



## Department of Economics Course Outline

|                      |  |                   |  |
|----------------------|--|-------------------|--|
|                      |  | <b>Term:</b>      | Fall 2008  |
| <b>Course:</b>       | Economics 311<br>[Computer Applications in<br>Economics] | <b>Section:</b>   | 01   |
| <b>Time:</b>         | MWF 10:00 – 10:50  | <b>Place:</b>     | SS 020   |
| <b>Instructor:</b>   | Marian Miles   |                   |  |
| <b>Office:</b>       | SS 447   | <b>Telephone:</b> | 220-5740   |
| <b>Office Hours:</b> | T 11:00 – 11:50  | <b>E-mail:</b>    | <a href="mailto:mamiles@ucalgary.ca">mamiles@ucalgary.ca</a> |

### Textbook(s):

Walkenbach, John, *Excel 2002 Formulas*, M & T Books, 2002 (**Required**)

### Book(s) on Reserve:

None

### 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>. Please note that Blackboard features a class e-mail list that I will use. It is your responsibility to ensure that Blackboard uses the e-mail address of your choice. The default is your University of Calgary e-mail address.

### Course Outline:

The main goal of this blended learning 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, using the web to find economic data, and an introduction to Stata. Examples will be drawn from Engineering Economics and Financial Economics.

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 with Graphs and Charts
2. Downloading economic data from CANSIM II, OECD, and other web sources and importing it into Excel and Stata.
3. Graphing and Summarizing data using Excel and Stata.
4. Basic Concepts of Financial Economics
  - Interest Rates
  - Mortgage Loans
  - Present Worth Analysis
5. Project Evaluation
  - Cash Flow Analysis
  - Sensitivity Analysis
6. Database Management Applications
  - Database Tools
  - Statistical Functions
  - Statistical Functions for Databases
  - Pivot Tables (if time permits)

#### **Grade Determination and Final Examination Details:**

|             |     |                                |
|-------------|-----|--------------------------------|
| Midterm I.  | 25% | Oct. 1, 2008                   |
| Midterm II. | 25% | Nov. 3, 2008                   |
| Final Exam  | 50% | Date set by Registrar's Office |

The format of these exams will be discussed during the first week of classes. These exams 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+ | 84 - 88 | C+ | 73 - 75 | D+ | 57 - 61 |
| A  | 92 – 96  | B  | 79 - 83 | C  | 67 - 72 | D  | 50 - 56 |
| A- | 89 - 91  | B- | 76 - 78 | C- | 62 - 66 | 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.

Students must pass the final exam to pass the course as a whole.

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.

Notes:

1. Make-up midterm exams and deferred midterm exams will not be given. Deferred final examinations do not have to cover the same material or have the same format as the regular final examination.
2. Examinations will not be given prior to the scheduled date.
3. Students will not be given extra time to complete the midterm and the final exam.
4. Students should be aware of the academic regulations outlined in The University of Calgary Calendar.
5. Students seeking reappraisal of a piece of graded term work should discuss their work with the instructor *within 15 days* of work being returned to class; however, the earliest that grades will be discussed will be two days after the return of an assignment or examination.
6. Students will be responsible for all material listed on the course outline, regardless of whether or not the material has been covered in class, unless the instructor notifies the class that the material will not be covered.
7. Please note that the following types of emails will receive no response: emails not addressed to anyone in particular; emails where the recipient's name is not spelled correctly; anonymous emails; emails which do not specify the course and section in which you are registered; and, emails involving questions that are specifically addressed on the course outline.
8. Emails pertaining to course material will be answered in class.
9. 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.

Students' Union Vice-President Academic:

Pamela Weatherbee

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Students' Union Faculty Representative (Social Sciences)

Teale Phelps Bondaroff

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

[www.ucalgary.ca/sue/](http://www.ucalgary.ca/sue/)

Safewalk / Campus Security: 220-5333

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