

Economics 691(L01) Research Methods I	
Instructor: W. D. Walls	Lecture Location: SS 423
Phone: x 6761	Lecture Days/Time: WF 1530--1608
Email: wdwalls@ucalgary.ca	
Office: SS 332 [or by Zoom if required]	
Office Hours: MW 16:15--1645, F 0950--10:30, or by appointment only.	

Course Description:

Research Methods (I and II) will focus on developing student skills in evaluating their own research and the research 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 will attend the departmental seminar series (whether in person or delivered via Zoom as required).

Course Outcomes:

The goal of this course is to provide the student with the tools necessary to undertake independent research, beyond the skills developed in 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 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/Assessment:

Students will be graded on a **pass/fail** basis. Successful completion of three (3) reports evaluating seminar papers, and two (2) research reports of their own choosing are required to pass the course.

For the departmental seminars, students will write reports on three (3) 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 through the D2L platform. All seminar reports must be submitted by December 15. Late assignments will not be accepted.

Students will also write research reports on two (2) research questions of their own choosing. Developing these reports will be the focus of the course. Students will identify a research question, explain why the topic merits researching, provide a brief yet thorough literature review, and develop an appropriate methodology. The first report will be due November 1; the second report will be due December 15. All reports must be submitted through the D2L platform. Late assignments will not be accepted.

All five (5) reports set out above are required to pass the course.

There will not be a final examination for this course.

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>

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 for the course.

For information on the Student Academic Misconduct Policy, Procedure and Academic Integrity, please visit: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-3.html>

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

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/accommodation-students-disabilities-procedure>

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

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/access-information-privacy>

Copyright Legislation:

See the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright at

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/acceptable-use-material-protected-copyright-policy>

Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy.

Course materials created by instructors (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the instructor. These materials may NOT be reproduced, redistributed or copied without the explicit consent of the instructor. The posting of course materials to third party websites such as note-sharing sites without permission is prohibited. Sharing of extracts of these course materials with other students enrolled in the course at the same time may be allowed under fair dealing.

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: <https://grad.ucalgary.ca/>

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 Tower.

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.

WDW

2022-07-26