Tasmanian School of Business & Economics (TSBE) (School)
College of Business and Economics (College)

BEA332
EVALUATING ALTERNATIVES

12.50 Credit points

Semester 1, 2019

Unit Outline

Dugald Tinch
CONTACT DETAILS

Unit coordinator

Unit coordinator: Dugald Tinch
Campus: Sandy Bay, Hobart
Email: Dugald.Tinch@utas.edu.au
Phone: 0362261877
Room location and number: Centenary 222
Consultation hours: TBA
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WHAT IS THE UNIT ABOUT?

Unit description

BEA332 Evaluating Alternatives is an advanced level economics unit offered by the Tasmanian School of Business and Economics. BEA332 builds on microeconomic concepts to provide students with an introduction to several widely applied economic evaluation and impact assessment methods. Informing decision makers about how best to allocate scarce resources is a key role for economists in both the private and public sectors. This unit equips students with the knowledge and skills needed to contribute to this process and provides a comprehensive foundation for advanced study in the area.

The unit emphasises the development of the practical skills required to conduct and critique a simple benefit-cost analysis of a project or program, including the ability to organise and present a benefit-cost analysis report effectively. The unit also provides the theoretical as well as a working knowledge required to understand the implications, and limitations, of benefit-cost analysis and impact assessment. BEA332 Evaluating Alternatives is a core, advanced level undergraduate unit in all economics majors offered by the Tasmanian School of Business and Economics.

Intended Learning Outcomes

On completion of this unit, you will be able to:

1. Reflect upon and demonstrate broad theoretical and working knowledge of the assumptions and limitations of cost-benefit analysis

2. Collaboratively work with peers to critically apply economic theory, analyse and evaluate economic issues.

3. Reflect upon the policy and ethical implications of the assessment of social cost-benefit analysis.

4. Communicate economics in oral and written formats.
Graduate Quality Statement

Successful completion of this unit supports your development of course learning outcomes, which describe what a graduate of a course knows, understands and is able to do. Course learning outcomes are available from the Course Coordinator. Course learning outcomes are developed with reference to national discipline standards, Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF), any professional accreditation requirements and the University of Tasmania’s Graduate Statement.

The University of Tasmania experience unlocks the potential of individuals. Our graduates are equipped and inspired to shape and respond to the opportunities and challenges of the future as accomplished communicators, highly regarded professionals and culturally competent citizens in local, national, and global society. University of Tasmania graduates acquire subject and multidisciplinary knowledge and skills, and develop critical and creative literacies and numeracies and skills of inquiry. They demonstrate the ability to apply this knowledge in changing circumstances. Our graduates recognise and critically evaluate issues of social responsibility, ethical conduct and sustainability, are entrepreneurial and creative, and are mindful of their own wellbeing and that of the community. Through respect for diversity and by working in collaborative ways, our graduates reflect the values of the University of Tasmania.

Alterations to the unit as a result of student feedback

Feedback will be modified, given the absence of a final exam for the unit. Additional sessions on writing reports will be made available.

Prior knowledge &/or skills

Pre-Requisite Unit: BEA111 Principles of Economics 1

BEA332 Evaluating Alternatives is an advanced-level undergraduate economics unit, as such if you have not completed a year of units at a 200 level you should contact the unit coordinator prior to enrolment to discuss expectations in BEA332. In addition to the knowledge and other competencies gained in pre-requisite units, it is expected that students are proficient in:

- English language skills, including referencing (http://www.learningsupport.utas.edu.au/Resources/referencing.htm)
- the use of Excel spread sheets
## HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

### Assessment schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment task</th>
<th>Date due</th>
<th>Percent weighting</th>
<th>Links to Intended Learning Outcomes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Assessment Task 1</strong> – Major Assignment</td>
<td>Friday Week 13, 2.00p.m.</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>LO1, LO2, LO3, LO4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Assessment Task 2</strong> – Executive Summary</td>
<td>Friday Week 12, 2.00p.m.</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>LO1, LO2, LO3, LO4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Assessment Task 3</strong> – Presentation (group)</td>
<td>Not Yet Determined</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>LO1, LO2, LO3, LO4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Assessment details

**Assessment Task 1 – Major Assignment**

**Task description**

Prepare a written report (not to exceed 10,000 words) and a cost-benefit worksheet on a given project. The assignment can be completed in groups of UP TO FOUR students. Students will self-select into groups but all members must attend the same tutorial sessions. Details on the project will be provided in the Week 2 tutorial. Groups will be allowed to select an appropriate task, although guidance will be given on suitable topics.

