

## Economics 791 (PhD Research Workshop)

Instructor:	Alexander Whalley	Lecture Location:	SS423
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Office Hours:	TBA		Fall 2016

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**Course Description:** In this workshop we will focus on the identification and presentation of research contributions. We will also discuss appropriate professional etiquette for the conduct of research in economics.

Each student will present their job market paper (job market candidates) or an example of an outstanding job market paper by former student (other students).

In each session, we will hear presentations from two students. Each will present 25-30 minutes, taking questions during and after their presentations. Normally, a student will present the motivation, economic question, contribution to the literature, approach and results. During this class presentation I and other students will make comments and ask questions, so the presenter should know the paper extremely well to deal with these questions.

The slides for these class presentations need to be emailed to me ([alexander.whalley@ucalgary.ca](mailto:alexander.whalley@ucalgary.ca)) 48 hours in advance of class so that I can look at these and provide feedback. Since this student is presenting to the class it is important that the slides and presentation are clear and well structured, and I find this usually involves starting the preparation a week in advance to allow for some iteration. The environment will be extremely informal, but I expect you to take your presentations seriously. Attendance is expected and will be taken weekly. If you cannot make it, please let me know and, of course, send your regrets to the speakers. This is important since the workshop relies upon collegiality and reciprocity.

Sign-ups will be made on the department website on a first come first served basis. Job market presentations will be at the beginning of the semester, followed by the example job market paper presentations. Please check the website for available time slots and example papers that can be selected. Recall that all third year and above students are expected to present; failure to do so can affect your good standing in the program.

Students will also be required to complete: (1) a paper to slides assignment and (2) a review of a different example job market paper than you present. Details of these assignments will be given on the first day of class.

On the date you present, please arrive a few minutes early to ensure that the smart board is setup and functioning.

If you have particular questions, please ask me at any time.

**Objective/Learning Outcomes:** The objective is to learn how to identify and present a contribution to economic knowledge following appropriate professional etiquette and research protocols.

### **Prerequisites/corequisites**

Attendance is required for students in third year of the PhD program and above. Others may attend with permission of the instructor.

### **Textbook(s): NA**

Reserved Readings: NA

### **Course Requirements/Assessments:**

This course will not have any midterms or final exams. Students will be graded on the following basis.

Presentation:	50%
Participation:	20%
Paper to slides assignment:	10%
Job marker paper review:	10%
Attendance:	10%

**Note:** Attendance is mandatory. The heavy weighting on participation reflects the importance of creating a collegial, supportive, constructive environment. Details on the assignments and due dates will be given the first week of class.

**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.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-2.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 <http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.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**

AW/mi

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