



Department of Economics Course Outline

Term: Summer 2005

Course: Economics 311
[Computer Applications in Economics]

Section: 60

Time: TR 17:00 ? 17:50 (Formal Lecture)
18:00 ? 19:50 (Informal Lecture)
20:00 ? 20:50 (lab)

Place: SS 020

Instructor: L. Vojtassak

Office: SS 407

Telephone: 220-3255

Office Hours: TR [During Lab]
(Subject to change)

E-Mail: lvojtass@ucalgary.ca

Textbook(s):

- Blank, L., and A. Tarquin, *Engineering Economy*, McGraw Hill, 5th edition, 2002 [**Recommended**]
- Cornelis van de Panne. *Introductory Financial Economics with Spreadsheets*. Harwood Academic Publishers, 1999 [**Recommended**]

Book(s) on Reserve:

- Blank, L., and A. Tarquin, *Engineering Economy*, McGraw Hill, 5th edition, 2002
- Cornelis van de Panne. *Introductory Financial Economics with Spreadsheets*. Harwood Academic Publishers, 1999

Blackboard:

This course will make use of Blackboard - students who are registered in the course can log on at <http://blackboard.ucalgary.ca/webapps/login>

Course Outline:

The main goal of this course is to provide proficiency in practical applications of economics using computers. Students

will learn about the elementary and advanced features of spreadsheets using Excel. Examples will be drawn from Engineering Economics and Financial Economics.

This is a blended learning course. The formal lecture will be only for first part of the lecture, where in the second part, students will be responsible for mastering the material under the supervision of the lecturer and attendance will be required. E-mail questions will be answered in class. During the time of lab, attendance is optional, just for students' convenience.

The following topics (some additional ones may be added; some of these may be deleted) will be discussed in the course:

1. Introduction to Spreadsheets
2. - Basic Concepts of Financial Economics
 - Interest Rates
 - Mortgage Loans
 - Present Worth Analysis
3. Project Evaluation
 - Cash Flow Analysis
 - Sensitivity Analysis
4. Database Management Applications
 - Basic Database Tools
 - Looking up Data
 - Frequencies
 - Statistical Functions for Databases
5. Advanced Topics (Pivot Tables)

Grade Determination and Final Examination Details:

There will be two midterm tests (60 minutes each)

Midterm I	25%	July 19, 2005
Midterm II	30%	August 2, 2005
Final Exam	<u>45%</u>	Date set by Registrar's Office
	100%	

The format of these tests and the final exam will be discussed during the first week of classes. These tests and the final exam will be open book and computer based.

Tests and final exams are marked on a numerical (percentage) basis, and then converted to letter grades. The course grade is then calculated using the weights indicated above. As a guide to determining standing, these letter grade equivalences will generally apply:

A+	97 ? 100	B+	80 ? 84	C+	67 ? 69	D+	55 ? 59
A	90 ? 96	B	75 ? 79	C	64 ? 66	D	50 ? 54
A-	85 ? 89	B-	70 ? 74	C-	60 ? 63	F	0 - 49

If, for some reason, 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.

Non-programmable calculators WILL NOT be allowed during the writing of tests and the final examination.

There will be a Registrar scheduled final examination. It will last for 2 hours; will be open book; will be computer based; and, will be held in a computer lab.

Tests and exams will not involve multiple-choice questions.

Students? Union Vice President Academic:

Laura Schultz

Phone: 220-3911

E-Mail suvpaca@ucalgary.ca

Students? Union Faculty Representative (Social Sciences)

Carina McDonald

Phone: 220-3913 Office: MSC 251

E-Mail socialsciirep@su.ucalgary.ca

Society of Undergraduates in Economics (S.U.E.)

www.fp.ucalgary.ca/econ

Notes:

- Students seeking reappraisal of a piece of graded term work (test) should discuss their work with the Instructor within one week of the work being returned to the class.
- Make-up tests/exams and deferred tests/exams will not be given. In cases of documented illness, documented family emergency, or documented religious observance, extra weight will be given to the final examination.
- Tests and examinations will not be given before the scheduled dates.

Safewalk / Campus Security: 220-5333

* * * * *

LV/pml

2005-04-12