



Department of Economics Course Outline

		Term:	Winter 2007
Course:	Economics 477 [Regulatory Economics]	Section:	01
Time:	TR 15:30 ? 16:45	Place:	PF 118 (subject to change)
Instructor:	Aidan Hollis		
Office:	SS 426	Telephone:	220-5861
Office Hours:	WF 1400 ? 1500	E-Mail:	ahollis@ucalgary.ca

Textbook(s):

W. K. Viscusi, J. E. Harrington, and J.M. Vernon. *Economics of Regulation and Antitrust*, 4th Ed. MIT Press, 2005.

Optional helpful resource: Jeffrey Church and Roger Ware. *Industrial Organization: A Strategic Approach*, Irwin/McGraw Hill, 2000.

Course Outline:

The object of this course is to give students an understanding of how regulation and regulated firms operate. A surprisingly large proportion of our economy ? telecom, pipelines, electricity and others ? is regulated by government authorities. We explore the reasons for this regulation, using tools developed in intermediate economics theory courses. We examine how it is supposed to work in theory, and explore the many pitfalls and trade-offs inherent in any approach to regulation. The midterm will test your understanding of the theory of regulation. The second half of the course examines the operation of regulatory schemes and attempts at deregulation by working through several case studies. This section is very practical and will enable students to look at other regulatory schemes to identify what strengths and weaknesses they are likely to have. The final exam will test your ability to apply the theory that we worked through in the first part of the course to case studies. The focus in the text will be on chapters 10-18.

Students will be required to write an original piece of research on a regulatory topic to be approved with me. I will also require you to present a proposal and a draft on which I will provide comments before you submit the paper. Students will

also be required to present a summary of their paper's findings to the class.

In this course, a heavy emphasis will be placed on writing and researching skills. Some of the topics to be discussed include:

- The writing process: generating ideas; writing initial drafts; making global revisions.
- Organizational conventions: the paragraph; the three-part essay; specific genres such as op-ed articles, theoretical or survey papers in economics.
- Research papers: conducting research; evaluating sources; identifying and supporting a thesis; managing information and avoiding plagiarism; using and documenting sources; formatting the manuscript.
- Common errors: working for clarity; correcting sentence and grammatical errors.
- Argumentation and critical thinking: understanding the nature of rational argument (claim and reasons); seeking out and analyzing alternative views; shaping an argument around thesis and support.
- Rhetoric: writing conventions in economics; understanding the differences between conventions of writing and of speech-making.

There will be special tutorials offered on writing in SA129, Wednesdays 3-5. These tutorials will not be offered every Wednesday. On some Wednesdays there will be a special material on writing or presentation skills; on other Wednesdays there may be time for individuals to come in for personal help with writing. The instructor for the writing component of course will be Diane Guichon, who will give grades for the "writing component" in the course.

I will provide a detailed schedule of readings and dates in the first week of classes.

Grade Determination and Final Examination Details:

Mid-Term Examination	15%
Term Paper	30%
Term Paper Presentation	10%
Term Paper Preparation Components	10%
Writing Component	10%
Final Examination	<u>25%</u>
	100%

Tests and final exams are marked on a numerical (percentage) basis, 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+	93-100	B	73-76	C-	60-62
A	86-92	B-	70-72	D+	55-59

A-	80-85	C+	67-69	D	50-54
B+	77-79	C	63-66	F	<50

If, for some reason, the distribution of grades determined using this 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 be allowed during the writing of tests or final examinations.

There will be a Registrar scheduled final examination, lasting 2 hours in a classroom.

Tests and exams will not involve multiple choice questions.

Students? Union Vice-President Academic:

Shannon O'Connor

Phone: 220-3911

E-mail shuvpaca@ucalgary.ca

Students? Union Faculty Representative (Social Sciences)

Teale Phelps-Bondaroff

Phone: 220-3913 Office: MSC 251

E-mail socialscirep@su.ucalgary.ca or clmcdona@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 (term paper, essay, etc.) should discuss their work with the Instructor *within fifteen days* of the work being returned to the class.
- Students will be required to sign up with the class email list to facilitate communications.
- 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

* * * * *

AH/mi

2007-01-03