

Academic Misconduct and Intellectual Honesty:

Academic Misconduct refers to student behavior that compromises proper assessment of students' academic activities and includes: cheating; fabrication; falsification; plagiarism; unauthorized assistance; failure to comply with an instructor's expectations regarding conduct required of students completing academic assessments in their courses; and failure to comply with exam regulations applied by the Registrar.

Statement of Intellectual Honesty, see Calendar K.3

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-3.html>

Plagiarism and Other Academic Misconduct

<https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success/learning/academic-integrity>

Academic Accommodations:

Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services. SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected ground other than disability should communicate this need in writing to their instructor. The full policy on Student Accommodations is available at

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/legalservices/sites/default/files/teams/1/Policies-Accommodation-for-Students-with-Disabilities-Procedure.pdf> and <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/sites/default/files/teams/1/Policies-Student-Accommodation-Policy.pdf>.

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act:

Personal information is collected in accordance with FOIP. Assignments can only be returned to the student and will be accessible only to authorized faculty and staff. For more information, see

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/sites/default/files/teams/1/faq-privacy-faculty-members.pdf> and <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/sites/default/files/teams/1/faq-privacy-students.pdf>

Internet and Electronic Communication Device Information:

The use of cell phones for any purpose in class is prohibited. Computers and tablets may be used for note taking only unless otherwise authorized by the instructor.

Copyright Legislation:

See the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/sites/default/files/teams/1/Policies-Acceptable-Use-of-Material-Protected-by-Copyright-Policy.pdf>. Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy.

Recording of Lectures:

Recording of lectures is prohibited, except for audio recordings authorized as an accommodation by SAS or an audio recording for individual private study and only with the written permission of the instructor. Any unauthorized electronic or mechanical recording of lectures, their transcription, copying, or distribution, constitutes academic misconduct. See <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/e-6.html>.

Instructor Intellectual Property:

Course materials created by instructors (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the instructor. These materials may NOT be reproduced, redistributed or copied without the explicit consent of the instructor. The posting of course materials to third party websites such as note-sharing sites without permission is prohibited. Sharing of extracts of these course materials with other students enrolled in the course at the same time may be allowed under fair dealing.

Important Dates:

Please check: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/academic-schedule.html>.

Student Organizations:

Faculty of Arts Students' Association (F.A.S.A.):

Economics Department Representative

Office: SS 803, E-mail: econrep@fasaucalgary.ca and Web: www.fasaucalgary.ca.

Society of Undergraduates in Economics: <https://www.ucalgarysue.com/>.

Society of Undergraduates in Economics is a student run organization whose main purpose is to assist undergraduate economics students to succeed both academically and socially at the University of Calgary. Services include access to the exam bank, career events such as Industry Night and information sessions, mentorship programs, and social events for members. They invite you to join by contacting SUE at sue@ucalgarysue.com

Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources:

- Have a question, but not sure where to start? The Arts Students' Centre 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. You can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate>, which has detailed information on common academic concerns, including program planning and advice.

- 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 Tower.

Student Support and Resources:

- See <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/course-outlines> for information on campus mental health resources, the Student Ombuds Office, Student Success Centre, Safewalk, and Emergency Evacuation and Assembly.
- Online writing resources are available at <https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success/writing-support>.

Notes:

1. Students are responsible for all assigned material, e.g., supplementary material posted on D2L, regardless of whether or not the material was covered in class.

RJO

2023-12-05