

ECON 361 Online - Spring 2012 - Syllabus - Course Schedule

Syllabus - COURSE SCHEDULE

Important: **ALL TIMES EASTERN** - Please see the [University Policies](#) section of your Syllabus for details.

Week	Module	Readings	Activities and Assignments	Due Date
Week 1	Module 01: Introduction	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Text: Chapter 1 2. Module Enrichment 3. Supporting Articles 	Introduce Yourself to Your Team (ungraded)	Friday, May 4, 2012 at 11:59 PM
	Module 02: The CBA Modeling Process		Quiz #1 (2.5%)	Available Friday, May 4, 2012 until Friday, May 18, 2012 at 11:59 PM
Week 2	Module 03: Use of Basic Tools	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Text: Chapter 6 2. Module Enrichment 3. Supporting Article 	Group Discussion #1 (<i>Group Discussions</i> are worth a total of 10% of your final grade)	The discussion will be available from Friday, May 11, 2012 at 7:00 AM to Friday, May 18, 2012 at 11:59 PM
Week 3	Module 04: Efficiency (Part A)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Text: Part A - Chapter 2 2. Module Enrichment 3. Discussion Article 		
Week 4	Module 04: Efficiency (Part B)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Text: Part B - Chapter 3 2. Module Enrichment 3. Supporting Article 	Quiz #2 (2.5%)	Available Friday, May 18, 2012 until Friday, June 1, 2012 at 11:59 PM
Week 5	Module 05: Primary Markets	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Text: Chapter 4 2. Module Enrichment 3. Supporting Article 	Assignment 1 (10%) Problem Set 1 <i>available Monday, May 14, 2012</i>	Friday, June 1, 2012 at 11:59 PM
Week 6	Module 06: Secondary Markets	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Text: Chapter 5 2. Module Enrichment 3. Discussion Article 	Group Discussion #2	The discussion will be available from Friday, June 1, 2012 at 7:00 AM to Friday, June 8, 2012 at 11:59 PM
			One Minute Summary #1 (0.5% bonus)	Friday, June 8, 2012 at 11:59 PM
Week 7	Module 07: Predicting and Monetizing Impacts	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Text: Chapter 11 2. Module Enrichment 3. Supporting Article 	Quiz #3 (2.5%)	Available Friday, June 8, 2012 until Friday, June 22, 2012 at 11:59 PM
Week 8	Module 08: Valuation Using Observed Behaviour: Indirect Methods	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Text: Chapter 14 2. Module Enrichment 3. Supporting Article 	Assignment 2 (10%) Written Paper	Friday, June 22, 2012 at 11:59 PM
Week 9	Module 09: Valuation Using Observed Behaviour: Application of Indirect Methods	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Text: Chapter 14 2. Module Enrichment 3. Discussion Article 	Group Discussion #3	The discussion will be available from Friday, June 22, 2012 at 7:00 AM to Friday, June 29, 2012 at 11:59 PM

Week 10	Module 10: Shadow Prices From Secondary Markets	1. Text: Chapter 16 2. Module Enrichment 3. Supporting Article	Assignment 3 (10%) Problem Set <i>available Monday, June 18, 2012</i>	Friday, July 6, 2012 at 11:59 PM
Week 11	Module 11: Valuation Using Pilot Projects	1. Text: Chapter 12 pp. 292-307 (start at CBAs of Experiments and Quasi-Experiments and stop at Choosing Prediction Parameters) 2. Module Enrichment 3. Supporting Article	Quiz #4 (2.5%)	Available Friday, July 6, 2012 until Friday, July 20, 2012 at 11:59 PM
Week 12	Module 12: Risk and Uncertainty & Final CBA Step	1. Text: Chapter 7 pp. 167-187 (stop at Information and Quasi-Option Value) 2. Module Enrichment 3. Discussion Article	Group Discussion #4	The discussion will be available from Friday, July 13, 2012 at 7:00 AM to Friday, July 20, 2012 at 11:59 PM
			One Minute Summary #2 (0.5% bonus)	Friday, July 20, 2012 at 11:59 PM
			Participation Self-Assessment Survey	Friday, July 20, 2012 at 11:59 PM
			(50%)	

[Final Exam](#)

Final Examination Arrangement and Schedule

All students taking online courses that have a final exam must [provide examination arrangement information](#) by **Friday, May 18, 2012**.

