



Dillard College of Business Administration

SYLLABUS: General Economics

Econ 1333, Section X20

Spring 2019

Brightspace (D2L)

Contact Information:

Professor: Mr. Norman Lewis
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Course Materials:

Essentials of Economics, 10th Edition. Bradley Schiller. Boston: McGraw-Hill Irwin
ISBN 978-1-259-23570-2 (REQUIRED)

Access to Brightspace/D2L), the University's online learning environment platform <https://d2l.msutexas.edu>

You will obviously need an internet connection to access the class web pages. The entire course will be taught within the University's online learning environment called Desire2Learn (D2L).

For homework problem sets, you will need a word processing program, like Microsoft Word, Pages, OpenOffice or LibreOffice. You should save your documents as a Microsoft Word file (*.doc *.docx) or in a portable document format (*.pdf).

You should also download and install the latest Adobe Acrobat Reader from Adobe's website (<http://adobe.com>). This is a free software package that will enable you to open and read PDF files (portable document files). Problem sets and some reading material assigned beyond the textbook will be given in this format. Chances are, you already have a version loaded on your computer.

Course Description:

A non-theoretical approach to describe economic involvement in relevant social and political matters. A subject matter to help fill the general need for improved economic reasoning. (Students with a major or minor within the Dillard College of Business Administration should take ECON 2333 instead of this course.)

Course Prerequisite:

None

Learning Goals:

A. General Learning Goals:

The goal of the course is to provide you with an understanding of how the economic system you live and work in operates, how and why certain economic policies are made, and make you more aware of economic issues reported in the newspaper, news magazines, and television and to become a more informed decision maker.

B. Course Specific Learning Goals:

Understand the major components of the U.S. Economy

Learn how markets efficiently allocate scarce resources

Understanding how markets may fail to efficiently allocate goods

Understanding pricing and production differences in competitive vs. monopolistic market structures

Learn how national income (GDP) is measured and interpreted

Understand the impact of unemployment on an economy and how governments use fiscal policy to direct an economy to full-employment

Learning to use the aggregate demand and aggregate supply model to explain recessionary and inflationary situations in the economy

Learn how the banking system creates money through loans, how the supply of money impacts the overall economy, and how the Federal Reserve uses this mechanism to control the money supply

Understand the concept comparative advantage any how economies benefit from international trade

Course Policies:

A. Attendance Policy:

Since this course is taught asynchronously over the web, we have no regular scheduled meeting times, and therefore no required classroom attendance. Your grade is completely determined by your work and participation. In lieu of a normal physical attendance policy based on absences, your attendance will be measured by your assignments being turned in on time and reading the discussion board posts. As such, missing any three assignments or failing to login to the class web site for two consecutive weeks is equivalent to three unexcused absences, and in accordance with the *Student Handbook and Undergraduate Catalog*, can result in being administratively withdrawn from the course, which results in a grade of "F". D2L allows me to document each time you log into the course and what messages you have read in the discussion board.

B. Makeup Other Related Policies

Late work **will not be accepted** unless prior arrangement has been made. All due dates are clearly posted at the beginning of the semester and there is ample time to complete the work and submit it. If the assigned exam time is in conflict, you must make arrangements to take the exam **prior** to the scheduled date. You will be allowed to make up **one** missed exam by taking a **comprehensive makeup exam** at the end of the semester to replace the missing exam score. If you miss a second exam, you will receive a 0 for that exam.

Grading and Evaluation:

Online courses are a double-edged sword. You have the benefit of an extremely flexible schedule, since there are no regular class meetings. But with the flexibility comes an **enormous** responsibility on your part as a student to manage your time efficiently. All work is expected to be turned in by the due date. Work turned in late will not be accepted unless **prior** arrangements with me have been made. This includes completing exams during the scheduled time.

Procrastination is the sure way to a failing grade in an online course. It is so vital to keep up with the reading assignments and ask questions as soon as material seems unclear or confusing to you. You simply cannot afford to put things off or try to cram the night before an exam. It is important to start reading early and do your assignments as soon as possible. Give yourself as much time as possible to ask questions and get feedback. The night before the exam is not a good choice.

Ungraded Elements:

There is not a grade assigned to these particular elements, but you are expected to complete them as part of your overall class participation:

Introduction assignment, introduction quiz, introduction message board post

Textbook reading assignments

Occasional online lecture note readings (to augment textbook readings)

Occasional media exercises – after watching a posted video or reading a posted news article, you will answer a question(s) related to the activity in the appropriate message topic on the Discussion Board

Graded Elements:

Graded elements in the course include:

15 problem sets (lowest grade is dropped)

15 short quizzes (lowest grade is dropped)

Essay assignment

Four exams

You will be able to drop your lowest problem set grade and quiz grade. Accordingly, your grade will be based on 14 graded problem sets, 14 quizzes, 4 1-hour exams, and an essay assignment.

The problem sets are designed to raise questions and make you think. **ANY** time you are stuck on a problem solution, post a question on the discussion board. I firmly believe the best learning is achieved by problem solving, thinking about tough questions, and "talking" about them. Since we can't talk in class, we will use the discussion board.

The problem sets are graded not so much on right or wrong answers, but whether you put reasonable time into working on them. If you do not answer the questions, and never posted questions on the message board, I cannot give you full credit. However, if your answers show effort, even if they are incorrect, and you posted questions on the message board, you will get full credit. In theory, as long as you try to answer and meet deadlines, everyone should get the full points on the homework component of the grade. Unfortunately, there are always some who procrastinate, or put in no effort at all and do not get these points.

