



Department of Economics Course Outline

Course:	Economics 691/693 [Research Methods Seminar]	Term:	Fall 2011/Winter 2012
Time:	Friday 15:00-17:50	Section:	01
Instructor:	Dr. R.J. Oxoby	Place:	SS 423 (subject to change)
Office:	SS 444	Telephone:	403-220-2586
Office Hours:	TBA	E-mail:	oxoby@ucalgary.ca

Textbook(s): None

Book(s) on Reserve: None

Course Outline:

The purpose of the Research Methods Seminar Course is to expose students to various research methodologies in economics and to encourage them to evaluate research in a critical manner.

All graduate students are expected to attend departmental seminars; for course based M.A. students this is a requirement. Departmental seminars (Fridays at 3pm) consist of visiting speakers from other universities presenting their research. The internal seminar series (Wednesdays at 3pm) consists of departmental members and Ph.D. students presenting their preliminary work. Seminars are announced in advance via departmental email and the department's web page. While attendance will not be formally taken, failure to attend the seminars on a systematic basis will be "noted."

M.A. course based students are required to write referee reports on three seminar papers each term (for a total of six). The reports must be handed in by the end of the examination period in each term (three by December 16th 2011, three by April 20th 2012). The referee reports should be three to five pages in length and single-spaced. The reports should be a critical appraisal of the seminar paper. In particular:

1. The paper should be summarized: What are its main conclusions? Its contribution to the literature? How did the author(s) establishing their results?
2. What are the strengths and weaknesses of the paper?
3. How might the paper be extended and/or improved?

The referee reports should be written in an appropriate style. You will be evaluated on your understanding of the paper, the strength of your argument, and the eloquence of your presentation. While there is no need to do any formal modeling or statistical work, if simple modeling can be presented to buttress your arguments feel free to do so.

Grade Determination and Final Examination Details:

The grade for each segment of the course will be determined by an evaluation of your reports. Each report has equal value.

There is no final examination.

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

RO/mi
2011-09-08