Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi  
College of Business  
Course Syllabus - Fall 2012

Course Number: ECON 5311

Course Name: Foundations in Economics  
Class Time: T 7-9:30 p.m.  
Classroom: OCNR-117

Instructor: Jim Lee

Office: O’Connor Business Building (OCNR) 315

Phone: (361) 825-5831

Office Hours: TR 9:30-11:00 AM; 2:00-3:30 PM  
Or by appointment

Internet: Economics Website  
Homepage URL  
E-mail


Aplia + eText bundle ISBN: 1111777993  
Aplia + hard copy text bundle ISBN: 1133162932

Course Description:
An intensive study for graduate students with limited or no academic experience in economics. Provides an introduction to economic principles, analysis and procedures used in graduate level study. This is a foundation course.

Relationship to Other Coursework:
The student will have an opportunity to apply quantitative skills introduced in other courses to solve economic problems in this course. In addition, this course will emphasize the following specific skills: mathematical competency, critical thinking, writing, reading, listening and speaking. The emphasis on the development of these specific skills in this course should benefit the student in other courses to be undertaken.

Learning Objectives:
By the end of this course, the students will able to:
1. understand the subject matter of economics and its relevance to the contemporary world  
2. apply core economic principles and reasoning to real-world economic issues
3. discuss and analyze government policy measures and their impacts on economic welfare
4. assess the performance of the U.S. and other economies
5. demonstrate awareness of the world economy and the business environment
6. further study in economics at the graduate level

**Instructional Methodology:**
The class will be interactive. A variety of learning methodologies will be used, such as: class discussions, team activities, class presentations, supplementary reading and writing assignments, and video presentations.

**Performance Evaluation and Grading:**
Student performance will be evaluated on the basis of two major examinations, class participation, and online assignments during the semester. The material covered on examinations may include scheduled material from the text, class lecture and activities, including assignments and class discussions. The student’s performance, not the instructor, determines the course grade. All out-of-class assignments are to be completed individually and are subject to the Student Code of Ethics described below.

The course grade will be determined by weighted scores. The following is the weight distribution of coursework for determining the overall course average:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Coursework</th>
<th>Weight</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exam 1</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam 2</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Online Assignments (Aplia)</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL:</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
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</table>

The total weighted percentage points will determine the overall course grade as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Weighted % Points</th>
<th>Course Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90 or above</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80 – 89.99</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70 – 79.99</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60 – 69.99</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt; 60</td>
<td>F</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Oral and Written Communication Content:**
Student discussions, written assignments, as well as examinations will provide opportunities for evaluating students’ performance in oral and written communications.

**Attendance Policy:**
Students are held responsible for class attendance. Class attendance is a necessary but not sufficient condition for active class participation and satisfactory course performance. Students absent from classes are responsible for making arrangements to submit assignments due, material discussed, and announcements made in class. Assignments and exams missed due to absences
cannot be made up except for illness or other emergencies, in which case a doctor’s note or other official documentation is required to accompany the assignment.

**Classroom Etiquette:**
Examples of classroom misconduct that may affect student evaluation include: *habitually* entering or leaving the classroom during class time without the consent of the instructor, using any telecommunication device, talking or chit-chatting with other students, and any other activities that are disruptive to the learning environment. Students caught engaging in such activities should expect class or course dismissal along with a letter of reprimand placed in their academic files. According to the University policy, no cell phone is allowed in a room when a test/exam is taken.

**Academic Honesty:**
University students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the highest standards of academic honesty. Academic misconduct includes all forms of cheating, including illicit possession of examinations or examination materials, forgery, or plagiarism, which is the presentation of the work of another as one’s own. Students caught engaging in such activities should expect course dismissal along with a letter of reprimand placed in their academic files.

Turning in another student’s work (assignments, exams etc) without the knowledge of the instructor constitutes forgery of both the student turning in another one’s work and the student who completes the work.

A student caught cheating in an exam will be expelled from the examination room and given a **zero** grade for the first time for the exam in question along with a report to the Office of Academic Affairs. Repeated offenses result in an F for the whole course. Students caught indulging in behavior suggestive of cheating (e.g., whispering or passing notes) will be warned for the first time and will be expelled from the exam room in the case of continued misbehavior.

**Student Code of Ethics:** [http://cob.tamucc.edu/students/ethics.htm](http://cob.tamucc.edu/students/ethics.htm)
This course, and all other courses offered by the College of Business (COB), requires all of its students to abide by the COB Student Code of Ethics (available online at [www.cob.tamucc.edu](http://www.cob.tamucc.edu)). Provisions and stipulations in the code are applicable to all students taking College of Business courses regardless of whether or not they are pursuing a degree awarded by the COB.