On the day following the due date for an assignment, I will post my answers to the questions and let you self-grade your work and ask additional questions if you need clarification.

For graded quizzes, you will have about a one week period to take the quiz, typically 5 multiple choice questions. Once you begin a quiz, you will have 10 minutes to answer all questions. Quizzes will be opened for review the day following their closing date.

For exams, you will have a 2-day "exam period". Exams will be 50 multiple choice questions. You can choose to take your exam any time during those two days that is convenient for you. Once you begin the exam, however, you must complete it in the designated time. Exams will be opened for review two days after their closing date.

Finally, there will be one opportunity to earn extra points during the first week of classes. In Module 1, there is a Pretest that I would ask each of you to take. You aren't expected to know any of the questions at this point, so don't worry about your grade. The Pretest isn't part of your grade, but is used to measure the overall performance of the class by comparing the class answers on the Pretest to questions on future exams and problem sets. This helps the faculty measure the success of the class in meeting its goals. As encouragement, I will award each of you 5 points for simply taking the Pretest. This must be done during the first week of classes. Don't pass up this opportunity for bonus points. They may be valuable to you later in the semester.

Points will be distributed as follows:

Assessment	Maximum Points
Homework (10 points each)	140
Graded Quizzes (10 points each)	140
Essay Assignment	20
Exams (100 points each)	400
Maximum Possible Points	700

Grades will be awarded on the following scale:

Grade	Needed Points
A	630-700
B	560-629
C	490-559
D	420-489
F	Less than 420

Academic Integrity:

With regard to academic honesty, students are referred to the “Student Honor Creed” in the Midwestern State University Undergraduate Catalog, 2018-2019.

Americans with Disabilities Act:

This class follows the guidelines suggested by the Center for Counseling and Disabilities Services for those students who qualify for disability services. See Midwestern State University Undergraduate Catalog, 2018-2019.

Syllabus Change Policy:

This syllabus is a guide for the course and is subject to change.

Course Content and Outline:

The following is a tentative schedule for the course. Please check the course calendar on Brightspace/D2L. It will be the official calendar for the class, and any changes or alterations will be noted there as well as on the class discussion board. All problem sets and quizzes are in the appropriate tool on the class website. **A list of due dates is on the following page).**

WEEK OF	TOPIC	CHAPTERS
Module 1		
1 (January 14 th)	Learning to Navigate D2L, Submit Problem Sets and Take Quizzes and Exams, Pretest	Online Materials
Module 2		
1 (January 14 th)	Introduction and The Economic Problem	Chapter 1
2 (January 21 st)	Overview of the U.S. Economy	Chapter 2
3 (January 28 th)	Understanding Markets: Supply and Demand	Chapter 3
4 (February 4 th)	Consumer Behavior	Chapter 4
Exam 1	February 10 th through 11 th	
Module 3		
5 (February 11 th)	Producer Costs and Supply Decisions	Chapter 5
6 (February 18 th)	Competitive Markets	Chapter 6
7 (February 25 th)	Monopolies	Chapter 7
8 (March 4 th)	Labor Markets	Chapter 8
Exam 2	March 10 th through 11 th	
Module 4		

WEEK OF	TOPIC	CHAPTERS
9 (March 11 th)	Market Failures and Government Intervention	Chapter 9
10 Spring Break	March 18 th through 22 nd	
11 (March 25 th)	Business Cycles and Measuring Macroeconomic Performance	Chapter 10
12 (April 1 st)	Aggregate Demand/Aggregate Supply	Chapter 11
13 (April 8 th)	Fiscal Policy	Chapter 12
Exam 3	April 14 th through 15 th	
Module 5		
14 (April 15 th)	Money and Banking	Chapter 13
Holiday Break	April 18 th through 21 st	
15 (April 22 nd)	Monetary Policy	Chapter 14
16 (April 29 th)	Comparative Advantage and International Trade	Chapter 17
Exam 4	May 5 th through 6 th	
	A Comprehensive Makeup Exam on May 7th (Only for those needing to Makeup a Missed Exam)	

Critical Due Dates (Only graded elements listed):

Assignment or Assessment	Must be Completed or Submitted by:
Introduction Assignment, Quiz, Discussion Post and Pretest	January 19 th , 11:55 pm
Problem Set 1 and Quiz 1 and Problem Set 2 and Quiz 2	January 26 th , 11:55 pm
Problem Set 3 and Quiz 3	February 2 nd , 11:55 pm
Problem Set 4 and Quiz 4	February 9 th , 11:55 pm
Exam 1	February 11th, 11:55 pm
Problem Set 5 and Quiz 5	February 16 th , 11:55 pm
Problem Set 6 and Quiz 6	February 23 rd , 11:55 pm
Problem Set 7 and Quiz 7	March 2 nd , 11:55 pm
Problem Set 8 and Quiz 8	March 9 th , 11:55 pm
Exam 2	March 11th, 11:55 pm
Problem Set 9 and Quiz 9 and Problem Set 10 and Quiz 10	March 30 th , 11:55 pm
Problem Set 11 and Quiz 11	April 6 th , 11:55 pm
Problem Set 12 and Quiz 12	April 13 th , 11:55 pm
Exam 3	April 15th, 11:55 pm
Essay Assignment	April 17 th , 11:55 pm
Problem Set 13 and Quiz 13 and Problem Set 14 and Quiz 14	April 27 th , 11:55 pm
Problem Set 15 and Quiz 15	May 4 th , 11:55 pm
Exam 4	May 6th, 11:55 pm
Comprehensive Makeup Exam Only for students needing to make up a missed exam	May 7th, 11:55 pm