Course Number: ECON 5311.W01

Course Name: Foundations in Economics
Class Time: ONLINE
Classroom: ONLINE

Instructor: Jim Lee
Office: O’Connor Building (OCNR) 315, and ONLINE
Phone: (361) 825-5831

Office Hours: TR 9:30-11:00 AM; 2:00-3:30 PM, and ONLINE

Internet: CourseURL http://faculty.tamucc.edu/jlee/5311
E-mail jim.lee@tamucc.edu
ONLINE Portal at Island Online http://bb9.tamucc.edu
All coursework will be completed with Aplia courseware at www.aplia.com


Aplia + eText bundle ISBN: 1111777993 (see page 6)
Aplia + hard copy text bundle ISBN: 1133162932 (bookstore)

Access to Aplia

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 be 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>Discussion Forum (Aplia online participation)</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL:</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</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>
</tr>
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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>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Oral and Written Communication Content:
Student discussions, written assignments, as well as examinations will provide opportunities for evaluating students’ performance in written communications.
**Attendance Policy:**
This is an online course, so no physical class attendance is necessary. Students are held responsible for completing weekly reading and online assignments, and participating in the discussion forum online.

**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. Each student is responsible for completing all online assignments and exams individually. A student caught cheating in an exam will be given a zero grade for the exam in question along with a report to the Office of Academic Affairs.

**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 (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>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Course Introduction (Aplia Orientation)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>10/22-10/28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ten Principles of Economics</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Week 1</td>
<td>10/29-11/4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thinking Like an Economist</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Week 2</td>
<td>10/29-11/4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interdependence and the Gains from Trade</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Week 3</td>
<td>11/5-11/11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Market Forces of Supply</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Week 3</td>
<td>11/5-11/11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elasticity and Its Application</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Week 4</td>
<td>11/12-11/18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Exam 1</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Due 11/18</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Measuring a Nation’s Income</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Week 5</td>
<td>11/19-11/25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Measuring the Cost of Living</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>Week 5</td>
<td>11/19-11/25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Production and Growth</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>Week 6</td>
<td>11/26-12/2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployment</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Week 7</td>
<td>12/3-12/9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Monetary System</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>Week 7</td>
<td>12/3-12/9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Exam 2</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Due 12/9</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*** Log on to Aplia for all announcements/assignments/exams/discussion topics and due dates.
How to access your Aplia course

**ECON-5311_W01**
**Instructor:** Jim Lee
**Start Date:** 10/17/2011
**Course Key:** ZL5U-QLZX-HRNZ

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 sign up for an account aplia.com. Blackboard (bb9) is the Internet portal, or the starting point, for all TAMUCC online students. After visiting bb9.tamucc.edu for the first time and obtaining this course syllabus, you should proceed to Aplia and complete all coursework on Aplia.

**Registration**
Follow the steps below to log on to Aplia.

2. **If you already have an account, sign in.** From your Dashboard, enter the course key (ZL5U-QLZX-HRNZ) 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: **ZL5U-QLZX-HRNZ**. Continue to follow the on-screen instructions.
3. Verify School, Instructor and Course Name (ECON-5311_W01).

**Payment**
**Online:** Purchase access to your course (including the digital textbook) from the Aplia website. If you choose to pay later, you can use Aplia without paying until the grace period expires in about 1 week.

**Coursework**
This Aplia courseware contains all material for this course:

1. **Reading Assignments** for online textbook chapters and **Chapter Review** with Powerpoint files.
2. **Graded Assignments** (30% course weight): One per chapter
3. **Exams** (each of the 2 exams carries 30% of the course weight; exam 1 during the end of Week 4 and exam 2 during the end of Week 7): Exam 1 covers textbook chapters 1 to 5; exam 2 covers textbook chapters 15 to 21.
4. **Discussion Forums:** One discussion topic per week; total 10% course weight. Grades will be entered only after the all discussions are completed.

For each chapter, you should complete its Reading Assignment and Powerpoint review before completing the Graded Assignment. Typically, each week covers two chapters, except for the weeks of exams. The deadlines for the Graded Assignments are typically Sunday, 11 PM. Each Graded Assignments has a different number of questions, and 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. For calculating the course average grade, all scores on Aplia will be weighted according to the “Performance Evaluation” criteria on page 2.

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

- All assignments and discussions are visible to students only within two weeks before the due date. This keeps students in about the same pace.
- Pay attention to any announcement on the front page of the course, including a study guide prior to each exam and extra tutorial materials.
- Each of the two exams has two sections (Sections A and B): Section A contains 35 multiple choice questions to be completed within 2 hours. Section B contains problems that require you to read news articles. Instructions and exams will be available one week prior to the due date. Exam 1 covers course material between Week 1 and Week 4; Exam 2 covers course material between Week 5 and Week 7.