



Department of Economics Course Outline

| | | | |
|----------------------|---|-------------------|--|
| | | Term: | Winter 2004 |
| Course: | Econ 611.16 [Topics in Behavioral Economics] | Section: | 01 |
| Time: | TR 11:00 ? 12:15 | Place: | SS423 |
| Instructor: | Robert J. Oxoby | | |
| Office: | SS 444 | Telephone: | 220-2586 |
| Office Hours: | TR 14:00-15:00 | E-Mail: | oxoby@ucalgary.ca |

Textbook:

Behavioral Game Theory by Colin Camerer, Princeton University Press, 2003.

A list of additional readings (i.e. journal articles) will be supplied on the first day of class. Some of these readings will be available online, others will require library visits.

Book(s) on Reserve:

None

Course Outline:

This is a course covering recent advances in the field of behavioral economics. Topics will include (but are not limited to) social preferences and intention-based models of behavior, preference formation, the use of biases and heuristics in decision-making under uncertainty, intertemporal choice, learning in games, and advances in bounded rationality. The course will be conducted in a seminar format and you are encouraged to actively participate. A detailed course outline will be provided at the first lecture.

Grade Determination and Final Examination Details:

Your grade will be based on homework assignments (30%), several short papers (30%) and a final project (40%). Approximately three assignments will be given during the term. While you are encouraged to work together on these assignments, each person must turn in their own copy. In addition, several short papers (3-5 pages) will be assigned in which you critically review certain articles or series of articles. The goal here is to look closely at the psychological evidence regarding behavior and the assumptions employed in economics. A final project will account for 40% of your grade. This project will include a term paper, a class presentation, and "referee reports" of two other term papers. You may use this opportunity to develop your thesis ideas and get feedback from your colleagues. Depending on the size of the class, we will utilize the final exam period to hold a "conference" in which you will present your research. Attendance will be mandatory. Given this aspect of the class, auditing of the course will not be permitted.

Course work will be marked on a numerical (percentage) basis and converted into letter grades. The course grade is calculated using the weights indicated above. As a guide to determining standing, these following letter grade equivalences will generally apply:

| | | | | | |
|----|--------|----|-------|----|-------|
| A+ | 99-100 | B | 91-92 | C- | 83-84 |
| A | 97-98 | B- | 89-90 | D+ | 81-82 |
| A- | 95-96 | C+ | 87-88 | D | 79-80 |
| B+ | 93-94 | C | 85-86 | F | 0-78 |

If 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.

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

Tests and exams **will not** involve multiple choice questions.

Students? Union Vice-President, Academic

Phone: 220-3911

E-mail: paca@ucalgary.ca

Students' Union Faculty Representative (Social Sciences)

Carina McDonald

Phone: 220-3913 Office MSC 251

E-mail: scirep@su.ucalgary.ca

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

E-mail: suecon@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 two weeks of the work being returned to the class.

RJO:dm

2003-11-10