



Department of Economics Course Outline

		Term:	Winter 2007
Course:	Economics 611.16 [Topics in Behavioral Economics]	Section:	01
Time:	MW 13:00 ? 14:15	Place:	SS 423
Instructor:	Dr. R. J. Oxoby		
Office:	SS 444	Telephone:	220-2586
Office Hours:	By Appointment	E-Mail:	oxoby@ucalgary.ca

Textbook(s):

A list of readings will be supplied on the first day of class.

Book(s) on Reserve:

- Aronson, *The Social Animal*
- Baron, *Thinking and Deciding*
- Camerer, *Behavioral Game Theory*
- Gintis, et al, *Moral Sentiments and Material Interests*
- Hardin, *Trust and Trustworthiness*
- Henrich, et al, *Foundations of Human Sociality*
- Hogarth, *Insights in Decision Making*
- Lowenstein, et al, *Time and Decision.*
- Elster, *Addiction*
- Gigerenzer, et al, *Simple Heuristics that Make us Smart*
- Kahneman, et al, *Well-Being: the Foundation of Hedonic Psychology*
- Kahneman and Tversky, *Choices Values and Frames*
- Granovetter, *The Sociology of Everyday Life*

- Thaler, *Quasi-Rational Economics*
- Thaler, *Advances in Behavior Finance*

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 assignments (50%), and a final project (50%). While you are encouraged to work together on these assignments, each person must turn in their own copy. The final 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. Depending on the size of the class, we will utilize the final exam period to hold a "conference" in which you will present your research. Attendance will be mandatory. Given this aspect of the class, auditing of the course will not be permitted.

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 Vice-President, Academic

Shannon O?Connor

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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:pst
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