Each member of the group will receive the same major assignment mark (although the option to reassign up to 10% of marks in group will be given if groups feel any individual or individuals performed particularly strongly during the task).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criterion</th>
<th>Measures Intended Learning Outcome:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>An assessment rubric will be posted on MyLO</td>
<td>LO1, LO2, LO3, LO4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Task length</td>
<td>Maximum 10,000 words</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Due by date</td>
<td>Friday Week 12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Assessment Task 2 – Executive Summary**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Task description</th>
<th>Prepare an executive summary based upon your group’s written report (not to exceed 1000 words). This is an individual piece of work.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Criterion</td>
<td>An assessment rubric will be posted on MyLO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Task length</td>
<td>Maximum 1000 words</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Due by date</td>
<td>Friday Week 13, 2:00 pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Assessment Task 3 - Presentation**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description / conditions</th>
<th>Each group will be required to make two presentations (each group member should present at least once). The first presentation (10 minutes) will introduce your group’s topic the second presentation (20-30 minutes) will summarise the results of your group’s work.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Criterion</td>
<td>All students will give feedback for each presentation and will be assessed on this feedback. An assessment rubric for this feedback will be posted on MyLO.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Weekly</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*There is no final exam for this unit.*
How your final result is determined

To pass this unit, you need to demonstrate your attainment of each of the Intended Learning Outcomes.

Your grade will be determined in the following way:

Your overall mark in this unit will be determined by combining your results from each assessment task. These marks are combined to reflect the percentage weighting of each task. You need to achieve an overall score of at least 50% to successfully complete this unit. It is expected that you will seek help (from the unit coordinator in the first instance), well before the due date, if you are unclear about the requirements for an assessment task.

- PP (pass) at least 50% of the overall mark but less than 60%
- CR (credit) at least 60% of the overall mark but less than 70%
- DN (distinction) at least 70% of the overall mark but less than 80%
- HD (high distinction) at least 80% of the overall mark

All grades are provisional, until confirmation by the Assessment Board at the end of semester.

Submission of assignments

The act of submitting your assignment will be taken as certification that it is your own work.

Assignments must be submitted electronically through the relevant assignment tab in MyLO. You must ensure that your name, student ID, unit code, tutorial time and tutor’s name (if applicable) are clearly marked on the first page. If this information is missing, the assignment will not be accepted and, therefore, will not be marked.

Where relevant, Unit Coordinators may also request you to submit a paper version of your assignment. You will be advised by the Unit Coordinator of the appropriate process relevant to your campus.

Please remember that you are responsible for lodging your assessment items on or before the due date and time. We suggest you keep a copy. Even in a perfect system, items sometimes go astray.

Requests for extensions

In this Policy:

1. (a) ‘day’ or ‘days’ includes all calendar days, including weekends and public holidays;
   (b) ‘late’ means after the due date and time; and
(c) ‘assessment items’ includes all internal non-examination based forms of assessment

2. This Policy applies to all students enrolled in TSBE Units at whatever Campus or geographical location.

3. Students are expected to submit assessment items on or before the due date and time specified in the relevant Unit Outline. The onus is on the student to prove the date and time of submission.

4. Students who have a medical condition or special circumstances may apply for an extension. Requests for extensions should, where possible, be made in writing to the Unit Coordinator on or before the due date. Students will need to provide independent supporting documentation to substantiate their claims.

