Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi
College of Business
Course Syllabus
Spring 2020
Online Mini-Term (1/21-3/17)

Course Number: ECON 5311.W01 (CRN#21001)

Course Name: Foundations in Economics

Instructor: Jim Lee
Graduate Adjunct: Alex Burnett-Hayes

Office: O’Connor Building (OCNR) Room 345, and ONLINE

Phone: (361) 825-5831

Office Hours: ONLINE MTWRF 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Internet: Website http://bb9.tamucc.edu
Instructor e-mail jim.lee@tamucc.edu
Time Zone: US Central Time

Required Materials:

MyEconLab accessed only via Blackboard at http://bb9.tamucc.edu

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.

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
GENERAL COURSE POLICIES

Academic Honesty:
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). 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.

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 course grade of F.

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.

Statement of Civility:
Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi has a diverse student population that represents the population of the state. Our goal is to provide you with a high quality educational experience that is free from repression. You are responsible for following the rules of the University, city, state and federal government. We expect that you will behave in a manner that is dignified, respectful and courteous to all people, regardless of sex, ethnic/racial origin, religious background, sexual orientation or disability. Behaviors that infringe on the rights of another individual will not be tolerated.

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.tamucc.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.

**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.

**Blackboard**
- All online courses at TAMUCC are run on the Blackboard platform (bb9.tamucc.edu).
- This course runs specifically the MyEconLab courseware within the BB9 platform.
- Students access MyEconLab from BB9 by clicking the link on the left menu. The following is a screenshot.

![Blackboard Screenshot](image)

**Course Content:** All activities and assignments for each week
**Discussion Forum:** Enter to make at least one post each week
**Examity:** Link to start your tests
**Announcements:** Enter to see major issues that might affect you
**My Grades:** Update on all scores and your course average. For the whole course, please ignore the “total score” at the bottom (not weighted), but instead read the “Course Average”.

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The following is a screenshot of all resources in MyEconLab:

### What you will need for this course:
- **Always enter via the link “MyEconLab Course Home” (to give you most functions)**
- Read textbook chapters under the eText folder
- Take the chapter quizzes under the “Quizzes & Tests” folder. Each chapter’s quiz is available and visible by the day the chapter is covered in class.
- **OPTIONAL:** The Multimedia Library contains additional resources, including PowerPoint files and videos. You can also access the PowerPoint files from MyLab’s left menu (Chapter Resources).
- **OPTIONAL:** End of chapter questions and Study Plan are all optional.

### COURSE PERFORMANCE AND GRADING
Student performance will be evaluated on the basis of:
- Weekly posts in the Discussion Forum (20%)
- Chapter Assignments (30%): one quiz per chapter + Get Started quiz (about 10 questions)
- Two Tests (25% each)

The following is the weight distribution of coursework for determining the overall course average:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Coursework</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
<th>Weight</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lesson 1 Quizzes (Ch. 1, 2)</td>
<td>11:59 PM, Sunday, end of Week 1 (Jan 26)</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lesson 2 Quizzes (Ch. 3, 6)</td>
<td>11:59 PM, Sunday, end of Week 2 (Feb 2)</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lesson 3 Quizzes (Ch. 8, 9)</td>
<td>11:59 PM, Sunday, end of Week 3 (Feb 9)</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lesson 4 Quizzes (Ch. 11, 12)</td>
<td>11:59 PM, Sunday, end of Week 4 (Feb 16)</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Test 1</td>
<td>07:00 PM, Sunday, end of Week 4 (Feb 16)</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lesson 5 Quizzes (Ch. 19, 20)</td>
<td>11:59 PM, Sunday, end of Week 5 (Feb 23)</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lesson 6 Quizzes (Ch. 21, 24)</td>
<td>11:59 PM, Sunday, end of Week 6 (Mar 1)</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lesson 7 Quizzes (Ch. 25, 26)</td>
<td>11:59 PM, Sunday, end of Week 7 (Mar 8)</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Test 2</td>
<td>07:00 PM, Sunday, end of Week 7 (Mar 8)</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussion Forum Participation</td>
<td>11:59 PM, Sunday, Weekly</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Official Course Grade is determined by a letter grade using the following scale: A: >90%; 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.

