



Department of Economics Course Outline

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|----------------------|--|-------------------|--|
| | | Term: | Fall 2010 |
| Course: | Economics 311 [Computer Applications in Economics] | Section: | 01 |
| Time: | MWF 9:00 – 9:50 | Place: | SS 020 |
| Instructor: | Marian Miles | | |
| Office: | SS 477 / SS552 | Telephone: | 220-5740 |
| Office Hours: | R 11:30 – 12:30 | E-mail: | mamiles@ucalgary.ca |

Textbook(s):

New Perspectives Microsoft Office Excel 2007, Comprehensive, by Parsons, et al, Nelson Publisher, ISBN 1423905857. **[Optional]**

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.
3. Graphing and Summarizing data using Excel.

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. 6, 2010 |
| Midterm II. | 25% | Nov. 3, 2010 |
| 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+ | 80 - 85 | C+ | 66 - 69 | D+ | 54 - 57 |
| A | 90– 96 | B | 75 - 79 | C | 62 - 65 | D | 50 - 53 |
| A- | 86 - 89 | B- | 70 - 74 | C- | 58 - 61 | F | 0 - 49 |

Calculators WILL NOT be allowed during the writing of tests and the final examination.

Tests and exams will MAY involve multiple-choice questions. Exams will be open book, will be computer based, and, will be held in a computer lab.

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.

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.

- Make-up midterm tests/assignments and deferred midterm tests/assignments **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.
- Midterm tests and the final examination will only be given on the indicated dates, not before.
- 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.
- Students should be aware of the academic regulations outlined in The University of Calgary Calendar.
- Emails pertaining to course material will be answered in class. 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.

Students' Union Vice-President, Academic

Alyssa Stacy

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

E-mail: sue@ucalgary.ca

www.ucalgary.ca/sue

Safewalk / Campus Security: 220-5333
Emergency Assembly Point – Professional Faculties Food Court