**Penalties**

Late submission of assessment items will incur a penalty of 10% of the total marks possible for that piece of assessment for each day the assessment item is late unless an extension had been granted on or before the relevant due date.

Assessment items submitted more than five (5) days late will not be accepted.

Academic staff do NOT have the discretion to waive a late penalty, subject to clause 4 above.

**Review of results and appeals**

Review of Assessment is available to all students once the University has released the final result for a unit. If you are dissatisfied with your final result, you may apply to have it reviewed. Applications for a review of assessment are due within 10 working days of the release of the final result in the unit. When applying for a review, you must pay a $50 fee.

If you wish to have a piece of internal assessment reviewed as part of the review process, please state this clearly on the application form referred to above and include that assessment item with your application.

Please read and follow the directions provided by the University at:


**Academic referencing**

Before starting your assignments, you are advised to familiarise yourself with the following electronic resources.

The first is the Harvard Referencing System Style Guide, which can be accessed from the UTAS library: http://utas.libguides.com/content.php?pid=27520&sid=199808. The Harvard style is the appropriate referencing style for this unit and the guide provides
information on presentation of assignments, including referencing styles. In your written work you will need to support your ideas by referring to scholarly literature, works of art and/or inventions. It is important that you understand how to correctly refer to the work of others and maintain academic integrity.

Failure to appropriately acknowledge the ideas of others constitutes academic dishonesty (plagiarism), a matter considered by the University of Tasmania as a serious offence.

The second is the Tasmanian School of Business and Economics’ Writing Assignments: A Guide, which can be accessed at: http://www.utas.edu.au/business-and-economics/student-resources. This guide provides you with useful information about the structure and style of assignments in the TSBE.

In your written work you will need to support your ideas by referring to scholarly literature, works of art and/or inventions. It is important that you understand how to correctly refer to the work of others, and how to maintain academic integrity.

The University library provides information on presentation of assignments, including referencing styles and should be referred to when completing tasks in this unit.

Please read the following statement on plagiarism. Should you require clarification please see your unit coordinator or lecturer.

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**Plagiarism**

Plagiarism is a form of cheating. It is taking and using someone else’s thoughts, writings or inventions and representing them as your own; for example, using an author’s words without putting them in quotation marks and citing the source, using an author's ideas without proper acknowledgment and citation, copying another student’s work.

If you have any doubts about how to refer to the work of others in your assignments, please consult your lecturer or tutor for relevant referencing guidelines. You may also find the Academic Honesty site on MyLO of assistance.

The intentional copying of someone else’s work as one’s own is a serious offence punishable by penalties that may range from a fine or deduction/cancellation of marks and, in the most serious of cases, to exclusion from a unit, a course or the University.

The University and any persons authorised by the University may submit your assessable works to a plagiarism checking service, to obtain a report on possible instances of plagiarism. Assessable works may also be included in a reference database. It is a condition of this arrangement that the original author’s permission is required before a work within the database can be viewed.

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For further information on this statement and general referencing guidelines, see the Plagiarism and Academic Integrity page on the University web site or the Academic Honesty site on MyLO.

**Academic misconduct**

Academic misconduct includes cheating, plagiarism, allowing another student to copy work for an assignment or an examination, and any other conduct by which a student:

a. seeks to gain, for themselves or for any other person, any academic advantage or advancement to which they or that other person are not entitled; or

b. improperly disadvantages any other student.

Students engaging in any form of academic misconduct may be dealt with under the Ordinance of Student Discipline, and this can include imposition of penalties that range from a deduction/cancellation of marks to exclusion from a unit or the University. Details of penalties that can be imposed are available in Ordinance 9: Student Discipline – Part 3 Academic Misconduct.
WHAT LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES ARE THERE?

**MyLO**

MyLO is the online learning environment at the University of Tasmania. This is the system that will host the online learning materials and activities for this unit.

