

Economics 691 (L01) (Research Methods I)

Instructor:	Lucija Muehlenbachs	Lecture Location:	SS 423
Phone:	403.220.7264	Lecture Days/Time:	W 15:15 - 16:30
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Office Hours:	by appointment	Fall 2019	

Course Description:

Research Methods (I and II) will focus on developing students' skills in evaluating their own research and that of others. The course will focus on how to choose a research topic, how to develop an appropriate methodology, and how to evaluate the research contributions of others. As part of the course, students are expected to attend the departmental seminars (both the internal Wednesday seminars, when appropriate, and the Friday visiting speaker seminars).

Course Objectives/Learning Outcomes:

The goal of this course is to provide you with the tools necessary to undertake independent research, beyond the skills developed in your courses field specific courses. In the fall, our focus will be on developing a clear research question and an appropriate methodology for studying that question. Of particular importance will be the following dates when we will be having lectures and workshops (rather than the Wednesday department seminar): September 18, October 9, October 30, November 27.

Course Outline:

The course will be divided into three broad sections. During the first section we will discuss how to develop a research question and how to conduct a literature review on that topic. The second section will focus on developing an appropriate research approach or methodology to assess your research question. The final portion of the course will focus on developing your writing and presentation skills as they pertain to your research.

Prerequisites/corequisites: Enrollment in the MA Economics program (course-based and thesis-based)

Required Textbook(s): None. Readings will be posted on D2L.

Recommended Textbook(s): None.

Books on Reserve: None.

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 and Final Examination Details:

There are no exams for this course. Students will be evaluated based on their completion of three seminar referee reports and two research reports of their own choosing.

For the seminar reports, students will write reports on three papers presented in the Wednesday and Friday seminars. These reports should evaluate the paper, the presentation, and provide a thoughtful analysis of the research contributions. The reports can be submitted to the instructor at any time during the fall term but all reports must be submitted by December 13. Late assignments will not be accepted.

Students will also write research reports on two research questions of their choosing. Developing these reports will be the focus of the course and we will have several ungraded assignments to help move this process along. The reports should identify a research question, explain why the topic worth researching, provide a cursory literature review, and develop an appropriate methodology. The first report will be due November 1; the second report will be due December 13. Late assignments will not be accepted.

Seminar reports (3)	40%
Research reports (2)	<u>60%</u>
	100%

The official grading system will be used. See <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/f-1-1.html>. Students must receive a passing grade on each component to pass the course. 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. 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 and Intellectual Honesty:

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>

Statement of Intellectual Dishonesty, see Calendar K.4

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-4.html>

Plagiarism and Other Academic Misconduct, see Calendar K.5

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-5.html>

Academic Accommodations:

The student accommodation policy can be found at: ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy.

Students needing an accommodation because of a disability or medical condition should communicate this need to Student Accessibility Services in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.

Students needing an Accommodation based on a Protected Ground other than disability should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to the course instructor.

Important Dates:

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

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 Library Block.
- Online writing resources are available at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/resources/writing-support>.

Evacuation Assembly Point:

In case of an emergency evacuation during class, students must gather at the designated assembly point nearest to the classroom. The assembly point for this classroom is food court in the Professional Faculties building.

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.**

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

Personal information is collected in accordance with FOIP. For more information, see <http://www.ucalgary.ca/legalservices/foip/foip-hia>.

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.

LM

2019-07-16