



Department of Economics Course Outline

Course:	Economics 611.91	Term:	Fall 2007, Winter 2008
Time:	WF 15:00 – 16:30	Section:	01
Instructor:	Dr. Kenneth J. McKenzie	Place:	SS 012
Office:	SS 402	Telephone:	220-4605
Office Hours:	By appointment	E-mail:	kjmckenz@ucalgary.ca

Course Description:

This is the first in a series of “research methods” courses for course based MA students. The idea behind this course is to expose you to high level economic research, and begin to hone your writing and analytical skills.

In the first instance, the course involves attending departmental seminars and/or visiting speaker seminars. Departmental seminars typically take place on Wednesdays at 3:00 and visiting speaker seminars on Fridays at 3:00. You are expected to attend these seminars.

In each term, you must choose three seminars (for a total of six) for which you will write a “referee report”. This will, of course, require that you get a copy of the paper. This referee report will consist of an overview of the paper, a summary of its contribution and a critique of the analysis, methodology, etc. Each of these reports should be three or four pages long, typed, double spaced.

You will be evaluated on the clarity of the exposition, your understanding of the paper and its contribution, and on the quality of your critique. So yes, the quality of writing matters.

You can submit the papers to me throughout each term (which is recommended) or you can submit three of them at the end of each term – no later than Friday December 7, 2007 for the fall term and Friday April 18 for the winter term.

Grade Determination:

Six reports at 16 2/3% each.

The reports will be marked on a numerical (percentage) basis, with the average then converted to letter grades. As a guide to determining standing, these letter grade equivalences will generally apply:

A+	95 – 100	B	75 – 79	C-	55 – 59
A	90 – 94	B-	70 – 74	D+	50 – 54
A-	85 – 89	C+	65 – 69	D	45 – 49
B+	80 – 84	C	60 – 64	F	0 – 44

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 his discretion*, feels it is necessary to more fairly represent student achievement.

Notes:

1. Students must comply with the university regulations concerning "Intellectual Honesty", Examinations", etc., which are published in the University Calendar.
2. Any work not submitted on time will receive a grade of zero. Extensions and exemptions will not normally be given except in the case of documented illness, family emergency, or religious observance.
3. Students seeking reappraisal of term work should discuss the issue with the instructor *within* fifteen days of the work being returned in class. Unclaimed work will be available from the instructor during office hours.