**Getting help with MyLO**

It is important that you are able to access and use MyLO as part of your study in this unit. To find out more about the features and functions of MyLO, and to practice using them, visit the [Getting Started in MyLO unit](#). For access to information about MyLO and a range of step-by-step guides in pdf, word and video format, visit the [MyLO Student Support page](#) on the University website. If something is not working as it should, contact the Service Desk ([Service.Desk@utas.edu.au](mailto:Service.Desk@utas.edu.au), phone 6226 1818), or [Request IT Help Online](#).

**Resources**

**Required readings**

You will need the following text [available from the Co-op Bookshop]:

There is no prescribed text for this unit – weekly readings will be given in the lecture materials.

**Recommended readings**

https://www.cambridge.org/core/elements/costbenefit-analysis/CF50007908ABBA50D561517807E5E9D2

**Reading Lists**

Reading Lists provide direct access to all material on unit reading lists in one place. This includes eReadings and items in Reserve. You can access the Reading List for this unit from the link in MyLO, or by going to [the Reading Lists page](#) on the University Library website.

**Other Required Resources**

N/A
Activities

Learning expectations

The University is committed to high standards of professional conduct in all activities, and holds its commitment and responsibilities to its students as being of paramount importance. Likewise, it holds expectations about the responsibilities students have as they pursue their studies within the special environment the University offers.

Students are expected to participate actively and positively in the teaching/learning environment. They must attend classes when and as required, strive to maintain steady progress within the subject or unit framework, comply with workload expectations, and submit required work on time.

Details of teaching arrangements

Lecture/Tutorial Mode

A two-hour lecture is scheduled for each week throughout the semester. The lectures will be conducted in the style of conventional face-to-face contact between students and the lecturer. Lecture slides will be posted on MyLO about one week before the class. It is recommended that students read through the relevant lecture slides before attending the lecture each week. As the semester progresses these sessions will be given over to workshops in which groups can work on their major assignment with lecturer input.

Tutorial Groups will start in week 2. The tutorial groups will involve student led presentations and conventional face-to-face contact between students and the tutor. Tutorial presentation topics will be distributed in week 2. As the semester progresses, tutorials will provide an opportunity for students working in groups to present and discuss their major assignment with others in the class, allowing the improvement of final output.

Due to the group work elements of this unit distance students need to contact the unit coordinator to discuss before they can register for this unit.

Specific attendance/performance requirements

There are significant group work elements in this unit and it is essential that groups work well together to achieve the learning outcomes of the unit. Attendance at tutorials is required in order to work with your group. Groups are also expected to meet with the unit coordinator on two occasions through the semester to discuss progress, any issues working as a group and group work strategies to improve achievement of learning outcomes.
Teaching and learning strategies

The University is committed to a high standard of professional conduct in all activities, and holds its commitment and responsibilities to its students as being of paramount importance. Likewise, it holds expectations about the responsibilities students have as they pursue their studies within the special environment the University offers. The University's Code of Conduct for Teaching and Learning states:

Students are expected to participate actively and positively in the teaching/learning environment. They must attend classes when and as required, strive to maintain steady progress within the subject or unit framework, comply with workload expectations, and submit required work on time.

During the first four weeks of this semester, your participation and engagement in this unit will be monitored. If you do not demonstrate evidence of having engaged actively with this unit by Week 4 of semester, your enrolment may be cancelled or you may be withdrawn from the unit.

Work Health and Safety (WHS)

The University is committed to providing a safe and secure teaching and learning environment. In addition to specific requirements of this unit you should refer to the University's Work Health and Safety website and policy.

Communication

TO KEEP UP WITH ANNOUNCEMENTS REGARDING THIS UNIT

Check the MyLO Announcement tool at least once every two days. The unit Announcement will appear when you first enter our unit’s MyLO site. Alternatively, click on the Announcement button (towards the top of the MyLO screen) at any time.

WHEN YOU HAVE A QUESTION

Other students may have the same question that you have. Please go to the Ask the Class Discussion forum on the unit’s MyLO site. Check the posts that are already there – someone may have answered your question already. Otherwise, add your question as a new topic. Students are encouraged to support each other using this forum – if you can answer someone’s question, please do. We will attempt to respond to questions within 48 business hours. If your question is related to a personal issue or your performance in the unit, please contact the appropriate teaching staff member by email instead.

