

**ECON 100: 5100 OAS/Introduction to Basic Economic Principles**

**SYLLABUS: SUMMER 2011**

**Distance Learning**

**Instructor: Ms. Humaira Jackson**

**Phone: (425) 564-5192**

**Credits: 5**

**Email: [hjackson@bellevuecollege.edu](mailto:hjackson@bellevuecollege.edu) or email me in our Blackboard/Vista (Vista) course.**

**Office hours: by appointment only: D tower offices, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor D200E**

**Communication with the Instructor:** **Welcome to our class!** I encourage students to read the syllabus carefully and clarify any questions you may have as early as possible. A successful quarter starts and ends with good communication.

Please communicate with me using the email available within Vista. If this is not possible, you can email me at the address above. I generally log onto this course on weekdays (and early evenings) (M-F) and daytime on Sunday. I make a strong attempt to answer all email messages within 24 hours except on Saturdays. I also am available to meet with local on-line students in person. Please contact me through email to arrange an appointment if you would like to meet to discuss your progress or understanding. You are most welcome to come by during my office hours and introduce yourself. ***I recommend that you print a copy of this syllabus and keep it handy for the duration of the quarter.***

**Scope and Objective of this Economics course:**

According to Alfred Marshall, "Economics is the study of mankind in the ordinary business of life." Economics is concerned with the allocation of scarce resources among competing wants/needs. These allocation choices can be studied both on an individual (micro) or aggregate (macro) level. In this class, we will be learning about and discussing both macro and micro problems and potential solutions. Economics as a Social Science studies the human condition on both an individual and societal level. Although, there is much in common with other Social Science disciplines, economics has its own methods, tools and ways of looking at the world. To be successful in the course, students will demonstrate, through their writing, economic thinking and approaches.

This course covers the basic principles of micro and macroeconomics. It is intended for those students who will not be majoring in Economics, yet wish to improve their understanding of economic systems and their outcomes. The student will be introduced to tools such as data gathering, current events review, discussions/debates and some numerical analysis.

**Method of Economics:**

The student will be introduced to the concepts and tools of economic thinking. These tools include those that help students compare and contrast different historical perspectives. Students learn to understand and evaluate some of complex economic problems encountered in modern society. This quarter we will be using the textbook, Schiller's *Essentials of Economics*, 7<sup>th</sup> edition coupled with current events articles and interviews/videos to see how different perspectives are used to evaluate economic problems. Business and Economics majors who plan to transfer to a 4-year institution should generally take Econ &201(Microeconomics)/&202 (Macroeconomics) rather than Econ 100.

**Learning Goals as defined by Bellevue College:**

By the end of the quarter, in any section of Econ 100, successful students will be able to do the following:

- Use terms correctly when describing economic problems
- Identify the economic principles needed to solve a practical problem
- Describe and recognize **choices** and **trade-offs** faced by **individuals** and **societies** as applied to market activities and the functions of a mixed economy

- Interpret economic data.
- Define and identify, in examples, key economic concepts.
- Use basic macro summary statistics, including the unemployment rate, inflation measures and GDP to assess the health of the economy.
- 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 at the macro-level.

### **Prerequisites:**

There are no formal prerequisites for taking this course except the willingness and commitment to work and learn.

**You should expect to spend on average 12-15 hours a week in this online course.** This includes both screen time and reading/preparation. An online class requires students to not only be self-motivated and well organized but more generally be able to assess areas of weakness and get the necessary help. This can be in the form of a couple of face to face meeting with the instructor, getting a buddy or a few classmates together to study and/or taking advantage of all the online and campus resources available. Unfortunately, in an online course, I don't have the advantage of seeing confusion on student faces nor do you have the privilege of getting immediate answers to questions that may arise. Please take the opportunity to use all the resources available to clarify your understanding well before test and paper due dates.

### **Required Readings and Materials:**

Schiller, Bradley R. *Essentials of Economics*, 8th Edition\*.

[http://highered.mcgraw-hill.com/sites/0073375802/student\\_view0/index.html](http://highered.mcgraw-hill.com/sites/0073375802/student_view0/index.html)

\* At the Bellevue College bookstore, you can get a custom copy of the text (only 10 chapters). This option comes at a much reduced price (around \$40). Please also note that if you do decide to use the 7th edition, you are responsible to match up reading assignments (pages) with the current edition. I will not be able to do that for you.

Supplemental and complementary articles/videos that I will assign and will be available under your lesson readings. You are responsible for completing these as part of your course work.