**GRADED ASSIGNMENTS**

In this course, you are required to complete the following graded assignments:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Details</th>
<th>Where and How to Submit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chapter Assignments</td>
<td>Complete all Chapter Assignments (Quizzes).</td>
<td>Click the “Course Content” link in the left-hand menu. Click the &quot;MyEconLab Quizzes and Tests&quot; link in the MyEconLab folder for the chapter quizzes. Each Chapter Quiz contains multiple-choice and other types of questions. Each lesson contains two chapters, each with one quiz (about 10 questions each) and 2 attempts (keeping higher score). Assignments designated as Homework in MyEconLab will not be graded.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussion Forum</td>
<td>In this Discussion Forum, you will participate in a weekly discussion by making at least one post or one response to other posts with at least 150 words.</td>
<td>Click the “Discussion Forum” link in the left-hand menu. In the Discussion Forum, click the corresponding week’s forum. Respond to the first thread that posts the question.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tests</td>
<td>Complete Test 1 and Test 2.</td>
<td>Click the “Course Content” link in the left-hand menu. Click the &quot;MyEconLab Quizzes and Tests&quot; link in the MyEconLab folder for the tests. Complete each test by its deadline. Each test contains 55 multiple-choice questions with a total time limit of 120 minutes (2 hours). Both exams are closed-book exams that are taken alone on Bb9 with a computer, without the help of anyone or any material other than a calculator or scratch paper. Read Academic Honesty policy below regarding cheating in exams.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
EXAM INFORMATION

There will be TWO TESTS in this course. Both exams are taken online and are closed-book exams.

The tests will be PROCTORED by Examity. You must complete the exams individually and without any outside help. Read the Academic Honesty policy below for academic integrity, particularly in the case of exams. Details and instructions for each exam are listed in the "Test" folder in the Course Content area (see the link in the left-hand menu). You must sign up for the exam at Examity at least 24 hours prior to your exam time.

For each exam, the link to access its questions will become visible during the exam date. The deadline for the first exam is 7:00 PM on Sunday at the end of the fourth week of this course. Similarly, the deadline for the second exam is 7:00 PM on last day of this course. Each exam contains 55 multiple-choice questions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exam</th>
<th>Lesson Covered</th>
<th>Time Limit</th>
<th>Deadline</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Test 1</td>
<td>Weekly Lessons 1 to 4</td>
<td>2 hours</td>
<td>7:00 PM, Feb 16, Sunday</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>MyEconLab Quizzes and Tests</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Test 2</td>
<td>Weekly Lessons 5 to 7</td>
<td>2 hours</td>
<td>7:00 PM, Mar 8, Sunday</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>MyEconLab Quizzes and Tests</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Examity Requirements

In this class, tests will be administered remotely by an online authentication and proctoring service called Examity, which gives you the flexibility to schedule exams at your convenience and take them wherever you want.

To prepare for using Examity, you will need to meet the following technical requirements:

- Working Webcam and Microphone which can be tested at [www.testmycam.net](http://www.testmycam.net)
- An Internet connection of at least 3Mbps ([www.speedtest.net](http://www.speedtest.net))
- Chrome/ Mozilla/ Safari/ Internet Explorer/ Microsoft Edge browser
- Up to date Operating system (Windows or Mac OS)

Run an automated systems check here:

If you do not pass the systems check or have any questions or concerns, you can contact Examity’s technical support team 24/7 via email at [support@examity.com](mailto:support@examity.com) or phone at (855) 392-6489.

If you require a live proctoring service as an alternative, please visit this page for instructions: [https://iol.tamucc.edu/onlinetesting_students.html](https://iol.tamucc.edu/onlinetesting_students.html)
ONLINE COURSE PRELIMINARIES

To successfully complete this course, you should:

- First prepare your computer with access to the Internet.
- Click on each Content Folder on this page for material contents of each weekly Lesson, and complete all assignments and activities. This course contains a total of 7 Lesson Units, each corresponds to one week of this course.
- Learn by actively participating in all lesson activities and by reviewing the feedback for the graded assignments and exams.

Help Desk:
For technical issues on Bb9, call Island Online help desk 361-825-2825 or email iol.support@tamucc.edu

For non-technical issues or accommodations, contact me (jim.lee@tamucc.edu; Phone: 361-825-5831) anytime. This is the first semester we have a Graduate Adjunct to work with you all. She is Ms. Alex Burnett-Hayes (Alex.Burnett-Hayes@tamucc.edu). Feel free to also contact her for assistance.