WHEN YOU HAVE AN ISSUE THAT WILL IMPACT ON YOUR STUDIES OR THE SUBMISSION OF AN ASSESSMENT TASK

If you have a personal question related to your studies or your grades, please contact teaching staff by email.
For general questions about the unit, please add them to the Ask the Class Discussion forum on the unit’s MyLO site. This way, other students can also benefit from the answers.

**Concerns and complaints**

The University is committed to providing an environment in which any concerns and complaints will be treated seriously, impartially and resolved as quickly as possible. We are also committed to ensuring that a student may lodge a complaint without fear of disadvantage. If you have a concern, information about who to contact for assistance is available on the [‘How to resolve a student complaint’ page](#).

**Further information and assistance**

If you are experiencing difficulties with your studies or assignments, have personal or life-planning issues, disability or illness which may affect your course of study, you are advised to raise these with the unit coordinator in the first instance.

There is a range of University-wide support services available to you including [Student Learning Support](#), [Student Advisers](#), [Disability Services](#), and more which can be found on the [Student Support and Development](#) page of the University website.

Should you require assistance in accessing the [Library](#), visit their website for more information.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEEK</th>
<th>DATE BEGINNING</th>
<th>TOPIC/ MODULE/ FOCUS AREA</th>
<th>ACTIVITIES</th>
<th>DUE DATE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>25 Feb</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>4 March</td>
<td>Lecture: Investment Appraisal, Private and efficient CBA</td>
<td>Tutorial/Workshop: Introduction to the Major Assignment and Tutorial Topics</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>11 March</td>
<td>Major assignment topic presentations</td>
<td>Major assignment topic presentations.</td>
<td>Topic Presentations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>18 March</td>
<td>Consumer and producer surplus; Net Present value and social discount rates</td>
<td>Tutorial/Workshop: Excel basics</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>25 March</td>
<td>Risk in benefit cost analysis</td>
<td>Group Meetings with co-ordinator Tutorial/Workshop:: Excel for project appraisal</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>1 April</td>
<td>Valuation of non-market goods 1</td>
<td>Tutorial/Workshop: Developing your Excel Spreadsheet</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>8 April</td>
<td>Valuation of non-market goods 2</td>
<td>Tutorial/Workshop: Data Gaps Session</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8a</td>
<td>15 April</td>
<td>Health, the environment and income – social equity and BCA</td>
<td>Tutorial/Workshop: Data Gaps Session</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8b</td>
<td>25 April</td>
<td>Mid-semester break 18 April to 24 April (inclusive)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>29 April</td>
<td>Workshop 1</td>
<td>Workshop 1a</td>
<td>Group Presentation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>6 May</td>
<td>Workshop 2</td>
<td>Workshop 2a</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>13 May</td>
<td>Workshop 3</td>
<td>Workshop 3a</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>20 May</td>
<td>Workshop 4</td>
<td>Workshop 4a</td>
<td>Major Assignment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>27 May</td>
<td>No Tutorial – extra office hours.</td>
<td>Executive Summary</td>
<td></td>
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Exam Period 8 – 25 June (inclusive)
ACCREDITATION

AACSB Accreditation

The Tasmanian School of Business and Economics (TSBE) is currently in the process of applying for business accreditation with the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) – the lead program for accrediting business schools globally. AACSB seeks to connect educators, students, and business to achieve a common goal – to create the next generation of business leaders.

By joining AACSB and going through the accreditation process, TSBE is joining a global alliance committed to improve the quality of business education around the world, and to share the latest innovations in business education. Gaining Business Accreditation with AACSB is a multi-year process involving TSBE demonstrating our performance against the 15 accreditation standards.

Once complete, TSBE will join a select community of accredited business schools, with only 7% of all business schools globally having completed the AACSB process. This will further enhance the reputation of TSBE, and further enhance the global recognition of your qualifications. To find out more about AACSB click here.