

Economics 691/693 (Research Methods Seminar)

Instructor: Arvind Magesan and Atsuko Tanaka
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Lecture Location: SS 423 (subject to change)
Lecture Days/Time: WF (15:00-16:30)

Office: SS 430
Office Hours: TBA

(Fall 2017)

Course Description

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 internal departmental seminars; for course based M.A. students this is a requirement. 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.

For the **Fall 2016 semester**, M.A. course based students are required to write **three reports**:

a) Two of these reports will be on seminar papers of the student's own choice. The reports should be no longer than 350 words. It should address:

- i) the research question of the paper;
- ii) why is this question important;
- iii) where the paper fits in the literature;
- iv) how the research question was answered and;
- v) what were the key results.

b) The third report will be on a research question of interest to the student. It should clearly state the research question of interest and why it is important. The report should also provide a summary of the relevant literature.

You will be evaluated on your understanding of the paper, the strength and eloquence of your presentation. All three reports must be handed in to Arvind by **Friday December 8 2017**. In Econ693 (Winter 2017), students will further refine the research question and expand this report into a full proposal with a complete literature review. More details will be provided later in the semester.

Course Objectives/Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course, students will be able to distill key elements from an economics seminar, as well as formulate their own interesting research questions.

Prerequisites/corequisites

Continuous enrollment in the Master's program.

Required Textbook(s)

None

Recommended Textbook(s)

None

Reserved Readings

None

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>

A student who feels that a piece of graded term work (e.g., term paper, essay, test) has been unfairly graded, may have the work re-graded as follows. The student shall discuss the work with the instructor within 15 days of being notified about the mark or of the item's return to the class; no reappraisal of term work is permitted after the 15 days. If not satisfied, the student shall immediately take the matter to the Head of the department offering the course, who will arrange for a reassessment of the work within the next 15 days. The reappraisal of term work may cause the grade to be raised, lowered, or to remain the same. If the student is not satisfied with the decision and wishes to appeal, the student shall address a letter of appeal to the Dean of the faculty offering the course within 15 days of the unfavourable decision. In the letter, the student must clearly and fully state the decision being appealed, the grounds for appeal, and the remedies being sought, along with any special circumstances that warrant an appeal of the reappraisal. The student should include as much written documentation as possible.

Plagiarism and Other Academic Misconduct

Intellectual honesty is the cornerstone of the development and acquisition of knowledge and requires that the contribution of others be acknowledged. Consequently, plagiarism or cheating on any assignment is regarded as an extremely serious academic offense. Plagiarism involves submitting or presenting work in a course as if it were the student's own work done expressly for that particular course when, in fact, it is not. Students should examine sections of the University Calendar that present a Statement of Intellectual honesty and definitions and penalties associated with

Plagiarism/Cheating/Other Academic Misconduct,
<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-2.html>

Academic Accommodation

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. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, Visit www.ucalgary.ca/access/.

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 <http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.pdf>

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 14 days after the start of this course.

Absence from a Test/Exam

THERE WILL BE NO MAKEUP OR DEFERRED QUIZZES under any circumstances, nor may the quizzes be written early. Students unable to write the quizzes because of documented illness, family emergency, religious observance, or university-sanctioned event will have the weight shifted to the final examination; otherwise a grade of zero will be assigned. If a student cannot write their final exam on the date assigned by the Registrar's Office, they need to apply for a deferred exam www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/exams/deferred_final Under no circumstance will this be accommodated by the department.

Important Dates

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

Faculty of Grad Studies website: <http://grad.ucalgary.ca/home>

Graduate Students Association: <http://gsa.ucalgary.ca/>

Professional Development for Grad Students

Workshops and resources can be found at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/mygradskills/>

Economics Graduate Association: <http://econ.ucalgary.ca/ega/>

Evacuation Assembly Point

In case of an emergency evacuation during class, students must gather at the designated assembly point nearest to the classroom. The list of assembly points is found at www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints

Please check this website and note the nearest assembly point for this course

Safewalk

The safewalk program provides volunteers to walk students safely to their destination anywhere on campus. This service is free and available 24 hrs/day, 365 days a year.

Call 403-220-5333