Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi
College of Business
Proposed Standard Course Syllabus for ECON 1301, Introduction to Economics

Course number: ECON 1301  Instructor:
Semester: TBD  Office:
Office Telephone:  Office Hours:
Email:

GENERAL INFORMATION

Course Description:
Non-technical introduction to the structure and functioning of the aggregate economy and selected specific markets. Basic concepts regarding how markets function, regulation, monetary and fiscal policy in a macroeconomic context and some special topics of contemporary relevance are studied. Students are introduced to the basic concepts used in the social and behavioral sciences for measuring and interpreting economic and business conditions. This course cannot be taken to fulfill the Business Core or any Business Major requirements. It is recommended that students who might be interested in majoring in business or economics, take either ECON 2301 or ECON 2302 instead.

Course Prerequisites: None

Learning Objectives:
By the end of this course, students should be able to:

- Understand key mathematical concepts of economics and the application of appropriate quantitative tools to everyday economic decisions. (Texas Common Core (TCC) Empirical & Quantitative Skills Objective; and BBA Goal 2, Objective 1, and Goal 3, Objective 1); assessed by online assignment questions and in exams.
- Explore the behavior and interactions among individuals, groups, governments and other institutions, and events, examining their impact on the individual, society, and culture, in a global context. (TCC Critical Thinking Skills Objective; and BBA Goal 2, Objective 3; Goal 3, Objective 2); assessed by online assignment questions and in exams.
- Demonstrate the command of oral, aural, written, and visual literacy skills that enable people to exchange messages appropriate to the subject, occasion, and audience. (TCC Communication Skills Objective; and BBA Goal 1, Objectives 1 and 2); assessed by written assignments and discussion forums.
- Allow students to appreciate the trade-offs that can occur with regard to ethical and social responsibilities and to give students regional, national and global perspectives that come from an appreciation of how other economies operate and interact with our own economy (TCC Social Responsibility Objective); assessed by group assignments, online assignment questions and in exams.

Commented [SA1]: It would be good to see how each of these objectives are being measured. In other words, which assignments will be assessed for each objective? What readings go with each objective? You don’t have to be incredibly thorough; we just want to show that the objectives are being taught and assessed.
WHY IS ECON 1301 IN THE CORE CURRICULUM?

Relationship to the University Core Curriculum Program:
As an integral part of the Texas Core Curriculum (TCC) and TAMU-CC’s Core Curriculum Program within the framework of the various curriculum perspectives outlined in the Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi Undergraduate Catalog, through its extensive coverage of related topics and other course requirements, ECON 1301 seeks to enhance students’ intellectual skills in the areas of written and oral communication, mathematical competency, critical thinking and social responsibility.

How Economics 1301 enhances the six Core Curriculum skills:
Throughout the course, students in Economics 1301 will have ample opportunities to enhance their proficiency in the four intellectual skills specified in the TCC in relation to social and behavioral sciences:

Communications Skills (COM)
Although Economics 1301 is primarily a lecture oriented course, students do have opportunities to participate in class discussions, ask and answer questions in class and communicate with the instructor outside the classroom. Homework assignments offer another opportunity for students to exchange ideas online and to enhance their listening skills.

Critical Thinking Skills (CT)
The study of economics is not possible without enhancing the critical thinking skills (CT) found within the TCC core curriculum objectives. The fundamental economic concept of “opportunity cost” and its applications in decision-making process provide Economics 1301 students with a valuable critical thinking tool. The examination of alternative economic theories and policies also encourages students to evaluate the merits and drawbacks of each of them and, in this process, to sharpen their critical thinking skills.

Empirical and Quantitative Skills (EQS)
The study of economics also requires a certain level of empirical and quantitative skills (EQS) found within the TCC core objectives. Strategic problems such as those found in elementary game theory, the calculation of exchange rates and many other quantitative topics covered in ECON 1301 constitute effective ways through which students can improve both their mathematical competency skills.

Social Responsibility (SR)
In ECON 1301, Students are given the chance to study topics that may include economic development, government policy, income distribution, incentives, property rights, and the economics of voting and healthcare. These topics introduce a variety of ethical and intercultural issues that address social responsibility.
Required Materials:
- Three scantrons (form No. 882-E) and a pencil for taking quizzes and exams, a computer, and a calculator.

Websites Used:
Blackboard [https://bb9.tamucc.edu/](https://bb9.tamucc.edu/)

Instructional Methodology:
In addition to lectures, the class will be interactive. A variety of learning methodologies will be used, such as: class discussions, website materials, and homework quizzes.

COURSE POLICIES

Course Evaluation:
Student performance will be evaluated on the basis of 2 tests and a final exam, weekly quizzes, and class attendance. The material covered on examinations may include scheduled material from the text, class lecture and activities, including assignments and class presentations.

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>Test 1 (in class)</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Test 2 (in class)</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam (during exam period)</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homework</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attendance</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Official Course Grade is determined by a letter grade using the following scale:
A: 90% or above; B: 80 - 89.99%; C: 70 - 79.99%; D: 60 - 69.99%; F: below 60%.

