



ECON 180 A01

Introduction to Economics and Financial Project Evaluation

Winter Session: 202609 – First Term, Fall 2026, CRN 11105, 1.5 units, lectures on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 11:30 AM to 12:20 PM, Zoom.

Lecture links and recordings: Available on Brightspace.

UVic Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge and respect the Ləkʷəŋən (Songhees and Xʷsepsəm/Esquimalt) Peoples on whose territory the university stands, and the Ləkʷəŋən and W̱SÁNEĆ Peoples whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day.

Instructor Name: Chris Willmore (they/them)

Office: BEC 390

Method of contact and availability: E-mail: willmore@uvic.ca. I am happy to answer occasional questions on course content via e-mail (see E-mail Correspondence section below). I will reply within two business days. I typically do not answer e-mails on weekends.

Office Hours: Tuesdays and Fridays, 10 AM to 11 AM, on Zoom. The link is posted on Brightspace.

Teaching and assessment modality statement

This course is online with some face to face. Specifically, all lectures and office hours are held online via Zoom. The final exam is held in person.

Course Content

A concentrated introduction to principles of economics, project management, and financial project evaluation and selection for Engineering students. Economics topics include supply and demand and tax incidence. Financial project evaluation topics include discounted cash flow, benefit-cost analysis, financial accounting, and decision-making considering depreciation, inflation, taxes and risk. Project management topics include work breakdown structures, the critical path method and crashing. Assumes competency in calculus, algebra and familiarity with computer spreadsheet software.

Course prerequisites/corequisites

Completion of MATH 101 — Calculus II (1.5) and admission to BEng or BSEng program.

Repeating Courses

A student may not attempt a course a third time without the prior approval of the Dean of the Faculty and the Chair of the Department in which the course is offered unless the calendar course entry states that the course may be repeated for additional credit. A student who has not received this approval may be deregistered from the course at any point and may be asked to withdraw from his or her declared or intended program.

Textbook and Software

ECON 180 makes use of a wide variety of online materials in lieu of a single textbook. All required materials are free to UVic students and will be linked on Brightspace. Students are also expected to use the desktop version of Microsoft 365, in particular Word and Excel. Microsoft 365 is available at no cost to UVic students through [Microsoft 365 for UVic students](#).

Brightspace

Brightspace is used extensively for the course. All students are expected to be fully functional with the system. The lecture notes will be posted in *Brightspace*. Please note that the lecture notes online are only outlines of the actual lectures.

All announcements will be posted in *Brightspace*. Students are advised to check it frequently.

Learning Outcomes

The course structure table includes a list of project evaluation techniques covered by this course.

For each technique listed, students will be able to:

- Explain the intuition behind the technique
- Interpret the standard notation and jargon used by the technique (for example, be able to read the standard notation used for discounted cash flow analysis)
- Interpret graphs and tables commonly used by practitioners of the technique (e.g. supply and demand or cash flow diagrams)
- Evaluate simple projects using the technique, and standard notation
- Summarize the results of these evaluations
- For the same simple projects, produce graphs and tables commonly used by practitioners of the technique

Course Structure, Assessments, and Grading

Statement about learning components

The course consists mainly of the following components:

- Lectures: live on Zoom, with recordings and lecture slides available on Brightspace for later review.
- Practice problem sets, with solutions, for drilling basics, and learning by doing.
- Handouts, optional readings and optional videos provide a deeper dive into course material, and tutorials for selected topics.
- Three marked projects, in which students apply the techniques learned in the course to realistic problems, including a single customized case study that stretches across all three projects.
- One in-person final exam, which serves as a cumulative assessment of facility with the techniques and tools taught throughout the course.

Use of AI

Nothing in the course requires students to use AI, and none of the questions were written assuming its use. You may use generative AI in the three projects, provided that you disclose where and how you used it and what model you used (e.g. ChatGPT Sol 5.6). **Generative AI is not permitted during the final exam.** No marks will be deducted merely for permitted AI use or for disclosing that use; your submitted work will still be assessed on its quality and accuracy. Full details on the philosophy behind this policy and precise instructions for citing AI use will be posted alongside the projects. If you would like suggestions on using AI responsibly and reliably, I am happy to discuss them during office hours.

