



Department of Economics Course Outline

		Term:	Fall 2008
Course:	Economics 557 [Topics in Economic Theory I]	Section:	01
Time:	TR 15:30 – 16:45	Place:	ST 027 (subject to change)
Instructor:	John R. Boyce		
Office:	SS 412	Telephone:	220-5860
Office Hours:	TBA	E-mail:	boyce@ucalgary.ca

Textbook:

Recommended: Hal R. Varian, *Microeconomic Analysis*, 3rd Edition, W.W. Norton & Company, New York, 1992.

Recommended: Martin Osborne, *An Introduction to Game Theory*, Oxford, 1st Edition, 2004.

Books on Reserve:

Prajit K. Dutta, *Strategies and Games -- Theory and Practice*, The MIT Press, Cambridge, Mass., 1999.

Hal R. Varian, *Microeconomic Analysis*, 3rd Edition, W.W. Norton & Company, New York, 1992.

Hugh Gravelle and Ray Rees, *Microeconomics*, 3rd Edition, Prentice Hall Financial Times, Harlow, England, 2004.

Robert Gibbons, *Game Theory for Applied Economists*, Princeton University Press, Princeton New Jersey, 1992.

Course Outline:

In this course you will have a chance to put to work the mathematical tools and economic concepts that you have learned in other courses. We will spend the course developing and exploring the basic concepts of microeconomic theory, including rational choice, partial and general equilibrium models, dynamic models, non-cooperative game theory and the economics of information. The emphasis is very definitely on learning by doing: there will be one assignment per week, it will be quite demanding, and your performance on these assignments will be given a heavy weight in determining your course mark. You will be required to use most of the mathematical techniques that you learned in Econ 387 and 389, and all of the core concepts of microeconomic theory. Most importantly, success in this course requires significant mathematical sophistication. We will rely on Varian's and Osborne's textbooks, and on selected journal articles for modeling approaches. Students are expected to work through the assigned readings on their own. Lectures will be devoted to problem solving and model development.

Grade Determination and Final Examination Details:

Midterm:	25%
Final Examination:	25%
Homework Assignments:	50%

Exams and homework assignments 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+	95-100	B	75-79	C-	60-62
A	90-94	B-	70-74	D+	55-59
A-	85-89	C+	68-70	D	50-54
B+	80-84	C	63-67	F	0-49

If, for some reason, the distribution of grades determined using the aforementioned conversion chart appears to be abnormal the instructor reserves the right to change the grade conversion chart if the instructor, *at the instructor's discretion*, feels it is necessary to more fairly represent student achievement.

A passing grade on any particular component of the course is not required for a student to pass the course as a whole.

Calculators **will not** be allowed during the writing of tests or final examinations.

There will be a Registrar scheduled final examination, held in a classroom, lasting 2 hours.

Tests and exams **will not** involve multiple choice questions.

Students' Union Vice-President, Academic

Pamela Weatherbee

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

www.ucalgary.ca/sue/

Notes:

- Students seeking reappraisal of a piece of graded term work must discuss their work with the Instructor *within* fifteen days of the work being returned to the class.
- This course will make use of Blackboard. Students who are registered in the course can logon at <http://blackboard.ucalgary.ca/webapps/login>.
- 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 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: 220-5333

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