Examination schedule details will be available on [Quest](#) approximately four weeks prior to the exam date. For instructions on how to find exam information, go to the [Quest Help](#) page.

Official Grades and Course Access

Official Grades and Academic Standings are available through [Quest](#).

Your access to this course will continue for the duration of the current term. You will not have access to this course once the next term begins.

**ECON 361 Online - Spring 2012 - Syllabus - Communication**

Syllabus - COMMUNICATION



Email

Administrative questions should be directed to the **Centre for Extended Learning** office at extendedlearning@uwaterloo.ca.

Technical problems with Waterloo LEARN should be directed to **Technical Support** at extendedlearning.help@uwaterloo.ca.

Questions relating to **academic issues** (e.g., course content, deadlines, etc.) should be directed to your instructor, **Professor Wendy Roth**, at wroth@uwaterloo.ca. You should expect an answer to your email within 48 hours Monday to Friday.



News

Students are required to check the News every week, as the Professor will use the News feature on a regular basis.

Your instructor uses the News section of the Course Home page to make announcements during the term to communicate new or changing information regarding due dates, instructor absence, etc. as needed.

To ensure you are viewing the complete list of news items, you may need to click **Show All**.



Students have access to a "General Discussion" board, available under *Discussions* in the top navigation bar. This board is intended for communication between students, and is not typically monitored by the instructor. Information regarding assigned discussions can be found in the Activities and Assignments pages of the Syllabus.



ECON 361 Online - Spring 2012 - Syllabus - Course Description and Objectives

Syllabus- COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES



Course Description

The objective of this course is to provide a greater understanding of how economic concepts can facilitate the decision making process within both the private and public sector. The course will leverage various micro-economic concepts and introduce new concepts to form the foundation for critical decision making. Cost benefit analysis (CBA) uses economic knowledge in a practical way, applying the theory and processes to real-life problems. The intent of this course is to equip the student with analytical, economic theory and supporting processes which can be leveraged when facing strategic business or government policy decisions – in order to provide decision makers direction on what should be done. This course is also intended to raise awareness to the often controversial issues and criticisms surrounding the CBA process and/or CBA results.



Course Objectives

By the end of this course, successful students will be able to:

- describe the process of CBA and the controversy and limitations associated with it;
- define key concepts leveraged in the CBA process, including:
 - willingness-to-pay,
 - opportunity cost,
 - pareto efficiency,
 - consumer and producer surplus,
 - compensating and equivalent variation, and
 - cash discounting;
- summarize the CBA process flow and its supporting conventional steps;
- describe and assess impacts of decisions in primary and secondary markets that are efficient or inefficient within the CBA process;
- describe various approaches within the CBA process for the valuation of non-market goods;
- explain how uncertainty enters into the CBA process and how to apply the CBA process to mitigate associated risk; and
- analytically review a CBA or CBA journal article and provide an assessment of the corresponding CBA strengths and weaknesses with supporting justification.



ECON 361 Online - Spring 2012 - Syllabus - About the Course Authors/Instructor

Syllabus - ABOUT THE COURSE AUTHORS/INSTRUCTORS



Course Instructor and Co-author - Wendy Roth



Ms. Wendy Roth is a professional consultant, dividing her time between academic and corporate endeavors. From the academic perspective, her areas of focus entail the Economics of Education, Cost Benefit Analysis, the Economics of Developing Nations, and Macro Growth Theory. Her research efforts concentrate on Education in Developing Nations, with an emphasis in the cost effectiveness of schooling. From the corporate perspective, Ms. Roth has served over 20 corporate accounts across a wide spectrum of industry verticals, focusing on program/project management; including cost benefit analysis and operational efficiency.

Ms. Roth holds a Master of Arts, Economics, from the University of Toronto, a Bachelor of Arts, Honours Economics (Dean's Honours List) from the University of Waterloo, and a Bachelor of Mathematics, Co-Operative Program from the University of Waterloo. She is also pursuing her Master of Education at the University of Toronto and the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE). Ms. Roth also has extensive experience as an educator, across several Economic courses, at varying levels.