Grading Scheme

The course grade is determined as follows:

3 homework projects, each carrying a weight of 25%.

1 in-person final exam worth 25%.

Course Mark = $0.25 \times (\text{Project 1} + \text{Project 2} + \text{Project 3}) + 0.25 \times \text{Final Exam}$

Automatic Accommodation: An automatic accommodation is in place to help students who do uncharacteristically poorly on one of the three projects (e.g. via receiving a zero for a late submission). **If your final exam mark is higher than your lowest project mark, your final exam mark will be used in place of your lowest project mark**, effectively giving the final exam a weight of 50% (and raising your mark).

Mandatory/Essential Course Components

All mandatory/essential course components are deferrable. To complete the course, students must receive a non-zero grade for at least 2 projects and take the final exam or an approved deferred exam. If you do not meet these requirements, you will receive an “N” grade, no matter what your score in the rest of the course is. An “N” is a failing grade and counts as a 0 in GPA calculations. **You do not need to pass the final exam to pass the course**, but you do need to take it.

Dates of Assessments, Due Dates of Assignments

Projects: All three projects are to be submitted via Brightspace. Projects will be marked exactly as submitted. If you submit a draft or another course's assignment by mistake, that's what will be marked. No exceptions. However, you are allowed to resubmit your project as often as you wish before the due date; by default only the most recent submission before the deadline will be marked.

Please note that the project due dates listed below are preliminary, and may change in response to class needs and student feedback. Such changes will always be announced via a Brightspace announcement.

Project 1: Due October 9, 2026, by 11:59 PM, Victoria, B.C. time.

Project 2: Due October 30, 2026, by 11:59 PM, Victoria, B.C. time.

Project 3: Due December 4, 2026, by 11:59 PM, Victoria, B.C. time.

Final Exam: The final exam will be in person and take place during the Fall exam period (December 10 to December 23, 2026). The exact date and time are to be announced. It is cumulative, and all material covered in lectures and projects is fair game for testing. The exam is closed-book. A formula sheet will be printed on the exam itself. You may use a non-programmable, non-financial calculator. A detailed announcement regarding final-exam coverage will be sent via Brightspace a week before the final exam.

Students are advised not to make work or travel plans until after the examination timetable has been finalized. Students who wish to finalize their travel plans at an earlier date should book flights that depart after the end of the examination period. **Students do not qualify for an academic concession if travel plans conflict with the examination.**

Grading Scale

A+	90-100%
A	85-89%
A-	80-84%
B+	77-79%
B	73-76%
B-	70-72%
C+	65-69%
C	60-64%
D	50-59%
F or N	0-49%

Students should review the University's more detailed [summary of grading](#).

Extensions and Late or Missing Assessments

Unapproved late submissions receive a grade of zero. Students should ordinarily request extensions before the deadline whenever reasonably possible. Nothing in this course policy limits a student's ability to request an academic concession under University regulations.

An approved extension changes the due date for you. There are three main routes:

- **Mental health voucher.** Every student automatically starts the course with a 'mental health voucher' good for a 3-day (72-hour) extension. This is the only automatic extension that can be claimed after the original due date without requesting an academic concession, and you only have one, so use it when it is most valuable to you. If a project is three days late or less, submit it, write 'I'm using my mental health voucher' in the Brightspace comment, and e-mail me at willmore@uvic.ca so I can alert the TA. This is a one-use voucher: using it for a project that is one minute late uses the whole voucher. This voucher cannot be used for the final exam.
- **Extension due to excessive coursework.** It's not my intention to overburden you with work at the same time all your other courses are doing the same. If you have, say, three midterms and two projects due the same week as an ECON 180 assignment, send me an e-mail ahead of time requesting an extension. I'll work with you to find an extension that is appropriate for your case and fair to other students. Along with your e-mail, please send evidence of the due dates of the other projects, midterms, etc. (even Brightspace screenshots or forwarded announcements are enough).
- **Extension due to illness or other personal issues.** If a personal issue may be grounds for an extension (mental or physical health, a varsity trip, etc.), e-mail me as soon as reasonably possible—ordinarily before the deadline. Unexpected and unavoidable circumstances may sometimes make advance notice impossible. I will do my best to find an extension that is appropriate for you and fair to other students, although the exact circumstances may limit what is possible. You do not need to share private information in your initial e-mail. If I need additional information, I will let you know and keep it to the minimum necessary.

