

Economics 100
5 Credit Hours
Winter, 2013
Daily 8:30-9:20 a.m.
Room: A206
Instructor: Chace Stiehl
Office: A200E
Hours: M-F 10:30-11:30 a.m.
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Economics as a Social Science

Texts:

The American Economy, 1st ed., Thomas and Carson
Sapling Learning – Access to interactive homework sets

Course Outcomes:

- Correctly describe and recognize choices and trade-offs faced by individuals and societies as applied to market activities and the functions of a mixed economy
- Be able to understand the role of “price” as a signal to decision-makers within a market for goods and a market for particular resources, like labor.
- Be able to define and identify in examples key concepts, such as opportunity cost, marginal costs and benefits, efficiency, comparative advantage, market structure, and productivity.
- Be able to define, use, and interpret basic macro summary statistics, including the unemployment rate, the CPI (and other measures of inflation), GDP and its growth rate.
- Be able to construct, read and interpret basic graphs and simple models, such as the supply/demand competitive market model, and the production possibilities frontier to illustrate key outcomes, such as equilibrium
- Identify the separate influences on a country’s economic growth from individual decisions at the micro-level, to government policies, such as monetary and fiscal policies, to the role of technology, and shocks. In addition, students may be introduced to a subset of the following:
 - A review of the key social and political ideas that lead to the development of economics and be able to identify the relevance of those ideas to current social and policy issues

- An expansion of the concept of trade beyond individual exchanges to trade across country's boundaries, in goods and resources, and the associated role of exchange rates for currencies.
- As a focused study of a social issue amenable to economic analysis, such as globalization, discrimination, or environmental quality.

Grading:

Evaluation of student performance will be based upon three equally weighted exams, an article/film analysis, weekly homework sets, and class participation.

Exam #1	20%
Exam #2	20%
Final	20%
Homework Sets	15%
Article Analysis	15%
Class Participation	10%
Total	100%

100-94 A, 93-90 A-, 89-87 B+, 86-83 B, 82-80 B-, 79-77 C+, 76-73 C, 72-70 C-, 69-67 D+, 66-63 D, 62-60 D-, 60<F

Exams

All exams will be a combination of short format essays and problems. **You will need to bring an examination book (a.k.a. blue book).** You can purchase these at the bookstore. I suggest you buy 4 of them at the beginning of the semester. **If you fail to bring a blue book you will be penalized 5% for that exam.** Make up exams will only be given for school excused absences, catastrophic accidents, profound personal tragedy, severe illness, or other extraordinary circumstances. Poor planning, being overloaded with work, or travel plans do not constitute valid reasons for make-up exams.

Homework Sets

1. Go to <http://saplinglearning.com>
2. If you already have a Sapling Learning account, log in then skip to step 5.
3. If you have Facebook account, you can use it to quickly create a SaplingLearning account. Click "create account" located under the username box, then click "Login with Facebook". The form will auto-fill with information from your Facebook account (you may need to log into Facebook in the popup window first). Choose a password, fill in the remaining information, accept the site policy agreement, and then click "Create my new account". You can then skip to step 5.
4. Otherwise, click "create account" located under the username box. Supply the requested information and click "Create my new account". Check your email (and spam inbox) for a message from Sapling Learning and click on the link provided in that email to confirm your account.
5. Find your course in the expandable list (sorted by subject, term, and instructor) and

click the title link.

6. Select a payment option and follow the remaining instructions.

Once you have registered and enrolled, you can log in at any time to complete or review your homework assignments. During sign up - and throughout the term - if you have any technical problems or grading issues, send an email to support@saplinglearning.com explaining the issue. The Sapling support team is almost always more able (and faster) to resolve issues than your instructor.

Homework will be due every Monday at 8 a.m. The sapling homework will allow you to continue to rework the problem sets until you get them correct. However, with each incorrect attempt you will lose 5%. **You will be able to drop the two lowest homework assignments.** It is very difficult to do well in the course without doing these. ***Late work will not be accepted. Extensions will not be granted. You should have a back up plan in place for any computer/internet issues you may run into.***

Article Analysis

Your article analysis should be double-spaced. Hand written work will not be accepted. If you need a computer, then make use of one of the machines in the computer lab. Most simply, these analyses are an opportunity for you to make connections between the course material and the real world. However, they are also intended to get you thinking about the world around you in a new way. Find a news article, journal article, blog entry, press release (gov't or private), or documentary film that is topically relevant to our class. Very briefly summarize the point of the article (one paragraph). Next, demonstrate how the article connects to as many theories, models, or concepts from the class as possible. Be specific about the connections and add depth where possible. Use graphs if appropriate and explain the economic reasoning. Lastly, argue for a specific course of action with regards to policy. Should we do anything about this news? If the article has a policy perspective already, then evaluate and critique it. If at all possible, extend the analysis beyond the article. **Your article analysis should be at least 2 full pages excluding graphs and figures. Late work will be penalized 10% per day**