**Last Day of Withdrawal:**
Only students who complete the course withdrawal form before the deadline on November 2 (equivalent of the 10th week of classes in regular semesters) will receive an automatic grade of “W”.
OTHER ASPECTS OF THE COURSE

Ethical Perspectives:
In this course, the approach to macroeconomic issues is positive (i.e., what is) rather than normative (i.e., what ought to be). As a result, there is minimal discussion of ethical issues.

Global Perspectives:
Global economic trends, the economic performance and trade policy impact macroeconomic analysis and policy decisions. As a result, the global and intergenerational perspectives are critical to macroeconomic study.

Demographic Diversity Perspectives:
Macroeconomic policy impacts various demographic groups differently, while these groups are also able to influence macroeconomic policy differently. Hence, the distributional effects of macroeconomic policy will be examined and discussed.

Political, Social, Legal, Regulatory, and Environmental Perspectives:
In discussing the role of the government in an economy, various political, social, legal, regulatory, and environment issues and questions arise. These questions and issues are examined in the macroeconomic context, and sometimes, from the microeconomic viewpoint.

Grade Appeals:
As stated in University Rule 13.02.99.C2, Student Grade Appeals, a student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of proof is upon the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see University Rule 13.02.99.C2, Student Grade Appeals, and University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures. These documents are accessible through the University Rules Web site at http://www.tamucc.edu/provost/university_rules/index.html. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Office of Student Affairs.

Disabilities Accommodations:
The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please call or visit Disability Services at (361) 825-5816 in CCH-116.

If you are a returning veteran and are experiencing cognitive and/or physical access issues in the classroom or on campus, please contact the Disability Services office for assistance at (361) 825-5816.
## ECON 5311 COURSE OUTLINE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Textbook Chapter</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Week</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Course Introduction</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Ten Principles of Economics</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>9/4</td>
<td>Week 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thinking Like an Economist</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>9/11</td>
<td>Week 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interdependence and the Gains from Trade</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>9/18</td>
<td>Week 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Market Forces of Supply</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>9/25</td>
<td>Week 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elasticity and Its Application</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>10/2</td>
<td>Week 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Review</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>10/9</td>
<td>Week 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Exam 1</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>10/16</td>
<td>Week 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Measuring a Nation’s Income</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>10/23</td>
<td>Week 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Measuring the Cost of Living</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>10/30</td>
<td>Week 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Production and Growth</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>11/6</td>
<td>Week 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployment</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>11/13</td>
<td>Week 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Monetary System</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>11/20</td>
<td>Week 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Money Growth and Inflation</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>11/27</td>
<td>Week 13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Review</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>12/4</td>
<td>Week 14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Exam 2</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>TBA</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*** Log on to Aplia for all assignments due dates.
How to access your Aplia course

**ECON-5311_001**  
**Instructor:** Jim Lee  
**Start Date:** 09/4/2012  
**Course Key:** 9FHH-F65K-4KFW

During this course, you will be required to access a new website dedicated to all coursework for the students. To access the website, you need to register for an account with Aplia at aplia.com.

**Registration**  
Follow the steps below to log onto Aplia.  
2. **If you already have an account, sign in.** From your Dashboard, enter your course key (9FHH-F65K-4KFW) in the box provided, and click the *Register* button.  
   **If you don't have an account,** click the *Create a New Account* button, and enter your course key when prompted: 9FHH-F65K-4KFW. Continue to follow the on-screen instructions.  
3. Verify School, Instructor and Course Name (**TAMUCC; LEE; ECON-5311_001**).  
4. For payment, you can either (1) pay directly through Aplia (which includes online textbook chapters and all online assignments); or (2) purchase the textbook bundle from the campus bookstore and enter the Access Code inside the bundle. Every student must register at Aplia during the Week 1 of classes, but there is a grace (free trial) period of about 2 weeks before you make your decision.

**Coursework**  
This Aplia courseware contains two types of assignments for this course:  
1. **Reading Assignments** for online Textbook chapters: One per chapter.  
2. **Graded Assignments** (25% course weight): One per chapter

For each chapter, you should complete its Reading Assignment before completing the Graded Assignment. Typically, each week covers one chapter, except for the weeks of exams. The deadlines for the Graded Assignments are typically the end of the week, Sunday (11 PM), before the next class begins (Tuesday).

Each Grade Assignments has a different number of questions, and so the percentage of the HIGHEST of the 3 attempts will enter the course grade. In addition, the LOWEST ONE Graded Assignment score will be dropped. This means that you will have one free pass in case you will miss one assignment (i.e., there will be no additional individual extension or any excuses for personal problems or technical glitches). The **Gradebook** section on Aplia shows all your completed assignments scores and exam scores.

Pay attention to the **Announcements** posted on Aplia to keep current with the progress in the course.