Expectations for students:
Keep in mind that this is a 7-week online course. In contrast to a regular face-to-face course that runs for about four months, this course is much more time intensive and it requires a great deal of motivation and self-discipline from you as a learner. As a rule of thumb, you should be ready to put aside at least 15 hours each week for completing the reading and graded assignments, and studying the course material. Observe all due dates. There are assignments due every week. The deadline for all graded quizzes is **Sunday, 11:59 PM**. Please check the specific dates and deadlines for the exams. If you feel you've fallen behind or need assistance, please email the instructor (jim.lee@tamucc.edu) immediately.

Suggested Weekly Time Allocation:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lesson Activity</th>
<th>Weekly Time Allocation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lesson Overview on Bb9</td>
<td>15 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading <em>chapter materials</em> for each lesson</td>
<td>4-8 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reviewing multimedia materials and tutorials</td>
<td>1-3 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading posts and making posts on Bb9 <em>Discussion Forum</em></td>
<td>1-2 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Completing <em>graded Lesson Assignments (Chapter Quizzes)</em></td>
<td>2-3 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reviewing lesson material and preparing for <em>exams</em></td>
<td>4 hours</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# ECON 5311.W Spring 2019 — KEY COURSE COMPONENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEEK</th>
<th>LESSON</th>
<th>Complete by</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **WEEK 1 LESSON** | Chapter 1: Economics: Foundations and Models  
Chapter 2: Trade-offs, Comparative Advantage, and the Market System | Jan 26 |
| **WEEK 2 LESSON** | Chapter 3: Where Prices Come From: The Interaction of Supply and Demand  
Chapter 6: Elasticity: The Responsiveness of Demand and Supply | Feb 2 |
| **WEEK 3 LESSON** | Chapter 8: Firms, the Stock Market, and Corporate Governance  
Chapter 9: Comparative Advantage and the Gains from International Trade | Feb 9 |
| **WEEK 4 LESSON** | Chapter 11: Technology, Production, and Costs  
Chapter 12: Firms in Perfectly Competitive Markets | Feb 16 |
| **TEST 1** | | Feb 16, 7 PM |
| **WEEK 5 LESSON** | Chapter 19: GDP: Measuring Total Production and Income  
Chapter 20: Unemployment and Inflation | Feb 23 |
| **WEEK 6 LESSON** | Chapter 21: Economic Growth, the Financial System, and Business Cycles  
Chapter 24: Aggregate Demand and Aggregate Supply Analysis | Mar 1 |
| **WEEK 7 LESSON** | Chapter 25: Money, Banks, and the Federal Reserve System  
Chapter 26: Monetary Policy | Mar 8 |
| **TEST 2** | | Mar 8, 7 PM |

Each week also includes graded Quizzes and Discussion Forum posts.
Student Registration Instructions for Blackboard

First, enter your Blackboard course
1. Sign in to Blackboard and enter your Blackboard course.
2. Do one of the following:
   » Select any Pearson link in the Content area.
   » Select Tools in the left navigation and Pearson’s MyLab & Mastering on the Tools page. Next, select any course link in the top area of the Pearson’s MyLab & Mastering Tools page.

Next, get access to your Pearson course content
1. Enter your Pearson account username and password to Link Accounts. You have an account if you have ever used a MyLab or Mastering product.
   » If you don’t have a Pearson account, select Create and follow the instructions.
2. Select an access option:
   » Enter the access code that came with your textbook or that you purchased separately from the bookstore.
   » If available for your course,
     • Buy access using a credit card or PayPal.
     • Get temporary access.
3. From the You’re Done page, select Go to My Courses.

Note: We recommend you always enter your MyLab Economics course through Blackboard.

Class Introduction to Examity®

Your online tests will be proctored by Examity. This service will give you flexibility to schedule exams at your convenience and take them wherever you want as long as you adhere to the exam rules set for the test. To get yourself better acquainted with Examity, please watch a video to show you how it works.  
https://youtu.be/98OStU71I7A

HOW TO CREATE A PROFILE:

• Log into Blackboard and select your course.
• Next, click on the Examity® link. This will bring you to your Examity® dashboard.
• Once on the dashboard, select “My Profile.”
• Select your time zone. (Your test schedule will reflect your time zone!)
• Confirm your name, email address and provide a contact phone number.
• Upload your picture identification card.
• Select and answer 3 security questions. (Please remember or write down your responses)
• Enter your keystroke biometric signature.
• Once your profile is complete, you will be able to schedule your test.

HOW TO SCHEDULE:

• Select “Schedule Exam” on the Dashboard
• Pick your instructor (Jim Lee), course (ECON 5311.W01), and exam (Test 1) from the drop down menu.
• If you need to schedule less than 24 hours in advance, you will have to use the on-demand scheduling option.
• If you need accommodations, email your instructor (jim.lee@tamucc.edu) now.

