

Economics 695/697 (MA Research Methods III/IV)

Instructors: R. J. Oxoby (S) and W. D. Walls (P)
Email: oxoby@ucalgary.ca wwalls@ucalgary.ca

Lecture Location: SS403

Office: SS402 / SS332

Office Hours: by appointment

(Spring/Summer 2023)

Course Description:

695: Master's research project. Identify an interesting and feasible research question, carry out an extensive literature review of the research area, develop an economic/econometric model to address the research question, identify and collect appropriate data for empirical analysis of the research question.

697: Master's research project. Continuing from Research Methods III, the economic/econometric model is fully developed with specific attention to identification issues and testable hypotheses. Appropriate econometric analyses, validation and testing are carried out, leading to a research paper reporting the research question, the model, results, and a thorough discussion of implications.

Course Outline:

This course is a joint Spring/Summer independent study course for MA students. The objective of the 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 interest to the student and formulate an appropriate research question,
2. Identify an appropriate research method to address the research question,
3. Apply empirical and theoretical approaches (that you have mastered from core curriculum courses) to your specific question, and
4. Communicate with clarity, and without oversimplification, the concepts, methods, results, and the important implications of your research output.

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 in the **Important Dates** section below.

Prerequisites/corequisites:

Admission into the Master of Arts Economics (course-based) program.

Required Textbook(s):

None

Recommended 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.
- King, S. 2010, *On Writing*. Scribner: 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> 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. **All written work must be submitted to the Dropbox using the D2L web portal.**

Grade Determination and Final Examination Details

There are no examinations in this course. The following criteria are used when assigning letter grades:

Grade	Grade Point Value	Description
A+	4.00	Outstanding
A	4.00	Excellent-superior performance, showing-comprehensive understanding of subject matter
A-	3.70	Very good performance
B+	3.30	Good performance
B	3.00	Satisfactory performance
B-	2.70	Minimum pass for students in the Faculty of Graduate Studies
C+	2.30	All grades below "B-" are indicative of failure at the graduate level and cannot be counted toward Faculty of Graduate Studies course requirements. Individual programs may require a higher passing grade.

The specific graded components in Spring and Summer semesters are as follows:

<u>Spring Semester</u>	<u>Summer Semester</u>
First Oral Presentation – 20%	First Draft – 20%
Introduction and Literature Review – 30%	Second Draft 20%
Preliminary Results – 20%	Final Oral Presentation – 30%
Data and Methods Section – 30%	Final Paper – 30%

Passing grades on the Final Paper and on the Final Oral Presentation are required for a student to pass the course as a whole.

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

Spring 2023

- **May 2, Introductory course meeting (9am-12pm, SS403)**
- **May 15, Introductory Student Presentations (9am-1pm, SS403. 10 minutes (20%))**
- May 29, Hand in: Introduction and Literature Review (30%)
- June 7, Hand in: Data Evaluation and Methods Section (30%)
- June 14, Hand in: Preliminary results due (20%)

Summer 2023

- July 10, Hand in: First Full Draft Due (20%)
- July 31, Hand in: Second Full Draft Due (20%)
- **August 14 and 15, Final Oral Presentation: 20 minutes (30%)**
- August 18, Hand in: Complete and Final paper (30%)

IMPORTANT POLICIES AND INFORMATION

Absence From a Mid-term Examination

Students who are absent from a scheduled term test or quiz for legitimate reasons are responsible for contacting the instructor via email within 48 hours of the missed test to discuss alternative arrangements. A copy of this email may be requested as proof of the attempt to contact the instructor. Any student who fails to do so forfeits the right to a makeup test.

Deferred Term Work Form: Deferral of term work past the end of a term requires a form to be filled out by the student and submitted, along with any supporting documentation, to the instructor. The form is available at:

<https://live-ucalgary.ucalgary.ca/sites/default/files/teams/14/deferral-of-term-work-2020.pdf>

Once an extension date has been agreed between instructor and student, the instructor will email the form to the Faculty of Arts Program Information Centre (ascarts@ucalgary.ca) for approval by the Associate Dean.

Deferral of a Final Examination

Deferral of a final examination can be granted for reasons of illness, domestic affliction, and unforeseen circumstances, as well as to those with three (3) final exams scheduled within a 24-hour period. Deferred final exams will not be granted to those who sit the exam, who have made travel arrangements that conflict with their exam, or who have misread the examination timetable. The decision to allow a deferred final exam rests not with the instructor but with Enrolment Services. Instructors should, however, be notified if you will be absent during the examination. The Application for Deferred Final Exam, deadlines, requirements and submission instructions can be found on the Enrolment Services website at

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/exams/deferred-exams>.