The student’s performance, not the instructor, determines the course grade. No additional work will be given after the final exam to supplement a course grade. Grades are given based solely on student performance, not needs or any personal reasons.

Exams:
No makeup will be given after a scheduled test or exam. Students with legitimate excuses (university functions or medical reasons) and documentation may arrange with the instructor for a makeup before a scheduled exam. The only exception is admittance to an Emergency Room, and a makeup exam can be taken only before the first class immediately after the scheduled exam. If the exam cannot be taken before the first class after the scheduled exam due to extreme circumstances, then only with special approval from the professor, the final exam will be re-weighted to 50% so that the final exam grade will replace the grade of the missed exam.
It is the students’ own responsibility to ensure that all test scores are correct. Students cannot dispute any test score more than one month after the scantrons are returned or after the next test is taken, whichever comes first.

**Relationship to Other Coursework:**
An understanding of how economics as a discipline addresses social issues in the U.S. and elsewhere is necessary for one to appreciate or participate in the current policy debates. Economic factors/considerations are pervasive in public policy debates, and in the social sciences in general. Consequently, a basic knowledge of economics and the use of economic reasoning are necessary for many fields of study.

Moreover, as a core curriculum course, this course seeks to increase interdisciplinary discussions and connections, enhance students’ intellectual skills and foster deliberations on the university theme.

**Academic Integrity/Plagiarism**
University students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the highest standards of academic honesty. Academic misconduct for which a student is subject to penalty includes all forms of cheating, such as illicit possession of examinations or examination materials, falsification, forgery, complicity or plagiarism. (Plagiarism is the presentation of the work of another as one’s own work.) In this class, academic misconduct or complicity in an act of academic misconduct on an assignment or test will result in a zero the first time and failing the course for any additional offence.

**UNIVERSITY RELATED INFORMATION**

**Dropping a Class**
I hope that you never find it necessary to drop this or any other class. However, events can sometimes occur that make dropping a course necessary or wise. **Please consult with your academic advisor, the Financial Aid Office, and me, before you decide to drop this course.** Should dropping the course be the best course of action, you must initiate the process to drop the course by going to the Student Services Center and filling out a course drop form. Just stopping attendance and participation WILL NOT automatically result in your being dropped from the class. ( ) is the last day to drop a class with an automatic grade of “W” this term.

**Preferred methods of scholarly citations** – APA style is the only accepted method used for citations and referencing during this class. All work should be paraphrased rather than copied directly. Material used from sources other than the text should use APA style citations and references.

**Classroom/professional behavior**
Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, as an academic community, requires that each individual respect the needs of others to study and learn in a peaceful atmosphere. Under Article III of the Student Code of Conduct, classroom behavior that interferes with either (a) the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or (b) the ability of other students to profit from the instructional program may
be considered a breach of the peace and is subject to disciplinary sanction outlined in article VII of the Student Code of Conduct. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior may be instructed to leave the classroom. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including classrooms, electronic classrooms, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc.

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 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 the classroom when a test/exam is taken.

**Grade Appeals**
As stated in University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures, 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 Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures. These documents are accessible through the University Rules Web site at http://www.tamu-cc.edu/provost/university_rules/index.html. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Dean’s office in the college in which the course is taught or the Office of the Provost.

**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 Corpus Christi Hall 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.

**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/quizzes 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.
**Statement of Academic Continuity**
In the event of an unforeseen adverse event, such as a major hurricane and classes could not be held on the campus of Texas A&M University–Corpus Christi; this course would continue through the use of Blackboard and/or email. In addition, the syllabus and class activities may be modified to allow continuation of the course. Ideally, University facilities (i.e., emails, web sites, and Blackboard) will be operational within two days of the closing of the physical campus. However, students need to make certain that the course instructor has a primary and a secondary means of contacting each student.

**Student Code of Ethics**
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 Friday, XXXX, will receive an automatic grade of “W.”

**SUMMARY OF COURSE COVERAGE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tentative Course Outline:</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Course/Project Introduction</td>
<td>1.0 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundamental Concepts in Economics</td>
<td>3.0 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cost-benefit analysis and the value of life</td>
<td>3.0 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basic game theory</td>
<td>3.0 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Markets and Government</td>
<td>4.0 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Environment and Property Rights</td>
<td>3.0 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public goods and the Role of Government</td>
<td>3.0 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economics of Voting</td>
<td>3.0 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economics of Healthcare</td>
<td>3.0 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GDP and the Wealth of Nations</td>
<td>3.0 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployment</td>
<td>2.0 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Money, Banks, and the Financial System</td>
<td>4.0 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Fed, Monetary Policy and Inflation</td>
<td>3.0 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Income Inequality</td>
<td>2.0 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exams</td>
<td>5.0 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Hours</strong></td>
<td><strong>45.0 hours</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>