Course Author - Derek Picard



Derek Picard is a professional consultant specializing in the application and measurement of economic concepts for decision makers in both the public and private sectors. He applies the fundamental principles of economics to issues faced by corporate leaders, government agencies, and industry associations. Mr. Picard holds a graduate degree in economics and an undergraduate degree in econometrics from the University of Waterloo. He is also an Alumni Access Advisory Member at the UW's Research and Technology Park.

Mr. Picard's research has focused on the impact of organizational decisions such as capital investments, policy, and design.



ECON 361 Online - Spring 2012 - Syllabus - Materials and Resources

Syllabus - MATERIALS AND RESOURCES



Textbooks, Other Materials, and Resources

Textbooks

Required:

- Boardman, A. Greenberg, D. Vining, A. Weimer, A. (2010). *Cost Benefit Analysis: Concept and Practice (4th Edition)*. Prentice Hall.

Note: this text is also available electronically at a reduced cost from CourseSmart. For more information, please see <http://www.coursesmart.com/students>

Recommended:

- McCloskey, Deirdre N. (2000). *Economical Writing (2nd Edition)*. Waveland Press Inc. ISBN = 1-57766-063-3

Note: the optional text is a short, light read on how to effectively communicate economic concepts and ideas to any audience. This text will equip you with tips and tricks that are easy to understand and implement. A critical component to any CBA is effective communications, and as such, I highly suggest this text book as a reference for this course (and for your future economic writing adventures).

For textbook ordering information, please contact the [Waterloo Bookstore](#).

For your convenience, you can compile a list of required and optional course materials through [BookLook](#) using your Quest userID and password. If you are having difficulties ordering online and wish to call the Waterloo Bookstore, their phone number is +1 519 888 4673 or toll-free at +1 866 330 7933. Please be aware that textbook orders **CANNOT** be taken over the phone.

The eReserves can be accessed using the eReserves widget on the Course Home page.

Resources

- [University of Waterloo Library](#) (Services for Students Taking Online Courses)



ECON 361 Online - Spring 2012 - Syllabus - Downloadable Content and CD Ordering

Syllabus - DOWNLOADABLE CONTENT AND CD ORDERING



CD and Downloadable Content

The Centre for Extended Learning is no longer automatically mailing a course CD/DVD containing lectures that are also found within your course. Instructions for using Downloadable Content can be found below. However, if you wish to purchase a CD/DVD, please visit our [online ordering system](#).

Downloading Your Content

Select content is available for download within the course. **Please note that items for download are specific to this course and term of offer.**

You may wish to download the content if you

- have a fast internet connection, but plan to work offline;
- would prefer not to purchase a CD/DVD; and
- wish to have an archived version of the select course materials.

[Instructions for Extracting Downloadable Content](#)

Downloadable Content Files

Click each of the links below to download and save the ZIP file to your computer.

- [Module 01: Introduction](#) (ZIP)
- [Module 02: The CBA Modeling Process](#) (ZIP)
- [Module 03: Use of Basic Tools](#) (ZIP)
- [Module 04: Efficiency](#) (ZIP)
- [Module 05: Primary Markets](#) (ZIP)
- [Module 06: Secondary Markets](#) (ZIP)
- [Module 07: Predicting and Monetizing Impacts](#) (ZIP)
- [Module 08: Valuation Using Observed Behaviour: Indirect Methods](#) (ZIP)
- [Module 09: Valuation Using Observed Behaviour: Application of Indirect Methods](#) (ZIP)
- [Module 10: Shadow Prices from Secondary Markets](#) (ZIP)
- [Module 11: Valuation Using Pilot Projects](#) (ZIP)
- [Module 12: Risk and Uncertainty & Final CBA Step](#) (ZIP)



ECON 361 Online - Spring 2012 - Syllabus - Activities and Assignments - Grade Breakdown

Activities and Assignments



Grade Breakdown

Activities and Assignments Weight (%)

Assignment 1 (Problem Set 1) 10%

Assignment 2 (Written Paper)	10%
Assignment 3 (Problem Set 2)	10%
Quizzes	10%
Group Discussions	10%
Final Exam	50%
One Minute Summaries (x2)	1% bonus (0.5% per summary)

Students will be given the opportunity to secure up to a one bonus mark during the term. This can be attained through two One Minute Summaries, which give you the opportunity to provide feedback about the course and to ask questions about the material. A half mark will be granted for each One Minute Summary that complies with the grading scheme.



