

ECON 100-5266/5267: Introduction to Basic Economic Principles
SYLLABUS: SPRING 2008
Distance Learning

Instructor: Ms. Humaira Jackson **Phone: (425) 564-2370**
Credits: 5
Email: hjackson@bcc.ctc.edu (the best way to communicate with me)
Office hours: by appointment as needed (A100F)

Communication with the Instructor: 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 during business hours on weekdays (M-F) and sometimes in the late evenings. I make a strong attempt to answer all email messages within 24 hours on weekdays. Generally, I will not be logging onto the course from Friday 6pm until Monday early morning. 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, understanding or whatever else you need to talk about. ***I recommend that you print a copy of this syllabus and keep it handy for the duration of the quarter.***

Objective:

The student will be introduced to the concepts and tools of economic thinking. Students learn to understand and evaluate some of complex economic problems encountered in modern society. Business and Economics majors who plan to transfer to a 4-year institution should generally take Econ 200/201 rather than Econ 100.

Learning Goals for the Class:

By the end of the quarter, students will be able to do the following:

- 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.

Scope of the Course:

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.

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 10-12 hours per week on this course alone. Some students read and absorb material faster than others. This is just a guideline. Please make an appointment to see me if you are struggling. It really helps to get concepts straight early on. I would be happy to work with you.

Required Readings and Materials:

Bonello Frank J. and Isobel Lobo Clashing Views on Economic Issues, 13th ed

Available in hard copy at the BCC bookstore or in electronic version at

<http://ebooks.primisonline.com>.

Either version is acceptable

Taylor, Timothy Principles of Economics

FREE downloadable textbook

<http://www.freeloadpress.com>

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/PI and others. The BCC library's database (ProQUEST) is an excellent source for current events articles in both newspapers and periodicals.

Attendance and Testing Timeframes

Students are expected to log into the course at least 4 out of 7 days to participate in threaded bulletin board discussions, email, etc. The maximum numbers of days without logging into the course should not exceed 3 in a row as you may be missing valuable announcements, instructions and/or reminders. You will be given a timeframe (see calendar in Vista for open times/dates to take tests) in which you will need to complete a timed test. There will be two mid-term timed tests and one proctored test during finals week. All three tests are open book and notes. The tests consist of short essay questions in which you are required to cite sources and provide evidence for your answers where necessary.

The points allocated to compute your grade are listed below. This is not a correspondence course but a course in which we have a "virtual classroom". Participation is not only encouraged but necessary for success. Discussion postings (this is class participation in an online environment) accounts for 30% of your total grade. If you do not participate, you will not pass this class. In Vista, I am able to track the number of postings and time spent actively engaged in the course. I will check students' participation from time to time to make sure you are still an active member of our class. Timeliness (even within lesson deadlines) is extremely important. If you wait until late in the lesson to post your responses or to question/comment on your peers' responses, the points become moot. Please keep this in mind.

Course expectations –

- a. **Tests:** These will be timed and given as an assessment in Vista. You will not be able to complete a test after the expiration date. These tests are individual. You may have your textbook open and any other notes of your own that you have to help you answer the questions. Any collaboration including working together or sharing answers will result in an automatic failure for the course. See division policies at the end of this document.
- b. **Papers:** There will one term paper assigned during the quarter. The topic will be posted in the first two weeks of the quarter. There will be an interim deadline for outline/bibliography and draft. The length of your paper should be between **1,200- 1,500 words**, not including bibliography. You must follow correct citation and other rules of college level writing or your paper will not be graded. The topic for the paper will be announced as a Vista assignment. If you have not used the Assignment tool before, familiarize yourself with this well before the paper is due.
- c. **Discussion postings:** These are counted toward your grade. You are required to respond to discussion threads for every lesson. This counts towards your overall grade. You will be graded not only on the quantity of your postings, but on the quality of them as well. **I may be putting students in groups during the third week of the quarter.** This will largely depend on the number of students and postings that we have on a weekly basis. If I do, each group will have questions to answer each lesson. You will be expected to respond to your fellow group members' postings as well as well as come up with original (not just agreeing with someone else) views.