Automatic Accommodation: An automatic accommodation is in place to help students who do uncharacteristically poorly on one of the three projects (e.g. via receiving a zero for a late submission). If your final exam mark is higher than your lowest project mark, your final exam mark will be used in place of your lowest project mark, effectively giving the final exam a weight of 50% (and raising your mark).

Missing the final exam: If you miss the final exam, fill in a [request for a deferral](#).

Waitlist Policies

- Instructors have no discretion to admit waitlisted students or raise the cap on the course.
- Students on the waitlist should discuss with the instructor how to ensure they are not behind with coursework in the event they are admitted.
- Registered students who do not participate as specified in this outline during the first 7 calendar days from the start of the course may be dropped from the course. For this online course, first-week participation means either attending at least one live lecture or, if you are unable to attend live, contacting me by e-mail during that period. Live attendance is otherwise optional, and students may keep up using the recorded lectures.
- Registered students who decide not to take the course are responsible for dropping the course and are urged to do so promptly out of courtesy toward waitlisted students.
- Waitlist offers cease after the last date for adding courses irrespective of published waitlists.

Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is fundamental to all scholarly work. At the University of Victoria (UVic), students are expected to comply with the university's academic regulations and must not engage in acts of dishonesty, falsification, misrepresentation, or deception in any academic work. Violations of [the University's academic integrity policy](#) may result in academic or disciplinary consequences.

Appeals

Depending on the nature of your concern, the order in which you should normally try to resolve the matter is:

1. Me, the course instructor
2. The ECON department Chair (econchair@uvic.ca) (This step would normally have you consulting the Associate Chair, but that's currently also me.)
3. The Associate Dean of Academic Advising
4. The Senate.

If you're seeking a formal review of an assigned grade, you should also consult the regulations in the academic calendar regarding [review of an assigned grade](#).

I post long-form answer keys for the projects on Brightspace once all submissions are in. In the unlikely event that upon consulting these answer keys, you find a problem with the marking, let me know via e-mail, preferably within a week after you receive the mark for your project. I'll then look through the marking personally and address any and all marking errors (including cases where too many marks were given).

Final exams will be placed in storage after the end of the course and may be viewed through the usual [exam-viewing procedures](#). While I do not post final-exam answer keys on Brightspace, I will include one with the stored exams. In the unlikely event that you find an error in the marking, let me know via e-mail, preferably including photos of the issue if Exam Viewing allows it, and I'll take a look at the marking and address any and all marking errors (including cases where too many marks were given).

University Policies and Statements

Please note that this course is executed in a manner consistent with these University statements and policies.

- a. University Calendar - Section "[Information for all students](#)"
- b. [Creating a respectful, inclusive and productive learning environment](#)
- c. [Academic Integrity](#)
- d. [Academic Concession Regulations, Academic Concession and Accommodation](#), Academic Accommodation – [Policy AC1205](#)
- e. [Accommodation of Religious Observance](#)
- f. [Student Conduct](#)
- g. [Accessibility](#)
- h. [Diversity / EDI](#)
- i. [Equity statement](#)
- j. [Sexualized Violence Prevention and Response](#)
- k. [Discrimination and Harassment Policy](#)

Resources for students

- a. [Student wellness](#)
- b. [Centre for Accessible Learning](#)
- c. [UVic Learn](#). UVic Learn is the primary learning resource for students that offers many learning workshops and resources to help students with academics and learning strategies.
- d. [Library](#) resources
- e. Academic Skills Centre ([ASC](#))
- f. Learning Assistance Program ([LAP](#))
- g. [Academic Advising](#)
- h. Economics Undergraduate Advising: ecadvice@uvic.ca
- i. [Student Awards and Financial Aid](#)
- j. [International Student Advising](#)
- k. Indigenous student services ([ISS](#))
- l. [Student groups and resources](#) including UVic [Ombudsperson](#)

Student Experience of Learning (SEL) Survey

I value your feedback on this course. Towards the end of term, you will have the opportunity to complete a confidential SEL survey regarding your learning experience. The survey is vital to providing feedback to me regarding the course and my teaching, as well as to help the department improve the overall program for students in the future.