Some general rules apply to the writing assignments. First, all of these assignments should be typed, double-spaced, using standard font sizes and margins. Second, your grade will be based in part on whether or not you have expressed yourself clearly. Spelling, grammar, and organization matter. **Third, if you use material from any source, you must clearly indicate your source, and if you directly quote any material, you must clearly indicate what has been quoted (along with indicating your source).** If you quote material without clearly indicating so, you will receive a 0 for the assignment. If you have any questions about this, please discuss them with me. If you know that you are going to miss class on the day an assignment is due, please make some arrangement for getting the work to me before class. **Late work will be docked 10% a day. -----email submissions will be rejected.**

Connections, Policy Analysis, and Grammar/Style all matter. They are equally weighted. Please consult the Analysis Rubric in the Shared Docs folder of MyBC for a more in depth description of the grading.

Class Participaton

Participation points will be based on random attendance checks. Students will also be expected to arrive on time each day. Attendance will be called at the beginning of class. I will select 11 days at random and grade your engaged attendance. You must not only be physically present, but also mentally engaged. If you cannot contribute to class discussion, then you may lose your points for the day. **Of the 11 days I will drop one and the remainder will equal 10% of your final grade. Attendance and preparation matter to your grade!!!**

Instructor Expectations

I expect students to show up to class prepared, participate in discussion, and not distract other students. If you and your personal electronics become a distraction to other students, then you will be dismissed for the day and warned. If it is a recurrent problem, then you will be referred to the Vice President of Student Services for removal from the class and any disciplinary action that office deems appropriate.

Topics: ---all readings in italics will be available in the MyBC shared docs folder or as a link on the main page

Jan 2-4	Syllabus and Introduction
7-11	Supply and Demand – Carson 2, <i>EPI 6</i> , <i>Sandel</i>
14-18	Taxes – Carson 10, <i>EPI 9</i> , <i>RWM 4.9</i>
22-25	Firms – Carson 5, <i>Issue 6</i> , <i>Story of Stuff</i>
28- Feb1	Externalities, Common Resources, Public Goods – Carson 6, <i>issue 4</i> , Exam 2/1
4-8	Inequality – Carson 9, <i>issue 19</i> , <i>Stiglitz Interview</i>
11-15	Macro Basics – Carson 11 & 13
19-22	AD/AS – Review Carson 11 --- Exam 2/22
25-Mar1	Fiscal Policy/Debt – Carson 14, <i>Issue 16</i>
4-8	Banking – Carson 15, Film, <i>DS 2.1</i> --- Critical Analysis Due 3/8
11-15	Monetary Policy – Review Carson 15, <i>EMI 20-22</i>
Mar 18	Final Exam – 3/20 7:30-9:20

***This outline is intended to give students an idea as to the content of the course and a rough reading schedule. It is not meant to be taken as fixed, permanent, eternal, etc. If the need arises changes will be made.**

Affirmation of Inclusion:

Bellevue College is committed to maintaining an environment in which every member of the campus community feels welcome to participate in the life of the college, free from harassment and discrimination.

We Value our different backgrounds at Bellevue College, and students, faculty, staff members, and administrators are to treat one another with dignity and respect.

Student Code:

“Cheating, stealing and plagiarizing (using the ideas or words of another as one’s own without crediting the source) and inappropriate/disruptive classroom behavior are violations of the Student Code of Conduct at Bellevue College. Examples of unacceptable behavior include, but are not limited to: talking out of turn, arriving late or leaving early without a valid reason, allowing cell phones/pagers to ring, and inappropriate behavior toward the instructor or classmates. The instructor can refer any violation of the Student Code of Conduct to the Vice President of Student Services for possible probation or suspension from Bellevue College. Specific student rights, responsibilities and appeal procedures are listed in the Student Code of Conduct, available in the office of the Vice President of Student Services.” The Student Code, Policy 2050, in its entirety is located at:

http://bellevuecollege.edu/policies/2/2050_Student_Code.asp

Disability Resource Center (DRC):

The Disability Resource Center serves students with a wide array of learning challenges and disabilities. If you are a student who has a disability or learning challenge for which you have documentation or have seen someone for treatment and if you feel you may need accommodations in order to be successful in college, please contact us as soon as possible.

If you are a person who requires assistance in case of an emergency situation, such as a fire, earthquake, etc, please meet with your individual instructors to develop a safety plan within the first week of the quarter.

The DRC office is located in B 132 or you can call our reception desk at 425.564.2498. Deaf students can reach us by video phone at 425-440-2025 or by TTY at 425-564-4110. . . Please visit our website for application information into our program and other helpful links at www.bellevuecollege.edu/drc

Social Science Division Policies can be found at:

http://bellevuecollege.edu/socsci/student_policies.asp Please familiarize yourself with them.