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>

Academic Misconduct:

Academic Misconduct refers to student behavior that compromises proper assessment of students' academic activities and includes: cheating; fabrication; falsification; plagiarism; unauthorized assistance; failure to comply with an instructor's expectations regarding conduct required of students completing academic assessments in their courses; and failure to comply with exam regulations applied by the Registrar.

Student committing academic misconduct during the final exam will not receive a passing grade for the course.

For information on the Student Academic Misconduct Policy, Procedure and Academic Integrity, please visit: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-3.html>

Plagiarism And Other Forms Of Academic Misconduct

Academic misconduct in any form (e.g. cheating, plagiarism) is a serious academic offence that can lead to disciplinary probation, suspension or expulsion from the University. Students are expected to be familiar with the standards surrounding academic honesty; these can be found in the University of Calgary calendar at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>. Such offences will be taken seriously and reported immediately, as required by Faculty of Arts policy.

Recording of Lectures:

Recording of lectures is prohibited, except for audio recordings authorized as an accommodation by SAS or an audio recording for individual private study and only with the written permission of the instructor. Any unauthorized electronic or mechanical recording of lectures, their transcription, copying, or distribution, constitutes academic misconduct. See <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/e-6.html>.

Academic Accommodations:

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. 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

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/accommodation-students-disabilities-procedure>

Research Ethics

Students are advised that any research with human subjects – including any interviewing (even with friends and family), opinion polling, or unobtrusive observation – must have the approval of the Conjoint Faculties Research Ethics Board. In completing course requirements, students must not undertake any human subject research without discussing their plans with the instructor, to determine if ethics approval is required.

Instructor Intellectual Property

Course materials created by instructors (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the instructor. These materials may NOT be reproduced, redistributed or copied without the explicit consent of the instructor. The posting of course materials to third party websites such as note-sharing sites without permission is prohibited. Sharing of extracts of these course materials with other students enrolled in the course at the same time may be allowed under fair dealing.

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

Personal information is collected in accordance with FOIP. Assignments can only be returned to the student and will be accessible only to authorized faculty and staff. For more information, see <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/access-information-privacy>

Copyright Legislation:

See the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/acceptable-use-material-protected-copyright-policy> Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy.

Course materials created by instructors (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the instructor. These materials may NOT be reproduced, redistributed or copied without the explicit consent of the instructor. The posting of course materials to third party websites such as note-sharing sites without permission is prohibited. Sharing of extracts of these course materials with other students enrolled in the course at the same time may be allowed under fair dealing.

Evacuation Assembly Points

In the event of an emergency evacuation from class, students are required to gather in designated assembly points. Please check the list found at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/risk/emergency-management/evac-drills-assembly-points/assembly-points> and note the assembly point nearest to your classroom.

Important Dates:

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

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 Tower.

Important Contact Information

Campus Security and Safewalk (24 hours a day/7 days a week/365 days a year)
Phone: 403-220-5333

Faculty of Arts Undergraduate Students' Union Representatives
Phone: 403-220-6551
Email: arts1@su.ucalgary.ca, arts2@su.ucalgary.ca, arts3@su.ucalgary.ca,
arts4@su.ucalgary.ca
Students' Union URL: www.su.ucalgary.ca

Graduate Students' Association
Phone: 403-220-5997
Email: askgsa@ucalgary.ca
URL: www.ucalgary.ca/gsa

Student Ombudsman
Phone: 403-220-6420
Email: ombuds@ucalgary.ca

Campus Mental Health Resources

The University of Calgary recognizes the pivotal role that student mental health plays in physical health, social connectedness and academic success, and aspires to create a caring and supportive campus community where individuals can freely talk about mental health and receive supports when needed. We encourage you to explore the excellent mental health resources available throughout the university community, such as counselling, self-help resources, peer support or skills-building available through the following resources:

SU Wellness Centre: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/>

Student Wellness Services:
<https://www.ucalgary.ca/wellness-services/services/mental-health-services>

Campus Mental Health Strategy website: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/mentalhealth/>.

Notes:

Students are responsible for all assigned material; *e.g.*, supplementary material posted on D2L, regardless of whether or not the material was covered in class.