

ECON 100 Syllabus – Spring 2011

Introduction to Economic Principles

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Office hours: MWF: 10-11 TTh: 9:30-10:20 and by appointment
Class meets: TTh 10-30-12:20

Course Information

Course Outcomes

By the end of the quarter, students will:

- 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, 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.

How Outcomes will be met

The students will be introduced to the core economic principles of micro- and macroeconomics using a variety of sources: the traditional textbook, supplemental books, current events articles, and other media. Students will use tools such as data gathering, current events review, discussions/debates and some numerical analysis in order to understand and evaluate policy using an economic perspective.

Grading

What students take away from the course is generally directly correlated to the amount of work they put into the course. I (of course) want all students to be successful in the course, and I am here as a resource to you to help you achieve success. However, please understand that you are ultimately responsible for your own progress in the course; I don’t give you your grade, you earn your grade. If you are unhappy with your performance in the class, I hope you can feel free to talk to me about strategies to improve your performance, and I encourage you to do so as early as possible.

Grading scale:

93% + : A
90 – 92%: A-
87 – 89%: B+
83 – 86% B
80 – 82%: B-
77 – 79%: C+

Remember, according to BC:

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*

73 – 76%: C
70 – 72%: C-
67 – 69%: D+
63 – 66%: D
60 – 62%: D-
Below 60: F

Grades will be based on the following weights:

| | |
|--|--------------|
| Online Discussion | 20% |
| Assignments (including, attendance, in-class work and take-home) | 20% |
| Paper | 20% |
| Exams | 2 x 20 = 40% |

Discussion

There will be an online discussion for every week which is seen in the "Discussion" section in MyBC (<http://mybcc.net>). Discussion is a crucial aspect of this hybrid course. This is where you will have a lot of interaction with your classmates, and is really what makes this a "virtual classroom."

You are required to post one "substantive" posting addressing the course material by Wednesday of the discussion week. By "substantive," I mean not merely providing a brief "yes, I agree" or "no, I do not like it" posting, but discussing the issue in some depth, providing your own thoughts or questions on the matter. Ideally, I'd like you to connect and integrate the discussion prompt to the course textbook readings and/or homework and web assignments (whenever possible). The more evidence that shows you are doing the assignments and readings and engaging with them, the better. In your posting, avoid making unsubstantiated assertions and claims. Support your point with evidence from the textbook or other websites, whenever possible.

You are also required to reply at least twice to the posts of your peers to keep the dialogue flowing by the end of the day on the following Monday. Additionally, I expect you to read the postings of your colleagues to further the discussion (and avoid repeating what others have posted). You will be assigned to a smaller group within the course to help reduce the number of posts you are required to read, digest, and respond.

In sum:

- your postings should be substantive and engage with the material;
- your postings should avoid unsubstantiated claims and assertions, and be supported with evidence from the textbook or websites
- your postings should be written in proper English (DO NOT use "r" for "are," and "u" for "you", etc.); should not contain excessive typing errors; and should reflect proper etiquette.
- your postings should not merely repeat what others have said. Be original, reflect on what has already been said, and extend the discussion further.
- your postings should be a minimum of one short paragraph, and a maximum of two paragraphs.

I will be grading your contribution to the discussion, evaluating its quality (not quantity) on the basis of it being excellent, good, sufficient, or insufficient, and assigning corresponding points.

I also encourage you to use the discussion board to discuss your homework assignments, and to post when you don't understand something from the homework or the assigned readings. Everyone else most likely will also benefit from your questions and reflections on the material. However, you are also welcome to email your questions to me personally. If my answer is something that I think the rest of the class could also benefit in reading, I will post both your question and my answer to the discussion board for the benefit of the rest of the class.

Assignments

We will have a number of assignments throughout the quarter, some of which are to be completed outside of class, and some which are to be completed in class, usually as part of a team. The scores on these assignments will be recorded in your team folder for you to track during the quarter. Your attendance scores (as outlined by the attendance policy below) will also be recorded in your team folder.

Paper

You will write one paper for the class this quarter. It is due on Tuesday, 24 May 2011. The paper guidelines and grading rubric will be available online and discussed in class in the weeks leading up to the due date.

Exams

There will be 2 exams during the quarter, proctored in class during class time. The first will be on Thursday, 05 May 2011, and the second will be on Tuesday, 14 June 2011. No makeup exams are offered, so please put these dates in your calendar now. The exams will be a combination of multiple choice and short answer questions.

Plagiarism will not be tolerated!!! You are to share your own ideas using your own words for all assignments. Failure to do so will result in a failing grade for that particular assignment, with the possibility of further disciplinary action. Familiarize yourself with what constitutes plagiarism and strategies to avoid plagiarism using BC's Writing Lab: <http://bellevuecollege.edu/writinglab/Plagiarism.html>

The link to the College Grading Policy is located on page 10 of the Course Catalog and also on the web at: http://bellevuecollege.edu/policies/3/3000_grading.asp.

Attendance Policy

Your attendance is very important for a number of reasons: you will have a chance to practice applying what we are learning in class; you will be able to clarify concepts and ask questions as they arise; I will be able to monitor the progress of the class and adjust the pace; you will learn from your peer's contributions and questions; and your peers will learn from your contributions and questions. As such you are expected to come to every class!

In order to align your incentives to show up with my desire for you to be here, for every entire class you attend you will receive **10 attendance points**, 1 point for every 10 minutes of class (-1). These points will count as part of your In-Class Work grade as outlined below. Everybody starts the class with 10 extra points. You can think of these as a free pass, so if there's some emergency and you can't attend class, don't sweat too much. If you miss more than one class, you can complete the "Absence Make-Up Questions" found under the Shared Documents in MyBC. You will keep these 10 extra points if you have perfect attendance for the quarter.

