Economics 489(L01) (Economics of the Movie Business)

Instructor: W D Walls
Phone: 220-6761
Email: wdwalls@ucalgary.ca
Office: S 340
Office Hours: MW 0850-0930

Lecture Location: MS 217
Lecture Days/Time: W 1700

Course Description:
In this course we use economics to understand the organization of production, distribution, and exhibition in the movie industry. The focus of the course is on the economics of contracts – in particular how information and uncertainty shape the structure of economic transactions. The historical and institutional illustrations are set in the context of Hollywood.

Objective/Learning Outcomes:
To understand how extreme uncertainty shapes transactions in the film industry.

Prerequisites/corequisites:
Economics 357 and 395.

Required Textbook(s):

Recommended Textbook(s):

Reserved Readings:

**Additional Required Readings and Course Web Page**

*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](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.

A detailed course outline will be made on the course web page to be located on the D2L website. The course web page will also contain a schedule of readings corresponding to each day that class meets, course announcements, and any other information to be distributed to the class.

**Grade Determination and Final Examination Details:**

The overall grade will be determined on the basis of your performance on two in-class midterm exams and one term paper/project as follows:

- In-class Quizzes (2 @ 30% each) 60%
- Term Paper (Due April 13) 40%

**The two in-class quizzes are set for Wednesday March 9 and Wednesday April 13.**

There will be no final examination.

Department of Economics Criteria for Letter Grades. Economics professors use the following criteria when assigning letter grades:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Grade Point Value</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Grade Point Value</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>4.00</td>
<td>Outstanding</td>
<td>C+</td>
<td>2.30</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>4.00</td>
<td>Excellent-superior performance, showing-comprehensive understanding of subject matter</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>2.00</td>
<td>Satisfactory – basic understanding of the subject matter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>3.70</td>
<td></td>
<td>C-</td>
<td>1.70</td>
<td>Receipt of a grade point average of 1.70 may not be sufficient for promotion or graduation. (See individual undergraduate faculty regulations.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>3.30</td>
<td></td>
<td>D+</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>Minimal pass – marginal performance; generally insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>3.00</td>
<td>Good – clearly above average performance with knowledge of subject matter generally complete.</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
All work is to be marked on a numerical (percentage) basis. The course grade is calculated using the weights indicated above. The following letter grade equivalences will apply:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage Range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>99-100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>92-98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>88-89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>82-87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80-81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>78-79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>72-77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>68-69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>66-67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0-59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I-0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fail</td>
<td>unsatisfactory performance or failure to meet course requirements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>Incomplete – unsatisfactory (effective January 2007)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Deviations from the conversion chart listed above will only be made if it improves student grades.

Non-programmable calculators WILL be allowed during the writing of tests.

Tests WILL NOT involve multiple choice questions.

Reappraisal of Grades

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

A student who feels that a piece of graded term work (e.g., term paper, essay, test) has been unfairly graded, may have the work re-graded as follows. The student shall discuss the work with the instructor within 15 days of being notified about the mark or of the item’s return to the class; no reappraisal of term work is permitted after the 15 days. If not satisfied, the student shall immediately take the matter to the Head of the department offering the course, who will arrange for a reassessment of the work within the next 15 days. The reappraisal of term work may cause the grade to be raised, lowered, or to remain the same. If the student is not satisfied with the decision and wishes to appeal, the student shall address a letter of appeal to the Dean of the faculty offering the course within 15 days of the unfavourable decision. In the letter, the student must clearly and fully state the decision being appealed, the grounds for appeal, and the remedies being sought, along with any special circumstances that warrant an appeal of the reappraisal. The student should include as much written documentation as possible.

Plagiarism and Other Academic Misconduct

Intellectual honesty is the cornerstone of the development and acquisition of knowledge and requires that the contribution of others be acknowledged. Consequently, plagiarism or cheating on any assignment is regarded as an extremely serious academic offense. Plagiarism involves submitting or presenting work in a course as if it were the student’s own work done expressly for that particular course when, in fact, it is not. Students should examine sections of the University Calendar that present a Statement of Intellectual Honesty and definitions and penalties associated with Plagiarism/Cheating/Other Academic Misconduct, http://www.ucalgayr.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html
Academic Accommodation
Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services; SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit www.ucalgary.ca/access/.

Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected ground other than disability should communicate this need in writing to their Instructor. The full policy on Student Accommodations is available at www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy_0.pdf.

Absence from a Quiz/Test/Exam

THERE WILL BE NO MAKEUP OR DEFERRED QUIZZES/TESTS/EXAMS under any circumstances, nor may the quizzes/tests/exams be written early. Students unable to write the quizzes/tests/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. 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. Under no circumstance will this be accommodated by the department.

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

Notes:
- All students must comply with the regulations published in the University Calendar concerning “Intellectual Honesty,” “Examinations,” etc. Students are referred to Section K of the current University Calendar http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html for the purpose of being aware of Intellectual Honesty, Plagiarism/Cheating/Other Misconduct, and the Penalties associated with Academic Misconduct.

- 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.

- Students’ papers will be returned during regular class time. Papers may also be collected during regular Office Hours. Uncollected coursework will be discarded at the end of term.

- Students seeking an accommodation based on a physical, psychological, emotional, social, or other disorder, disability or medical concern, should contact Student Accessibility Services; SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit www.ucalgary.ca/access/.

Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected ground other than disability should communicate this need in writing to their Instructor.

The full policy on Student Accommodations is available at http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy_0.pdf.
• **THERE WILL BE NO MAKEUP OR DEFERRED QUIZZES** under any circumstances, nor may the quizzes be written early. Students unable to write the quizzes 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. Documentation MUST be provided.

Faculty of Arts Students’ Association (F.A.S.A.):
Economics Department Representative
Office: SS 803, E-mail: econrep@fasaucalgary.ca Web: www.fasaucalgary.ca

Society of Undergraduates in Economics
www.ucalgarysue.com

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. They invite you to join by contacting sue@ucalgary.ca.

*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. 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 list of assembly points is found at www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints
Please check this website and note the nearest assembly point for this course

*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