



Department of Economics Course Outline

		Term:	Fall 2007
Course:	Econ 611.16 [Topics in Behavioral Economics]	Section:	01
Time:	TR 11:30 – 12:45	Place:	SS 423
Instructor:	Robert J. Oxoby		
Office:	SS 444	Telephone:	220-2586
Office Hours:	TBA	E-mail:	oxoby@ucalgary.ca

Textbook:

Behavioral Game Theory by Colin Camerer, Princeton University Press, 2003.

Thinking and Deciding by Jonathan Baron, Cambridge University Press, 2000.

A list of additional readings (i.e. journal articles) will be supplied on the first day of class. Some of these readings will be available online, others will require library visits.

Book(s) on Reserve: list will be handed out first day of class.

Course Outline:

This is a course covering recent advances in the field of behavioral economics. Topics will include (but are not limited to) social preferences and intention-based models of behavior, preference formation, the use of biases and heuristics in decision-making under uncertainty, intertemporal choice, learning in games, and advances in bounded rationality. The course will be conducted in a seminar format and you are encouraged to actively participate. A detailed course outline will be provided at the first lecture.

Grade Determination and Final Examination Details:

Your grade will be based on homework assignments (40%) and a final project (60%). Approximately six assignments will be given during the term. While you are encouraged to work together on these assignments, each person must turn in their own copy. Assignments of short papers (3-5 pages) will be assigned in which you critically review certain articles or series of articles. The goal here is to look closely at the psychological evidence regarding behavior and the assumptions employed in economics. A final project will account for 60% of your grade. This project will include a term paper, a class presentation, and “referee reports” of two other term papers. You may use this opportunity to develop your thesis ideas and get feedback from your colleagues.

Course work will be marked on a numerical (percentage) basis and converted into letter grades. The course grade is calculated using the weights indicated above. As a guide to determining standing, these following letter grade equivalences will generally apply:

A+	99-100	B	91-92	C-	83-84
A	97-98	B-	89-90	D+	81-82
A-	95-96	C+	87-88	D	79-80
B+	93-94	C	85-86	F	0-78

If the distribution of grades determined using the aforementioned conversion chart appears to be abnormal the instructor reserves the right to change the grade conversion chart if the instructor, *at the instructor's discretion*, feels it is necessary to more fairly represent student achievement.

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

Tests and exams **will not** involve multiple choice questions.

Students' Union Faculty Representative (Social Sciences)

Nav Thind

Phone: 220-3913 Office: MSC 251

E-mail socialscirep@su.ucalgary.ca

Notes:

- 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.
- It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations. If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodation and have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, please contact their office at 220-8237. 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 fourteen (14) days after the start of this course.

Safewalk / Campus Security: 220-5333

RJO/mi

2007-07-19