



ECON 516 A01

Cost-Benefit Analysis

Winter Session: 202609 – First Term, fall 2026 ; CRN 11158; 1.5 Units; 3 hours per week; Tuesdays & Fridays 11:00 – 12:20 (BEC 363).

UVic Land Acknowledgement

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

Instructor Name: Peter Kennedy

Office: BEC 366

Method of contact and availability: Questions on course material should be asked during class or office hours. Communication related to personal issues (for example, missed classes or assignments due to illness) can be sent by email to pkennedy@uvic.ca. A response can be expected within two business days.

Office Hours: Tuesdays & Fridays 1:00 – 2:00 (in person).

Teaching and assessment modality statement

This course is face to face and all exams are held in person.

Course Content

Methods of cost-benefit analysis with applications to public policy. Develops a normative foundation for policy analysis, addressing issues of efficiency and wealth redistribution together with the techniques of cost-benefit analysis.

Course prerequisites/corequisites

See [University Calendar](#).

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

None.

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.

Minimum Grade Requirements

Graduate courses require a B to pass.

Learning Outcomes

Intellectual, academic and practical skills in:

- Inquiry, analysis, and problem solving
- Critical, innovative, and creative thinking
- Numerical literacy
- Critical evaluation of qualitative and quantitative information
- Critical management of information
- Collaboration and the ability to work in teams

Course Structure, Assessments, and Grading

Statement about learning components

There are two lectures per week. Lectures are not recorded. There are review questions for each topic.

Use of AI

If you use AI to assist with your assignments, state that you have done so. You are responsible for any answers that AI provides. (Given that AI cannot be used for your final exam, relying on AI to do the assignments for you may not be a great idea).

Grading Scheme

The course grade is determined as follows:

Two homework assignments, each carrying a weight of 20%.

Final exam worth 60%

Mandatory/Essential Course Components

The final exam is essential and thus deferrable.

The assignments are not mandatory, and thus not deferrable. If an assignment is not submitted by the due date then it will be awarded zero points but will still count for 20% of the course grade.

Attendance is voluntary but encouraged.

Dates of Assessments, Due Dates of Assignments

Assignment(s): Assignment One is to be submitted in class or by email on 16 October. Assignment Two is to be submitted in class or by email on 13 November.

Final exam: In person. The final exam will cover Chapters 1 – 7.

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](#).

Missing Assessments

Should students encounter a situation where they miss an exam or cannot submit an assignment at its due date, they may qualify for an academic concession. Students are required to indicate the specific grounds on which they are requesting an academic concession and to provide a justification outlining the impact of the circumstances on their ability to complete course requirements. For in-course extensions, please [fill in the form and follow the instructions on the form](#). I will not respond to informal requests of academic concessions. In case 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.
- 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 Associate Chair: econassoc@uvic.ca
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](#).

Informal grade inquiries on assignments and exams can be made during office hours.

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

Topic	Chapter	Week	Due Dates and Exam Information
Introduction and Overview	1	2	
Welfare Foundations	2	3	
Rational for Policy Intervention	3	5	
Calculating Costs and Benefits	4	7	
Aggregating Costs and Benefits	5	9	Assignment One Due 16 Oct
Dealing with Uncertainty	6	10	
Non-Market Valuation	7	11	Assignment Two Due 13 Nov
An Illustrative Example	8	13	Last class is 3 December

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.

Electronic Devices

A calculator may be used during exams.

Educational Technology involving storage outside Canada

Not applicable.