

Economics 695/697 (MA Research Methods III/IV, Spring/Summer 2020)

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(Spring/Summer 2020)

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> using or through their student centre. Please note that D2L features a class e-mail list that may be used to distribute course-related information. It is your responsibility to ensure that D2L uses the e-mail address of your choice. The default is your University of Calgary e-mail address.

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 the concepts, methods, and results of your research.

Economics 695-697 Course Outline

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 (Bold indicates that Zoom presence is compulsory.)

- **May 4, Introductory course meeting (Zoom, 1pm-3pm)**
- **May 6, Introductory Presentation (Zoom, 10 minutes (20%))**
- May 15, Hand in: Revised Introduction and Literature Review (30%)
- May 29, Hand in: Data Evaluation and Methods Section (30%)
- June 26, Hand in: Preliminary results due (20%)
- July 17, Hand in: First Full Draft Due (20%)
- August 7, Hand in: Second Full Draft Due (20%)
- **August 11 and 12 (if needed), Final Presentation: (Zoom 20 minutes 30%)**
- August 14, 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 official grading system will be used. See <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/f-1-1.html>

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

As per the Writing Across the Curriculum Statement in the Calendar, writing and grading thereof will be a factor in the evaluation of student work.

Any student work which remains undistributed after the last day of classes will be available to students through the instructor's office during the instructor's office hours.

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>

Statement of Intellectual Dishonesty, see Calendar K.4

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-4.html>

Plagiarism and Other Academic Misconduct, see Calendar K.5

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-5.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 <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.

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. 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 Arts Students' Association (F.A.S.A.):

Economics Department Representative

Office: SS 803, E-mail: econrep@fasaucalgary.ca and Web: www.fasaucalgary.ca.

Society of Undergraduates in Economics:

<https://www.ucalgarysue.com/>.

Society of Undergraduates in Economics is a student run organization whose main purpose is to assist undergraduate economics students to succeed both academically and socially at the University of Calgary. Services include access to the exam bank, career events such as Industry Night and information sessions, mentorship programs, and social events for members. They invite you to join by contacting SUE at societyofundergradsineconomics@gmail.com.

Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources:

- Have a question, but not sure where to start? The Arts Students' Centre is your information resource for everything in Arts! Drop in at SS102, call them at 403-220-3580 or email them at artsads@ucalgary.ca. You can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate> which has detailed information on common academic concerns, including program planning and advice.
- 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.
- Online writing resources are available at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/resources/writing-support>.

DG/AW/April 16, 2020