

Economics 695/697 (MA Research Methods III/IV, Spring/Summer 2019)

Instructors: Daniel Gordon and David Walls
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Lecture Location: SS423

Office: SS326 (DG) and SS332 (DW)
Office Hours: By Appointment

(Spring/Summer 2019)

Textbook(s): The following texts/readings are helpful; additional material may be provided on D2L

- Gopen, G. and J. Swan. 1990. "The Science of Scientific Writing," *American Scientist*, November/December.
- Huff, D. 1954. *How To Lie With Statistics*. Norton, New York.
- McCloskey, D.N. 2000. *Economical Writing*. Long Grove: Waveland Press.
- McCloskey, D.N. 1998. *The Rhetoric of Economics*. Madison: University of Wisconsin Press.
- O'Connor, P.T. 1996. *Woe is I: The Grammarphobe's Guide to Better English in Plain English*. Riverhead Books, New York.
- Thomson, W. 2011. *A Guide for the Young Economist*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press
- Wyrick, T.L. 1994. *The Economist's Handbook: a research and writing guide*. NY: West Pub.

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> using or through their student centre. Please note that D2L features a class e-mail list that may be used to distribute course-related information. It is your responsibility to ensure that D2L uses the e-mail address of your choice. The default is your University of Calgary e-mail address.

Course Outline: This course is a joint Spring/Summer independent study course for MA students. The objective of this summer project is to provide you with an opportunity to conduct independent research. Specifically, during this part of your MA program, you will:

1. Find a topic of your interest and specify an appropriate research question,
2. Identify an appropriate research method to address your question,
3. Learn how to apply empirical and theoretical skills that you have acquired from core curriculum courses to your specific question, and
4. Communicate with clarity, and without oversimplification, the concepts, methods, and results of your research.

The instructors' role throughout this course is to support you in undertaking your research when you require assistance. The onus is on the student to act promptly and proactively in seeking assistance. The student assumes full responsibility for completing and presenting the research in accordance with the timetable provided below:

Important Dates (Bold indicates that physical presence is compulsory.)

- **May 2, Introductory course meeting (9am-12pm, SS423)**
- **May 6, Introductory Presentation (9am-1pm, SS423. 10 minutes (20%))**
- May 17, Hand in: Revised Introduction and Literature Review (30%)
- May 31, Hand in: Data Evaluation and Methods Section (30%)
- June 28, Hand in: Preliminary results due (20%)
- July 12, Hand in: First Full Draft Due (20%)
- August 9, Hand in: Second Full Draft Due (20%)
- **August 19 and 20, Final Presentation: 20 minutes (30%)**
- August 21, Hand in: Complete and Final paper (30%)

A more detailed guideline will be presented in the introductory meeting

Grade Determination and Final Examination Details: There are no tests for this course. For all components of the course, marks will be provided on a numerical, (percentage) basis, then converted to letter grades.

Spring Semester

First Oral Presentation – 20%
Revised Introduction and Literature Review – 30%
Data and Methods Section – 30%
Preliminary Results – 20%

Summer Semester

First Draft – 20%
Second Draft 20%
Final Oral Presentation – 30%
Final Paper – 30%

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The course grade is then calculated using the weights indicated above. As a guide to determining standing, these letter grade equivalences will apply:

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.

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.

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.

Students' Union Vice-President Academic:

Alicia Lunz

Phone: 403-220-3911

E-mail suypaca@ucalgary.ca

Students' Union Faculty Representative (Arts)

Phone: 403-220-3913 Office: MSC 251

E-mail arts1@su.ucalgary.ca, arts2@su.ucalgary.ca, arts3@su.ucalgary.ca, arts4@su.ucalgary.ca

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

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.

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.
- For program planning and advice, contact the Student Success Centre (formerly the Undergraduate programs Office) at 403-220-5881 or visit them on the 3rd Floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library.

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- 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://ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support/online-writing-resources>

Safewalk/Campus Security: 403 220 5333

Emergency Assembly Point: Outside Social Science Building (Parking Lot L23)

DVG/WDW/April 10, 2019