

Economics 695/697 (MA Research Methods III/IV, Spring/Summer 2018)

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Lecture Location: SS423

Office: SS326 (DG) and SS332 (DW)
Office Hours: By Appointment

(Spring/Summer 2018)

Course Outline: This course is a joint Spring/Summer independent study course for MA students. The objective of this summer project is to provide you with an opportunity to conduct independent research. Specifically, during this part of your MA program, you will:

1. find a topic of your interest and specify an appropriate research question,
2. identify an appropriate research method to address your question,
3. learn how to apply empirical and theoretical skills that you have acquired from core curriculum courses to your specific question, and
4. communicate with clarity, and without oversimplification, the concepts, methods, and results of your research.

Textbook(s): The following texts/readings are helpful; additional material may be provided on D2L

- Gopen, G. and J. Swan. 1990. "The Science of Scientific Writing," *American Scientist*, November/December.
- Huff, D. 1954. *How To Lie With Statistics*. Norton, New York.
- McCloskey, D.N. 2000. *Economical Writing*. Long Grove: Waveland Press.
- McCloskey, D.N. 1998. *The Rhetoric of Economics*. Madison: University of Wisconsin Press.
- O'Connor, P.T. 1996. *Woe is I: The Grammarphobe's Guide to Better English in Plain English*. Riverhead Books, New York.
- Thomson, W. 2011. *A Guide for the Young Economist*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press
- Wyrick, T.L. 1994. *The Economist's Handbook: a research and writing guide*. NY: West Pub.

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.

The instructors' role throughout this course is to support you in undertaking your research when you require assistance. The onus is on the student to act promptly and proactively in seeking assistance. The student assumes full responsibility for completing and presenting the research in accordance with the timetable provided below:

Important Dates

- May 2, Introductory course meeting
- May 9 and 10, Introductory Presentation: 10 minutes (20%)
- May 18, Hand in: Revised Introduction and Literature Review (30%)
- June 1, Hand in: Data evaluation and Methods Section (30%)
- June 29, Hand in: Preliminary results due (20%)
- July 13, Hand in: First Full Draft Due (20%)
- August 10, Hand in: Second Full Draft Due (20%)
- August 15 and 16, Final Presentation: 20 minutes (30%)
- August 17, Hand in: Complete and Final paper (30%)

A more detailed guideline will be presented in the introductory meeting

Grade Determination and Final Examination Details: There are no tests for this course. For all components of the course, marks will be provided on a numerical (percentage) basis, then converted to letter grades.

Spring Semester

- First Oral Presentation – 20%
- Revised Introduction and Literature Review – 30%
- Data and Methods Section – 30%
- Preliminary Results – 20%

Summer Semester

- First Draft – 20%
- Second Draft 20%
- Final Oral Presentation – 30%
- Final Paper – 30%

The course grade is then calculated using the weights indicated above. As a guide to determining standing, these letter grade equivalences will apply:

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.

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.

Absence from a Test/Exam

THERE WILL BE NO MAKEUP OR DEFERRED QUIZZES under any circumstances, nor may the quizzes be written early. Students unable to write the quizzes because of documented illness, family emergency, religious observance, or university-sanctioned event will have the weight shifted to the final examination; otherwise a grade of zero will be assigned. If a student cannot write their final exam on the date assigned by the Department, they need to arrange for a deferred exam with the department.

Reappraisal of Grades and Intellectual Honesty:

For reappraisal of graded term work, see Calendar 0.1

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/grad/current/qs-o.html>

For reappraisal of final grade, see Calendar 0.1. B

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/grad/current/qs-o.html>

Statement of Intellectual Dishonesty

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/grad/current/qs-r.html>

Plagiarism and Other Academic Misconduct

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/grad/current/qs-r.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/grad/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/>

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 the **Professional Faculties Food Court**.

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.