

## Economics 311 (L01) (Computer Applications in Economics)

Instructor: Marian Miles  
Phone: 403-220-7893  
Email: mamiles@ucalgary.ca

Lecture Location: SS 020  
Lecture Days/Time: MWF 12:00 – 12:50

Office: SS 350  
Office Hours: M 10:00 – 10:50, W 11:00 – 11:50 (Winter 2019)

---

### Course Description:

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, and using the web to find economic data. Examples will be drawn from Engineering Economics and Financial Economics.

### Course Objectives/Learning Outcomes:

By the end of the course students will be

- Literate in Excel (comprehend terminology, apply appropriate techniques) for various types of data summaries and analysis.
- Able to obtain data from various sources and import it into Excel.
- Able to select and use the appropriate format for graphing different types of data.
- Able to assess loans, mortgages, bonds, term deposits and other business projects using multiple methods in Excel.
- Able to defend his/her choice of the most profitable alternative.
- Able to explain the time value of money, and the underlying concepts.
- Able to perform a sensitivity analysis using advanced Excel techniques.
- Able to use advanced Excel database tools to compile, summarize and organize data.
- Able to create a PivotTable using Excel.

### Course Outline:

The following topics will be discussed in the course:

1. Introduction to Spreadsheets with Graphs and Charts
2. Graphing and summarizing data using Excel.
3. Basic Concepts of Financial Economics
  - a. Interest Rates
  - b. Mortgage Loans
  - c. Present Worth Analysis
4. Project Evaluation
  - a. Cash Flow Analysis
  - b. Sensitivity Analysis

5. Downloading economic data from CANSIM II, OECD, and other web sources and importing it into Excel.
6. Database Management Applications
  - a. Database Tools
  - b. Statistical Functions
  - c. Statistical Functions for Databases
  - d. Pivot Tables (if time permits)

**Prerequisites/corequisites:**

Economics 201 and 203.

**Recommended Textbook(s):**

*New Perspectives Microsoft Office Excel 2016, Comprehensive Enhanced Edition*, by Parsons, et al, Nelson Publisher. **[Optional]**

**Book(s) on Reserve:**

*New Perspectives Microsoft Office Excel 2016, Comprehensive Enhanced Edition*, by Parsons, et al, Nelson Publisher.

**Desire2Learn:**

This course will make use of the Desire2Learn (D2L) platform. Students who are registered in the course can log on at <http://d2l.ucalgary.ca> through their student centre. Please note that D2L features a class e-mail list that may be used to distribute course-related information. These e-mails go to your University of Calgary e-mail addresses only.

**Grade Determination and Final Examination Details:**

3 assignments (Feb. 8, March 7, April 10)	20%
1 Group Project (March 22)	10%
1 Midterm Examination (March 11)	25%
Final Exam (Scheduled by the Registrar)	45%

*Grading Scale*

A+	95 – 100	B	73 – 76	C-	60 – 62
A	85 – 94	B-	70 – 72	D+	56 – 59
A-	80 – 84	C+	67 – 69	D	50 – 55
B+	77 – 79	C	63 – 66	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.

As per the Writing Across the Curriculum Statement in the Calendar, writing and grading thereof will be a factor in the evaluation of student work.

The format and due dates of the assignments and the group project will be discussed during the first week of classes. All assignments and the group project are due before 9 am, in the dropbox, in D2L. No assignments are accepted by email or on paper. All files must not be locked. Late assignments will not be accepted for any reason.

Any student work which remains undistributed after the last day of classes will be available to students through the instructor's office during the instructor's office hours.

The final examination will be comprehensive, scheduled by the Registrar, held in the computer lab, and last 2 hours. If a student cannot write their final exam on the date assigned by the Registrar's Office, they need to apply for a deferred exam [www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/exams/deferred\\_final](http://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/exams/deferred_final). Under no circumstance will this be accommodated by the Department.

Tests and exams will not involve multiple choice questions. **No cellphones, calculators of any type or any computing devices are allowed during the writing of the midterm or final exam.**

The date for the in-class midterm is March 11.

THERE WILL BE NO MAKEUP OR DEFERRED ASSIGNMENTS, GROUP PROJECT, or EXAMS under any circumstances, nor may the exams be written early. Students unable to write the exams because of documented illness, family emergency, religious observance, or university-sanctioned event will have the weight shifted to the final examination; otherwise a grade of zero will be assigned.

**Reappraisal of Grades and Intellectual Honesty:**

*For reappraisal of graded term work, see Calendar I.2*

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i-2.html>

*For reappraisal of final grade, see Calendar I.3*

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i-3.html>

*Statement of Intellectual Dishonesty, see Calendar K.4*

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-4.html>

*Plagiarism and Other Academic Misconduct, see Calendar K.5*

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-5.html>

**Academic Accommodations:**

The student accommodation policy can be found at: [ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy](http://ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy).

Students needing an accommodation because of a disability or medical condition should communicate this need to Student Accessibility Services in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities [ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy](http://ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy).

Students needing an Accommodation based on a Protected Ground other than disability should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to the course instructor.

**Important Dates:**

Please check: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/academic-schedule.html>

**Student Organizations:**

Faculty of Arts Students' Association (F.A.S.A.):

Economics Department Representative

Office: SS 803, E-mail: [econrep@fasaucalgary.ca](mailto:econrep@fasaucalgary.ca) and Web: [www.fasaucalgary.ca](http://www.fasaucalgary.ca).

Society of Undergraduates in Economics:

<https://www.ucalgarysue.com/>.

Society of Undergraduates in Economics is a student run organization whose main purpose is to assist undergraduate economics students to succeed both academically and socially at the University of Calgary. Services include access to the exam bank, career events such as Industry Night and information sessions, mentorship programs, and social events for members. They invite you to join by contacting SUE at [societyofundergradsineconomics@gmail.com](mailto:societyofundergradsineconomics@gmail.com).

**Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources:**

- Have a question, but not sure where to start? The Arts Students' Centre is your information resource for everything in Arts! Drop in at SS102, call them at 403-220-3580 or email them at [artsads@ucalgary.ca](mailto:artsads@ucalgary.ca). You can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate> which has detailed information on common academic concerns, including program planning and advice.
- For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at 403-210-ROCK [7625] or visit them in the MacKimmie Library Block.
- Online writing resources are available at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/resources/writing-support>.

**Evacuation Assembly Point:**

In case of an emergency evacuation during class, students must gather at the designated assembly point nearest to the classroom. The assembly point for this classroom is the Professional Faculties Food Court.

**Safewalk:**

The Safewalk program provides volunteers to walk students safely to their destination anywhere on campus. This service is free and available 24 hrs/day, 365 days a year. **Call 403-220-5333.**

**Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act:**

Personal information is collected in accordance with FOIP. For more information, see

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/legalservices/foip/foip-hia>.

**Internet and Electronic Communication Device information:**

The use of cell phones for any purpose in class is prohibited. Please quietly leave the lecture if you need to use your phone. Computers and tablets may be used for note-taking only. Taking photographs with any camera/electronic device is prohibited without prior approval.

**Email Policy:** 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 in which the sender has not identified which course and section he/she is taking; and, emails involving questions that are specifically addressed on this course outline.