HOW TO TAKE THE TEST:

• When it is time for your test, access Examity® through Blackboard. Once you see your Examity® dashboard, click the “Start Exam” button. Note that you will not be allowed to connect with a proctor more than 15 minutes prior to the scheduled test.
• When you have completed your test, follow your proctor’s instructions.
• Grades will be available in Blackboard.

Your picture identification card must be clear and in color. If that’s not the case, you might be asked to upload the image again. You will need to bring this ID with you every time you take a test for verification purposes.

I will provide you with a step-by-step guide on how to use Examity®. My goal is to keep setup, scheduling and the test-taking process as simple as possible.

Examity® offers 24/7 technical support. Call 855-EXAMITY (855-392-6489), email support@examity.com or chat with a representative by clicking on the live chat link in your Examity® portal.
Discussion Forum Posts

Objective: To apply relevant economic concepts to real-life experiences and business practice.

Task: For the writing component of this course, you will make at least one post in the Discussion Forum each week. The minimum requirement is at least 150 words in response to each week’s prompt/question. The weight for each post is about 3% of the course average (20% divided by 7 weeks), for a total of 20% toward the Course total.

How:
- After reading the two chapters of the week and completing the chapter quizzes, read the specific topic and question for the week.
- List no more than 2 concepts, and compose your response on your own, e.g., in Word, so you can check spelling and grammatical errors before submitting it online.
- Open a new thread and enter your text; alternatively, respond to a post of another student.
- Each post should meet all basic requirements, even if you resubmit a post or respond to another post. If you revise or resubmit a post, you must indicate so. Each entry is graded as a unique post (you cannot satisfy the weekly posting requirements by submitting posts each partially satisfy all requirements).
- Keep in mind, economic or business writing is considered technical writing that must make logical common sense. You must justify all your points or opinions.

Topics: Each week has a specific prompt or question. Click the link to enter the Forum for each week’s instructions:

Rubric (grading scheme):
(a) Minimum of one post per week: 100% for a post showing the student’s ability to tie facts/experience or data to relevant concepts/theories;
(b) 20%+ deductions for:
   i) submission after the deadline at the end of the course week (20% per day),
   ii) not relating to or stating any textbook (economic) concept,
   iii) not meeting the minimum length of 150 words;
   iv) excessive (more than 4) writing errors like typos, wrong grammar etc.
Grade Updates

Grades will be updated twice, once immediately after Test 1 (mid-term) and then after Test 2 (final). The Graduate Adjunct will provide a grade and/or a comment to each entry after the forum is closed.

Tips:

- It is important to first list the concept before writing your response. You can add the concept to the Subject line or at the beginning of your post. Otherwise, you must underline or bold that concept in the text, and make sure it stands out so the reader can spot it easily. Your post must also be closely related to the concept you list.

- Write in your own words and observations. No specific writing style (e.g., AP, Chicago) is required. References are optional, but they are acceptable if you choose to refer to other resources. Do not cite the textbook of Hubbard/O'Brien, which is considered common knowledge in this course.

- You should review any comment on your post or other students' posts before starting another week's post.

- Posts submitted after each week's deadline are not graded automatically, as the instructor is not alerted of any new entry. Please email the instructor if you submit anything after the deadline so it will be graded.

- To avoid confusion, each week's forum is typically closed one week after the submission deadline. Late submission after 5 days will receive a zero score (20% per day for 5 days).

### Rubric Detail

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Levels of Achievement</th>
<th>Unacceptable</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Concept</td>
<td><strong>Excellent</strong> 100.00 % Demonstrates the ability to tie facts/experience or data to relevant concept/theories.</td>
<td><strong>Unacceptable</strong> 66.6666 % Not relating to or stating any textbook (economic) concept.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weight 60.00%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
<td><strong>Excellent</strong> 100.00 % i) Meets 150 word minimum ii) 0-4 writing errors (typos, wrong grammar etc...)</td>
<td><strong>Unacceptable</strong> 0.00 % i) Less than 150 word minimum ii) 5 or more writing errors (typos, wrong grammar etc...)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weight 20.00%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Timeliness</td>
<td><strong>Excellent</strong> 100.00 % On-time submission.</td>
<td><strong>Unacceptable</strong> 0.00 % Submission 1-5 days late: 20% per day late. 1 day late = 80% 2 days late = 60% 3 days late = 40% 4 days late = 20% 5 days late = 0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weight 20.00%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>