

## Economics 691(L01) (Research Methods I)

Instructor: Rob Oxoby  
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Lecture Location: Zoom lectures  
Lecture Days/Time: W 15:15 – 16:30

Office: SS 402  
Office Hours: MW 14:00 – 15:00 (via Zoom; Fall 2020  
Personal ID: 882 605 1445)

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### 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 seminar series (delivered via Zoom in fall 2020).

### 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.

### Course Outline:

The courses 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.

### Online Delivery:

This course will be delivered online. Students are expected to be able to participate online in accordance with this Course Outline. Lectures, assignments, office hours, exams, readings and other course material, etc. all require online access and this access is the responsibility of the student. The instructor will make an effort to provide reasonable accommodations and flexibility as circumstances require. Students are expected to raise with the instructor at the beginning of the semester any potential concerns that require such accommodations.

In order to remotely participate in online courses, students will need to have: computer with a current and updated operating system (macOS or Windows will work with all university-supported online learning technologies), a current and updated web browser installed – the latest versions of Firefox, Safari, Chrome or Edge will help to avoid compatibility issues, secure and reliable internet, microphone / headphones, webcam (optional), scanner (or camera to scan your work).

**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.

**Lectures:**

Lectures will be delivered online at the Registrar scheduled times and delivered using ZOOM. The lectures will be recorded and subsequently posted to D2L.

**Grade Determination and Final Examination Details**

Students will be graded on a pass/fail basis. Successful completion of three assigned reports evaluating current academic papers and two research reports of their own choosing are required to pass the course.

For the assigned reports, students will write reports on three papers presented in the departmental seminar series, conducted via Zoom in fall 2020. 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 14<sup>th</sup>. 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 2<sup>nd</sup>; the second report will be due December 14<sup>th</sup>. Late assignments will not be accepted.

**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>

**ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT**

Academic Misconduct refers to student behavior that compromises proper assessment of students' academic activities and includes: cheating; fabrication; falsification; plagiarism; unauthorized assistance; failure to comply with an instructor's expectations regarding conduct required of students completing academic assessments in their courses; and failure to comply with exam regulations applied by the Registrar.

Student committing academic misconduct during the final exam will not receive a passing grade on the course.

For information on the Student Academic Misconduct Policy and Procedure please visit:

<https://ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-academic-misconduct-policy.pdf>  
<https://ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-academic-misconduct-procedure.pdf>

Additional information is available on the Academic Integrity Website at <https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success/learning/academic-integrity>.

**Academic Accommodations:**

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. 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>.

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

Personal information is collected in accordance with FOIP. Assignments can only be returned to the student and will be accessible only to authorized faculty and staff. For more information, see <http://www.ucalgary.ca/legalservices/files/legalservices/faq-students.pdf> and [http://www.ucalgary.ca/legalservices/files/legalservices/faq-faculty\\_0.pdf](http://www.ucalgary.ca/legalservices/files/legalservices/faq-faculty_0.pdf).

**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 unless otherwise authorized by the instructor.

**Copyright Legislation:**

See the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright at [www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-material-protected-by-copyright.pdf](http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-material-protected-by-copyright.pdf). Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy.

**Recording of Lectures:**

Recording of lectures is prohibited, except for audio recordings authorized as an accommodation by SAS or an audio recording for individual private study and only with the written permission of the instructor. Any unauthorized electronic or mechanical recording of lectures, their transcription, copying, or distribution, constitutes academic misconduct. See <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/e-6.html>.

**Important Dates:**

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

**Student Organizations:**

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/>

**Student Support and Resources:**

- See <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/course-outlines> for information on campus mental health resources, the Student Ombuds' Office, Student Success Centre, Safewalk, and Emergency Evacuation and Assembly.
- Online writing resources are available at <https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success/writing-support>.
- 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.

**Notes:**

Students are responsible for all assigned material, e.g., supplementary material posted on D2L, regardless of whether or not the material was covered in class.

RJO

2020-07-29