

Economics 791 (PhD Research Workshop)

Instructor:	Atsuko Tanaka	Lecture Location:	SS423
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Office Hours:	Friday 11:15am-12:00pm		Winter 2018

Course Description: This year-through workshop is designed for the 3rd and 4th year Ph.D. students to find their supervisory committee and to prepare for the job market. In each session, we will hear presentations from one professor (faculty introduction) or one classmate (student presentation), followed by discussion. The course requirements consist of oral presentations and written assignments. Details on the schedule and assignment due dates will be given on the first week of class.

Faculty Introduction and Research Report (Fall Semester)

Faculty members will briefly introduce themselves and present their work. After the presentation, we will discuss with a professor about appropriate professional etiquette for conducting research in economics. By the end of the course, students will be asked to submit a report (research report) that describes what they learn from the presentation and what particularly interests them. The report does not have to be comprehensive and can focus on one of the faculty members who presented in class.

Student Presentation (Winter Semester)

Each student will present an example of an outstanding job market paper by a former student (other students). The goal for this presentation is for students to get a feel for what a good job market paper looks like to get a job at a Ph.D. granting school. Most of the selected papers have the presentation slides available from the author's website. The presenter can use the slides with minor modifications. Alternatively, students can present their own paper if they can submit their draft to the instructor by September 30th.

Each will present for 25-30 minutes, taking questions during and after their presentations. Normally, a student will present the motivation, research question, contribution to the literature, approach, and results. The presentation should focus on convincing the audience that the central message of the paper is interesting and valid. During this class presentation, I and other students will make comments

and ask questions, so the presenter should know the paper well to deal with these questions. It is important that the slides and presentation are clear and well-structured.

Students will sign up on the department website (D2L) on a first-come-first-served basis. Please check the website for available time slots and example papers that can be selected.

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

Writing Assignments (Fall and Winter)

Every other week, students will also be asked to write 1-3 pages of the introduction section of their proposals/papers. Students need to submit their own writing at least twice to pass the course. In principle, students need to work on the introduction of the same project throughout the semester. However, students may change topic if their research agenda changes. The goal is to improve students' writing structure over the course. Use of the Writing Centre is strongly recommended. Each piece of writing will be evaluated based on logic, conciseness, and articulacy (free from obvious grammar errors). The final grade on the writing depends on improvement the student has made, as well as the average (not the total) evaluation scores.

Objective/Learning Outcomes: The objective is to (1) find potential advisors (2) learn how to identify and present a contribution to economic knowledge following appropriate professional etiquette and research protocols and (3) organize a clear and interesting presentation.

Prerequisites: NA

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.

Research report: 20% (fall term)

Presentation: 30% (winter term)

Bi-weekly writing: 20%

Participation: 30%

Note(s): If a student presents twice, the grade on the presentation will be the highest from the two. The heavy weight placed on participation reflects the importance of creating a collegial, supportive, constructive environment. Attendance is not mandatory; participation is evaluated based on how constructive and attentive students are, not on how frequently students attend the class. If you miss the class, please send your regrets to the student speaker(s). This is important since the workshop relies upon collegiality and reciprocity. Grammar errors will be penalized substantially in the writing of the introduction.

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 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/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 assembly point for this classroom is 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.