ECON 361 Online - Spring 2012 - Syllabus - Course Policies

Syllabus - COURSE POLICIES



Late Policy

Late assignments will be penalized at 10% per day, with the exception of documented medical illness. **Assignments more than 5 days late will not be accepted.** Assignment Dropboxes will close 6 days after the due date.



ECON 361 Online - Spring 2012 - Syllabus - University Policies

Syllabus - UNIVERSITY POLICIES

Submission Times

Please be aware that the University of Waterloo is located in the **Eastern Time Zone** (GMT or UTC-5 during standard time and UTC-4 during daylight saving time) and, as such, the time that your activities and/or assignments are due is based on this zone. If you are outside the Eastern Time Zone and require assistance with converting your time, please try the [Ontario, Canada Time Converter](#).

Accommodation Due to Illness

If your instructor has provided specific procedures for you to follow if you miss assignment due dates, term tests, or a final examination, adhere to those instructions. Otherwise:

Missed Assignments/Tests/Quizzes

Contact the instructor as soon as you realize there will be a problem, and preferably within 48 hours, but no more than 72 hours, have a medical practitioner complete a [Verification of Illness Form](#).

Email a scanned copy of the Verification of Illness Form to your instructor, and **mail** a hard copy to:

Centre for Extended Learning
University of Waterloo
200 University Avenue West
Waterloo, Ontario, Canada N2L 3G1

In your email to the instructor, provide your name, student ID number, and exactly what course activity you missed.

If your instructor agrees to re-open a time-limited component, our technical support staff (extendedlearning.help@uwaterloo.ca) will require an email from the instructor granting permission to allow you access.

Further information regarding Management of Requests for Accommodation Due to Illness can be found on the [Student Medical Clinic](#) website.

Missed Final Examinations

If you are unable to write a final examination due to illness, seek medical treatment and provide confirmation of illness to the Centre for Extended Learning within 48 hours by emailing a scanned copy of the completed University of Waterloo [Verification of Illness Form](#) to support your request for accommodation. In your email, provide your name, student ID number, and the examination(s) missed. You will be REQUIRED to hand in the original completed form at the time you write the make-up examination, which should be within a week of having missed your exam. The original completed form must be received before you are able to write a re-scheduled exam.

Further information about [Accommodation Due to Illness](#) regulations are available in the Undergraduate Calendar.

Academic Integrity

In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo community are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. **If you have not already completed the online tutorial regarding academic integrity you should do so as soon as possible.** Undergraduate students should see the [Academic Integrity Tutorial](#) and graduate students should see the

[Academic Integrity Website for Graduate Students.](#)

For further information on academic integrity, please visit the [Office of Academic Integrity.](#)

Discipline

A student is expected to know what constitutes [academic integrity](#) to avoid committing an academic offence, and to take responsibility for his/her actions. A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offence, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offences (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about "rules" for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course instructor, academic advisor, or the undergraduate Associate Dean. For information on categories of offences and types of penalties, students should refer to [Policy 71](#), Student Discipline. For typical penalties check [Guidelines for the Assessment of Penalties.](#)

Appeals

A decision made or penalty imposed under Policy 70, Student Petitions and Grievances, (other than a petition) or Policy 71, Student Discipline, may be appealed if there is a ground. A student who believes he/she has a ground for an appeal should refer to [Policy 72](#), Student Appeals.

Grievance

A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of his/her university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read [Policy 70](#), Student Petitions and Grievances, Section 4. When in doubt please be certain to contact the department's administrative assistant who will provide further assistance.

Final Grades

In accordance with [Policy 19](#), the Centre for Extended Learning does not release final examination grades or final course grades to students. Students must go to [Quest](#) to see all final grades. Any grades posted in Waterloo Learn are unofficial.

Note for Students with Disabilities

The [Office for Persons with Disabilities](#) (OPD), located in Needles Hall, Room 1132, collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodation to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with the OPD at the beginning of each academic term and for each course.

Use of Computing and Network Resources

Please see the [Guidelines on Use of UW Computing and Network Resources.](#)

Copyright Information

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Other Sources

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If there are any questions about this notice, please contact the University of Waterloo, Centre for Extended Learning, Waterloo, Ontario, Canada, N2L 3G1 or by [email](#).

