



# Department of Economics

## Faculty of Arts

### Economics 691/693 (Research Methods Seminar)

Instructor:	Atsuko Tanaka	Lecture Location:	SS423
Phone:	403-220-6709	Lecture Days/Time:	WF15:15-16:30
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Office Hours:	TBA		Winter 2018

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#### 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.

#### Objective/Learning Outcomes:

The objective is to learn how to evaluate research and how to identify an interesting, feasible research question.

#### Course Requirements/Assessments:

This course will not have any midterms or final exams. Students will be graded on three reports.

#### Three Reports

Students need to submit two reports 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. The first report is due on Friday Feb 9th. For the second report, students will further refine the research question and expand the report into a full proposal with a complete literature review. The second report is due on Friday April 6.

In addition, M.A. course based students are required to write one more report 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 must be handed in by Friday April 6 2018.

All the reports must be typewritten and handed in to the D2L Dropbox before the due. No late submissions will be accepted.

### **How to get feedback on your research ideas**

1) Student presentations: Wednesday and Friday 15:15-16:30 (optional, but strongly recommended to attend)

This semester, we also have a regular meeting where students can present their own work. Each presentation is 5 minutes, followed by a 10 minute discussion. If you would like to present your work, please sign up for a slot using this excel sheet. You can sign up for as many slots as you like, but when there is a conflict, I might ask you to give up some of your slots to students who have fewer chances to present. If nobody signs up, the class will be automatically canceled.

Please sign up for a short presentation here when you come up with a research question.

A link to the sign-up sheet:

[https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1J1uL6TssOPVGveFwqyx2uKvasN7\\_AuWCucFCBvWM4GM/edit#gid=0](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1J1uL6TssOPVGveFwqyx2uKvasN7_AuWCucFCBvWM4GM/edit#gid=0)

2) Submit your draft proposal to the D2L Dropbox folder two or more weeks earlier than the due date

For each report, you can submit your draft earlier to receive my feedback. I will get back to you within 12 business days. Email me if you don't hear back from me for more than two weeks. You can revise the draft and resubmit to the same D2L Dropbox folder before the due date. Your grade will be based on the latest submission in the Dropbox folder (i.e. the earlier versions will not affect your grade).

### **Grade**

Your grade will be based on

- Report #1 research proposal (just update your progress; no need to be complete) 30%
- Report #2 research proposal (you can refine Report #1; no need to be complete) 30%
- Report #3 seminar report (see the above description) 40%

You will be evaluated on your understanding of the relevant research methods, the strength and eloquence of your presentation. Make sure to state the research question and explain why it is interesting and important. Good writing (e.g. conciseness) also carries weight. Please get help from the Writing Centre and make sure your writing is free from typographical errors, grammatical slips, and misspelled words.

### **Writing Tips**

- Make the paragraph the unit of composition: one paragraph to each topic.
- As a rule, begin each paragraph with a topic sentence; end it in conformity with the beginning.

- To avoid plagiarism, make sure that you do not copy verbatim more than three words in a row from the original text.

**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

Department of Economics Criteria for Letter Grades. Economics professors use the following criteria when assigning letter grades:

Grade	Grade Point Value	Description	Grade	Grade Point Value	Description
A+	4.00	Outstanding	C+	2.30	All grades below "B-" are indicative of failure at the graduate level and cannot be counted toward Faculty of Graduate Studies course requirements. Individual programs may require a higher passing grade.
A	4.00	Excellent-superior performance, showing-comprehensive understanding of subject matter	C	2.00	the subject matter
A-	3.70	Very good performance	C-	1.70	
B+	3.30	Good performance	D+	1.00	
B	3.00	Satisfactory performance	D	1.00	
B-	2.70	Minimum pass for students in the Faculty of Graduate Studies	F	0	

### Grading Scale

A+	95 – 100	B	73 – 76	C-	60 – 62
A	85 – 94	B-	70 – 72	D+	56 – 59
A-	80 – 84	C+	67 – 69	D	50 – 55
B+	77 – 79	C	63 – 66	F	0 – 49

A passing grade on any particular component of the course is not required for a student to pass the course as a whole.

**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.ucalgayr.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.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/](http://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 [www.ucalgry.ca/policies/files/policies/studentaccommodation-policy\\_0.pdf](http://www.ucalgry.ca/policies/files/policies/studentaccommodation-policy_0.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.

### **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](http://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**

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