### **Daily access to newspapers and/or other sources of recent economic news**

Some suggestions for print/online news sources are: *New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Business Week*, *The Economist*, *The Seattle Times* and others. The BCC library's database (ProQUEST) is an excellent source for current events articles in both newspapers and periodicals.

### **Attendance**

Students are expected to log into the course daily (at least 5 days per week) to participate in threaded bulletin board discussions, email, etc. You will be given a timeframe (see calendar in Bb for open times/dates to take tests) in which you will need to complete a timed test. There will be a multiple choice test for each lesson and firm due dates for discussion postings, papers and final reflection. See entries in Vista calendar for details.). The points allocated are listed below. In our "virtual classroom", participation is not only encouraged but necessary for success.

### **Course expectations –**

- Tests:** These will be timed and given as Assessments in Vista. Unfortunately, you will not be able to complete a test after the expiration date. You may have your textbook open and any other notes of your own that you have to help you answer the questions. If there is a problem with submitting an answer, please send me your answer in Vista email right away. The date/time stamp of your email will confirm that you still had time left in the test to complete it. Secondly, if you cannot access Vista, you may send it to my BCC email account. The date/time received is to also to confirm that

you had time left to submit your answer. Please note that the tests are individual and collaboration with other persons is not permitted. See division policies at the end of this document.

- b. **Papers:** There will two short papers assigned during the quarter. The first paper will show your ability to analyze a particular market using the demand/supply model and the second one will be a short policy evaluation paper. The length of each of your papers will be between **600-750 words**, not including bibliography. You will follow correct citation and other rules of college level writing or your paper. The specific paper topic will be accessible to students as a Vista assignment at least one week before the due date. If you have not used the Assignment tool before, you will be given the opportunity to try it out well before the graded submissions are due.
- c. **Discussion postings:** You are required to respond to discussion threads for every lesson. This is the only place in our online class that students and instructor will interact on a regular basis. This counts towards 30% your overall grade. You will be graded not only on the quantity of your postings, but on the quality of them as well. You will be expected to respond to your fellow classmates’ postings after you come up with an original (not just agreeing with someone else) response to each question posed by the instructor. Please read the file explaining how to participate in an online discussion. It is under the Getting Started folder in Vista. If you miss the deadlines for discussion postings, they CANNOT be made up. Please note the calendar and make sure that you post accordingly.

I will also give you two opportunities during the quarter (week 5 and week 9) to self-assess the quality and quantity of your postings relative to your classmates. I will ask you to submit an example of your best posting for a given range of lessons. You will be asked why you believe it warrants mentioning. This allows me to grade the quality portion of your discussion grade. Each on time submission of a self-evaluation earns 20 points towards your discussion grade. Late self-evaluations will be accepted but will be downgraded by 10% for each day late.

**Evaluations** - There will be an online evaluation form available. Please be sure to fill this out before the end of the quarter. I also welcome feedback throughout the quarter in areas that you feel are working for you and suggestions for improvement in those areas of challenge for you. This is your class. Please communicate with me regularly, especially if content or course requirements are unclear to you.

**Grading Scheme**

Multiple choice quiz (best 4/5)	400 pts
*Papers (2@150pts)	300 pts
** Discussion postings(original & response)	300 pts
Self Assessment on Discussion	40 pts
Practice Assignment & Syllabus Quiz (5pts each)	10 pts
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<b>Total</b>	<b>1,050pts</b>

- \* You will be required to write two short college level papers with correctly cited sources (journalistic and/or public data, AND your textbook) of a length between 600- 750 words.
- \*\*Each lesson earns a maximum of 60 points (60X5)=300

**GRADING SCALE:**

A	93%	C+	77%
A-	90%	C	73%
B+	87%	C-	70%
B	83%	D+	67%
B-	80%	D	60%
		F	<60%

*Just a reminder on grades (taken from the 2000-2001 Bellevue Community College Course Catalog)*

*“A” grades indicate “Outstanding Achievement”*

*“B” grades indicate “High Achievement”*

*“C” grades indicate “Satisfactory Achievement”*

*“D” grades indicate “Poor Achievement”*

*“F” grades indicate “Unsatisfactory Achievement”*

The class will adhere to all the requirements and guidelines of the College and this division with regards to exams, student conduct, etc. A copy of the Division’s guidelines is attached to this course outline.