Tardiness: If you arrive late, you will lose 1 point for every portion of a 10-minute interval of class which you miss. If you leave early, you will lose 1 point for every portion of a 10-minute interval of class which you miss. (For example, if you arrive 2 minutes late (-1) and leave 11 minutes early (-2), you will receive only 7 attendance points.) Attendance will be taken by a designated team member starting in the second week of class, **and all team members will lose all points for the week if the information is recorded incorrectly.**

Cell phones are not allowed in class (unless cleared by grace beforehand). **If you are using your cell phone in class, you will lose 1 attendance point** for that day because that is time that you're not really "with me" in class. The same is true if you are using your computer for non-class related work.

As backed by BC policy, **if you miss 20% or more of class meetings, you will automatically receive a failing grade for the course.**

Books and Materials Required

- Timothy Taylor's *Principles of Economics: Economics and the Economy (2nd edition)*
Available online at <http://textbookmedia.com> for \$15 (online only), \$25 (PDF and online), or \$35 (paperback and online)
Class registration code: TM.COM.90
Available on reserve at the Bellevue College Library Media Center (D126)
- Charles Wheelan's *Naked Economics: Undressing the Dismal Science revised and updated (2010)*
ISBN 978-0-393-33764-8
Available for sale at the Bellevue College bookstore (and online through many other vendors)
I have some first editions available to loan out. Please see me if interested.

- Dean Baker's *False Profits: Recovering from the Bubble Economy* (2010)
ISBN 978-0-9824171-2-6
Available for sale at the Bellevue College bookstore (and online through many other vendors)
- Other materials will be made available throughout the quarter on the MyBC portal site

Classroom Learning Atmosphere

Instructor's Expectation

Please be respectful to your peers in all of your interactions in our classroom, both the physical classroom and online classroom. Hopefully you will do this not only because I expect it of you as students, but also because it's the right thing to do. Please remember that we each have something to contribute to the class and that we should be open to hearing others' perspectives, even when they differ from our own.

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. <http://bellevuecollege.edu/about/goals/inclusion.asp>

Division Statements

PROCEDURES AND GUIDELINES OF THE SOCIAL SCIENCE DIVISION Revised Fall 2007

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 Community 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 Community 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 BCC 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 Support Services (DSS) office located in B132 (telephone 425.564.2498 425.564.2498 or TTY 425.564.4110 425.564.4110), to establish their eligibility for accommodation. The DSS office will provide each eligible student with an accommodation letter. Students who require

accommodation in class should review the DSS 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 Support Services, 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 BCC 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 Community College Student Discipline and Appeals Procedure (the right to due process) which you may pursue. Contact the office of Division Chair (A251), the Dean of Student Services (B231A) or the Associated Student Body (C212) for information regarding the appeals process.*

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

[If you plan to use a plagiarism checking service, you should indicate so in your syllabus. Please make sure your penalty for plagiarism does not contradict official college policy.]

Important Links

Bellevue College E-mail and access to MyBC

All students registered for classes at Bellevue College are entitled to a network and e-mail account. Your student network account can be used to access your student e-mail, log in to computers in labs and classrooms, connect to the BC wireless network and log in to MyBC. To create your account, go to: <https://bellevuecollege.edu/sam> .

BC offers a wide variety of computer and learning labs to enhance learning and student success. Find current campus locations for all student labs by visiting the [Computing Services website](#).

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

Public Safety

The Bellevue College (BC) Public Safety Department's well trained and courteous non-commissioned staff provides personal safety, security, crime prevention, preliminary investigations, and other services to the campus community, 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. Their phone number is 425.564.2400. The Public Safety website is your one-stop resource for campus emergency preparedness information, campus closure announcements and critical information in the event of an emergency. Public Safety is located in K100 and on the web at: <http://bellevuecollege.edu/publicsafety/>

Final Exam

We will not have a cumulative final exam during the scheduled final exams week, but instead a second exam that will be completed online during the last day of class (due to our unique hybrid schedule).

Academic Calendar

The Bellevue College Academic Calendar is separated into two calendars. They provide information about holidays, closures and important enrollment dates such as the finals schedule.

- Enrollment Calendar - <http://bellevuecollege.edu/enrollment/calendar/deadlines/>. On this calendar you will find admissions and registration dates and important dates for withdrawing and receiving tuition refunds.
- College Calendar - <http://bellevuecollege.edu/enrollment/calendar/holidays/0910.asp>. This calendar gives you the year at a glance and includes college holidays, scheduled closures, quarter end and start dates, and final exam dates.

Course Schedule (roughly)

| Module | Week | Readings |
|------------------------------|-------|--|
| 1: Introduction to Economics | 1-3 | Naked Economics Ch 1, 2, 9 Principles of Economics Ch 1, 2 / 4, (10-12) / 21, (22-25) |
| 2: Role of Government | 4-5 | Naked Economics Ch 3, 4 Principles of Economics Ch 13, 14, 15 / 32, 33 |
| 3: Economics in Action | 6-7 | Naked Economics Ch 5, 7, 10 Principles of Economics Ch 18, 19, 29, 30 |
| 4: International Perspective | 8-9 | Naked Economics Ch 11, 12, 13 Principles of Economics Ch 3, 6, 34 |
| 5: Financial Crisis | 10-11 | False Profits (supplemental materials throughout) |