



## Department of Economics Course Outline

		<b>Term:</b>	Fall 2011
<b>Course:</b>	Economics 311 [Computer Applications in Economics]	<b>Section:</b>	01
<b>Time:</b>	MWF 9:00 – 9:50	<b>Place:</b>	SS 020
<b>Instructor:</b>	Marian Miles		
<b>Office:</b>	SS 447/ SS 1208	<b>Telephone:</b>	403-220-5740
<b>Office Hours:</b>	R 8:30 – 9:20	<b>E-mail:</b>	mamiles@ucalgary.ca

### Textbook(s):

*New Perspectives Microsoft Office Excel 2010, Comprehensive*, by Parsons, et al, Nelson Publisher, ISBN 0538742917. **[Optional]**

**Book(s) on Reserve:** None

### 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

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6. Database Management Applications
  - Database Tools
  - Statistical Functions
  - Statistical Functions for Databases
  - Pivot Tables (if time permits)

**Grade Determination and Final Examination Details:**

Topic	Units	Grade	
Assignments	6	20%	To be discussed in 1 <sup>st</sup> lecture
Midterms	2	40%	Dates to be determined in the first week.
Final Examination	(2 Hours)	40%	As scheduled by the Registrar

The format and due dates of the assignments and midterms will be discussed during the first week of classes. Late assignments will not be accepted. The midterms and final exam will be open book and computer based.

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+	96 - 100	B	75 - 79	C-	58 - 60
A	90 - 95	B-	70 - 74	D+	54 - 57
A-	86 - 89	C+	66 - 69	D	50 - 53
B+	80 - 85	C	61 - 65	F	0 - 49

A passing grade on any particular component of the course is not required for a student to pass the course as a whole.

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

NO deferred midterm will be given. In case of documented illness or family emergency, the extra weight will be shifted to the final examination. The Instructor should be *notified in advance* if a student will be unable to write a midterm. In any case, documentation must be provided as soon as possible (within a day or so of the missed midterm).

There will be a Registrar scheduled **final examination**, lasting 2 hours. The final exam will be open book; will be computer based; and, will be held in a computer lab. The **FULL COURSE** will be covered.

Tests and exams will not involve multiple choice questions.

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## Students' Union Vice-President, Academic

Ola Mohajer

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## Students' Union Faculty Representative (Arts)

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

E-mail: [sue@ucalgary.ca](mailto:sue@ucalgary.ca)[www.ucalgary.ca/sue](http://www.ucalgary.ca/sue)

Society of Undergraduates in Economics is a student run organization whose main purpose is to assist undergraduate economics students succeed both academically and socially at the University of Calgary. Services include access to the exam bank, career partnerships with the Career Centre through hosting industry nights and information sessions, recognizing achievements in teaching, and organizing social events for members. Join now by contacting [sue@ucalgary.ca](mailto:sue@ucalgary.ca).

**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.
- 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. 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  
Emergency Assembly Point: Professional Faculties Food Court

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