Course Outline and Reading

Essentials of Economics, 8<sup>th</sup> ed. By Bradley R. Schiller – Schiller

Lesson 0 – 6/27	Review of Course Syllabus & Introductions What is Economics?	
Lesson 1; open 6/28-7/9 Syllabus Quiz due: 7/6 Practice Assignment due:7/7 Quiz L1: 7/8-7/10	The Basics	Schiller, chapters 1 & 2 Practice assessment and practice assignment
Lesson 2: open 7/10-7/23 Quiz L2: 7/22-7/24	Market (product & labor) Demand/supply model	Schiller Chapters 3 & 8
Lesson 3: open 7/24-8/6 Self assess #1 due on 7/29 Paper #1 – 8/1 by 10pm Quiz L3: 8/5-8/7	Market Failures, Government & Business Cycles	Schiller Chapters 9 &10
Lesson 4: open 8/7-8/20 Quiz L4: 8/19-8/21	Macroeconomic policy and outcomes	Schiller Chapter 11 &12
Lesson 5:open 8/21-8/26 Paper #2 – 8/22 by 10pm Self-assess #2 due on 8/24 Quiz L5: 8/26-8/28	Growth & International Issues	Schiller Chapter 15 &17

**Note:** This syllabus was constructed as a tentative plan for how the course will proceed. A number of conditions and circumstances may arise which can alter the topics, schedule, activities, materials, etc. The faculty member reserves the option to make any changes as she deems necessary.

Chapters and reading assigned should be done before material is discussed in Vista. No make-up tests will be given except under exceptional circumstances.

**SPECIAL ACCOMODATIONS:** Students requiring any special accommodations for the class should make arrangements at the beginning of the term through advisors/counselors in B233, Student Services Building or by calling 641-2498.

Cheating, Stealing and Plagiarizing\*

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 Dean 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 Dean of Student Services.

Incomplete

If a student fails to complete all the required work for a course, an instructor may assign the grade of Incomplete (“I”). The student must complete the coursework by the end of the next quarter, or receive the assigned letter grade (usually an “F”).

F Grade

Students who fail a course will receive a letter grade of "F.”

Final Examination Schedule

The Social Science Division will adhere to the final examination schedule as stated in the BC Schedule. Final examinations will be held at the end of each quarter at fixed times. Instructors will not give examinations in advance of the regular schedule. A student who is absent from any examination held at any time during the quarter may forfeit the right to make up the examination. If, for illness or some other circumstance beyond the student's control, the student is unable to be present at any scheduled examination and has contacted the instructor on a timely basis, the student may be permitted to take such examination at a time designated by the instructor.

Withdrawal From Class

College policy states that students must formally withdraw from a class by the end of the seventh week of the quarter (Registration Office, B125). If a student has not withdrawn by that date, an appropriate letter grade will be assigned for the course.

Hardship Withdrawal

Instructors may assign the grade of “HW” (hardship withdrawal) at their discretion in the event that a student cannot complete the coursework due to extreme and exceptional circumstances. Students may also contact the Enrollment Services office BEFORE grades are assigned in cases of hardship.

Students Who Require Disability Accommodations:

Students with disabilities who have accommodation needs are encouraged to meet with the Disability Resource Centre (DRC) office located in B132 (telephone 425.564.2498 or TTY 425.564.4110), to establish their eligibility for accommodation. The DRC office will provide each eligible student with an accommodation letter. Students who require accommodation in class should review the DRC accommodation letter with each instructor during the first week of the quarter.

Students with mobility challenges who may need assistance in case of an emergency situation or evacuation should register with Disability Resource Centre, and review those needs with the instructor as well.

Distribution of Grades

Grades will not be posted in the Social Science Division or in faculty offices, and secretaries will not give out grades. Students should access their grades through the BC Web site.

Return of Papers and Tests

Paper and/or Scantron score sheet returns will be arranged in the following ways ONLY: by mail, if student supplies the instructor with stamped, self-addressed envelope (with appropriate postage); or by the instructor designating a time and place whereby the student may retrieve his/her papers. Unclaimed papers and/or Scantron score sheets must be kept by the instructor for a minimum of sixty (60) instructional days following the end of the quarter.

*\*If you are accused of cheating, stealing exams and/or plagiarism, there is a Bellevue College Student Discipline and Appeals Procedure (the right to due process) which you may pursue. Contact the office of Division Chair (D110), the Dean of Student Services (B231A) or the Associated Student Body (C212) for information regarding the appeals process.*