

ECON 100 – INTRODUCTION TO BASIC ECONOMIC PRINCIPLES (#5101 OCS, 5CR)
SPRING QUARTER 2012

INSTRUCTOR: Chris Hendrixson

CONTACT: Phone: (253) 520 - 2977

Email: chendrix@bellevuecollege.edu or use Blackboard Vista “Mail” function

Office: D 200E

OFFICE HOURS: Fri/Sat 4-5pm in Online Office Hour Room

TEXTS: *Essentials of Economics*, 6th ed., Mankiw.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Introduces the concepts and tools of economic thinking. Students learn to understand and evaluate the complex economic problems encountered in modern society. Business and Economic majors who plan to transfer to a 4-year institution should generally take ECON& 201 or ECON& 202 rather than ECON 100.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

After completing this course, students should be able to:

- 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.

The GenEd ratings in this class are a “2” for “Critical Thinking” and for “Quantitative and Logical Reasoning” and “Writing” as well as 1s in 7 other areas

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

READING ASSIGNMENTS: We will be covering roughly one chapter a week from the online textbook that comes with your Aplia registration. As economics can be very difficult for some, an intimate relationship with your book will likely be required to do well in this class. Quickly become friends with your book and schedule consistent times during the week in which you can read. Although there isn’t a huge amount of reading, in terms of page count, the reading itself can be quite difficult and slow going at times. Also pay VERY close attention to any graphs you come across. As you’ll soon find, in Economics, understanding the graphs is everything.

APLIA ONLINE ASSIGNMENTS: At 11pm on Sunday of each week Graded Problem Sets (occasionally multiple sets) covering the material from that week’s chapter will be due. Make sure to get online and try the practice sets as soon as possible to ensure there will be no surprise technological problems when the due time comes. These assignments cannot be made up, so make sure to be finished in time. There will often be Practice Sets scheduled for Saturday if you wish to have some extra work. Over the course of the quarter the Graded sets will contribute a maximum of 100 points toward your total score, based on the percent of the maximum possible Aplia points received.

DISCUSSION FORUMS: Each week a list of conversations topics or questions will be listed that relate to that week’s chapter. Five points per week will be assigned based on your contributions to these topics. Note that merely agreeing with others or posting “Yes. What they said” will not give points. Your contributions in some way must be original to the discussion (although it’s fine to get your information from the book or other sources). Adding new topics or interesting questions of your own will also give points. The provided topics are there to get the ball rolling, but if you wish to discuss other issues (as long as they relate somewhat to the chapter) it is also acceptable.

TESTS: There will be a Midterm scheduled during the 6th week of class and a Final during the 11th week. These tests will be taken through BlackBoard Vista and will be worth 30 points each. There will be a strict time limit employed to make the use of outside materials difficult. Although the Final will not be cumulative, you will find that much of the material relates to topics previously covered. A two day window will be given in order to allow some flexibility on when to start the test, but once you begin the test you must be prepared to finish it during the given time limit.

GRADING

Your final grade will be based on your total of the following elements:

Requirement:	Points Possible:
1 Weekly Aplia Assignments	100 Points (based on% of points received)
2 Discussion Forum Contributions	40 Points (5 points per week)
3 Midterm and Final tests	60 Points (30 points each)

Based on your total score, relative to the maximum total of 200 points, a grade will be assigned. A typical A bracket of 90% and above, B bracket for 80% and above, etc, will be used. I do reserve the right however to curve the grades slightly up or down if a grade distribution that is unfair begins to emerge. I don’t expect the need to do this however.

READING LIST (Online Textbook, 6th)

Week 1: Chapter 1&2	Week 2: Chapter 3
Week 3: Chapter 4	Week 4: Chapter 7
Week 5: Chapter 10&11	Week 6: Chapter 15 (for wk 7 hw) Review for Midterm test.
Week 7: Chapter 16	Week 8: Chapter 20
Week 9: Chapter 21	Week 10: Chapter 23
Week 11: Ch 24. Review for Final test.	

EXAM DATES

Midterm: Saturday, May 12 or Sunday, May 13 (6th week)

Final: Thursday, June 14 or Friday, June 15 (11th week)

Once you begin these tests, there is a fixed time period in which you must finish.

PROCEDURES AND GUIDELINES OF THE SOCIAL SCIENCE DIVISION Spring 2012

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.*