Course Structure

The coverage below is preliminary and may change in response to class needs and student feedback.

Lecture	Date	Topic	Assessment
1	Sept. 9	Introduction	
2	Sept. 11	Benefits and Costs	
3	Sept. 15	Time Value of Money	
4	Sept. 16	Rates and APRs	
5	Sept. 18	DCFA I	
6	Sept. 22	DCFA II	
7	Sept. 23	DCFA Intuition	
8	Sept. 25	Interpreting Discount Rates	
9	Sept. 29	Excel I	
10	Oct. 2	NPV	
11	Oct. 6	Unequal Lifetimes	
12	Oct. 7	EAC and Optimal Replacement	
13	Oct. 9	IRR	Project 1
14	Oct. 13	MIRR	
15	Oct. 14	Tariffs, Supply and Demand I	
16	Oct. 16	Tariffs, Supply and Demand II	
17	Oct. 20	Tax Incidence I	
18	Oct. 21	Tax Incidence II	
19	Oct. 23	Cartels and Monopoly	
20	Oct. 27	Excel II	
21	Oct. 28	Measuring Inflation	
22	Oct. 30	Recent Canadian Inflation	Project 2
23	Nov. 3	Keeping it Real	
24	Nov. 4	Financial Accounting	
25	Nov. 6	Introducing Taxes	
26	Nov. 13	CCA	
27	Nov. 17	Sensitivity I	
28	Nov. 18	Sensitivity II	
29	Nov. 20	Sensitivity III	
30	Nov. 24	Sensitivity IV	
31	Nov. 25	Sensitivity V	
32	Nov. 27	WBS	
33	Dec. 1	Gantt/AoN	
34	Dec. 2	The Critical Path	
35	Dec. 4	Crashing	Project 3

E-mail Correspondence

Emails should be limited to critical matters, such as inability to attend class, an exam, or prolonged illness, and should include the course name and number in the subject line. Questions on course material should be asked during office hours or in class. The standard format for writing a letter must be used. This means it should begin with a salutation (e.g. Dear...), include full sentences and it must conclude with a signature that includes your **full name and V#**. Text message lingo should not be used.

Instructor Addendum: Despite the above guidelines, I'm happy to answer occasional student questions on course content via e-mail, with two caveats. First, I ask that you please try to solve the problems on your own or by consulting with your classmates before reaching out to me. By the time you send me a message, you should have exhausted your other options for help (including the course outline, Brightspace announcements and optional material posted on Brightspace). Second, as there are a large number of students in the course, any given student should be contacting me only infrequently for help. Barring exceptional circumstances, I will reply to e-mails within two business days. Please note that I will typically not answer e-mails on the weekend (Saturday and Sunday).

Educational Technology and Lecture Recordings

Live lectures are held and recorded in UVic Zoom. Otter.ai is used to transcribe and summarize the lectures. Students who choose to attend live may have their display name, voice, image, chat messages, and other contributions captured in the Zoom recording and processed by Otter.ai. Students are not required to create an Otter.ai account.

As used in this course, UVic Zoom saves ECON 180 lecture recordings locally on the instructor's UVic-managed computer. Those files are mirrored to UVic-managed storage. Zoom performs some real-time processing inside and outside Canada. Otter.ai processes lecture recordings to produce transcripts and summaries using services that may be located outside Canada. After the instructor has downloaded the lecture recording, transcript, and summary and posted them to Brightspace, the corresponding conversation and associated data are permanently deleted from Otter.ai, including from its Trash folder. For details, consult [UVic's Zoom privacy information](#), the [Otter.ai Privacy Policy](#), and the [Otter.ai Terms of Service](#).

Live attendance is optional and carries no marks. If you do not want your personal information recorded or processed by these services, you may follow the course using the recordings posted on Brightspace without penalty. If you attend live, you can reduce what is captured by keeping your camera and microphone off and not using the chat, although your display name may still be visible. A recording and transcription notice will be given at the start of each live lecture. Contact me during the first week if you need another arrangement.