I will also give you two opportunities during the quarter (approx. week 5 and week 10) 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 10 points towards your discussion grade.

- d. **Final Exam:** Additionally, all students must arrange to take a **proctored** final exam. The College offers two evening proctored exam sessions which take place at the end of the final week of the quarter. These will be announced in the course calendar. For those taking the final at a distance, a local library, community college, high school or college will proctor, though normally a nominal fee is charged. Students must present photo-id before taking the proctored exam. If there is a large inconsistency between the final exam grade and other class work, the instructor may then require a student to re-sit an additional exam as a proctored exam. Please note that it will take time for proctors at a distance to send exams to me, so please arrange appointments well in advance for this exam if you cannot attend the BCC campus exam during finals week.

Evaluations - There is an online evaluation form available. Please be sure to fill this out before the end of the quarter.

Grading Scheme

Exams (3 @150pts)	450 pts
*Paper	250 pts
**Class participation & discussion	300 pts

Total	1,000pts

* You will be required to write an analytical college level paper with correctly cited sources (journalistic, public data, and your required readings) of a length between 1,200 - 1,500 words. Topic will be announced and draft/outline submission with bibliography required before the paper is due

****Each lesson earns a maximum of 55 points (5 lessons X 55 points each), 10 points for each self-evaluation and 5 points for intro postings. Totaling 300 points.**

GRADING SCALE:

A	94%	940-1000	C+	77%	770-799
A-	90%	900-939	C	74%	740-769
B+	87%	870-899	C-	70%	700-739
B	84%	840-869	D+	67%	670-699
B-	80%	800-839	D	64%	640-669
			F	<60%	below 600

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"

Course Outline and Reading

Date	Lesson/Topics	Readings
3/31/08	0- Welcome to the class. Read Syllabus and get to know your classmates	Taking Sides (TS)- Introduction
4/1 – 4/15	I-Introduction and the U.S. Economy	TS- Issue 19: Ownership Society TS- Issue 12: Do Unskilled Immigrants Hurt the U.S. Economy Taylor Ch. 1 and Ch. 2
4/16- 4/29 Test #1 open time from 5pm Monday 4/28- 11pm Wed 4/30	II- Business and Labor	TS Issue 1: Are Profits the Only Business of Business? TS Issue 11: Should Minimum Wage and Living Wage Laws Be Eliminated? Taylor Ch. 4-5 and Ch. 17
4/30- 5/13	III – Health, Education and Environment-Government Role	TS Issue 18: Is the No Child Left Behind Act Working? TS Issue 4: Is the New Medicare Part D Drug Benefit Good Health Care Policy? TS Issue 15: Are the Costs of Global Warming Too High to Ignore? Taylor, Ch. 14-15
5/14-5/27 Test #2 open time from Monday 5pm 5/26- 11pm Wednesday 5/28 Draft for paper due Thursday	IV – Fiscal and other Macroeconomic Issues	TS Issue 7: Is Wal-Mart Good for the Economy? TS Issue 16: Are Spending Cuts the Right Way to Balance the Federal Government's Budget?

5/15 by 10pm		Taylor, Ch. 21, 32-33
5/28 – 6/10 Paper due: 6/5/08 by 10pm Test #3 proctored on either 6/11 or 6/12. Students can choose which evening they would like to write the final. Time and location TBA.	V- International Issues	TS Issue 14: Should we Sweat about Sweatshops? TS Issue 13: Are Protectionist Policies Bad for America? Taylor, Ch. 3 and Ch. 6

Note: Weeks generally begin on Wednesday and lessons end on Tuesday

Chapters and reading assigned should be done at least once before material is discussed in vista. You are encouraged to go back to the readings to form your discussion postings. No make-up tests will be given except under exceptional circumstances.

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."

pm

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 or TTY 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.*