



## Department of Economics Course Outline

		<b>Term:</b>	Fall 2009/Winter 2010
<b>Course:</b>	Economics 691/693 [Research Methods Seminar]	<b>Section:</b>	01
<b>Time:</b>	Friday 15:00-17:50	<b>Place:</b>	SS 423 (subject to change)
<b>Instructor:</b>	Dr. J.F. Wen		
<b>Office:</b>	SS 418	<b>Telephone:</b>	403-220-2478
<b>Office Hours:</b>	MW 14:30-15:45	<b>E-mail:</b>	wen@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 consist of visiting speakers from other universities who present some of their research. These seminars typically take place on Friday afternoons at 3:00. There is also an internal seminar series where departmental members and Ph.D. students present their preliminary work. These are typically held on Wednesdays at 3:00. Seminars are announced well in advance via departmental email and on 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 in December, three in April). The referee reports should be three to five pages in length, single-spaced.

The reports are intended to be a critical appraisal of the seminar paper. In particular:

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

The referee reports should be written in appropriate scholarly 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.

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### **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

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