ISSUES IN ECONOMICS

ECON 311 (Sec: 001), MTWTH 10:30AM- 12:45PM, BA003
SUMMER II 2010 (July 6th-August 6th)

PROFESSOR : Dr. Chandini Sankaran
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E-MAIL : chandini@moore.sc.edu
PHONE : (803) 777-5919
OFFICE HOURS : Mondays 1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
               Wednesdays 1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
               or by appointment.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course helps you examine social issues and government policies in the United States and the world around you from an economic perspective. Topics covered include the environment, healthcare, educational system, crime and drugs, war and peace, unemployment, inflation, trade deficits/surpluses, budget deficits/surpluses, government debt, poverty, inequality, social programs, education, discrimination, housing, social security, international trade, market power and taxes.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The primary objectives of this course are to:
  ❖ Reinforce the fundamental concepts of economics
  ❖ Promote the usage of economic concepts on a day-to-day basis as a way of thinking and approaching problems
  ❖ Apply economic theory in the real world
  ❖ Understand the workings of the modern national economy
  ❖ Understand the implications of government policy on markets and the economy
  ❖ Broaden your knowledge of global and multicultural issues
  ❖ Analyze current issues through an economic perspective

TEXT

Print ISBN-10: 0-538-75087-1

You might choose to purchase an online version or rent the book from cengagebrain.com or chegg.com.
LECTURE NOTES

Lecture notes for each week of the class will be posted on Blackboard every Sunday. You are expected to print out these notes and bring them to class every Monday (after the first week of class). You will find these notes very important in preparing for exams and helping you understand the material presented in lectures.

PREREQUISITE

ECON221 & 222 OR 224. Basic understanding of college level math concepts is necessary for you to do well in this class.

E-MAIL

Throughout the semester, I will be sending out e-mails with important class information to your South Carolina e-mail address. You are advised to check your Carolina e-mail often.

BLACKBOARD

This class actively uses the Blackboard Online System (https://blackboard.sc.edu/). Postings of the course syllabus, lecture notes, grades, exam study guides, announcements (including exam/quiz scheduling announcements), links to the text’s website and links to other economic sites of interest are posted on this website. You are encouraged to check the website often and keep tabs on your grades. Quiz and exam scores will be posted online at the Blackboard grade book. It is your responsibility to contact me if you don’t have a grade for an assignment after grades have been posted for the rest of the class.

QUIZZES

All open-book quizzes are to be taken at the times listed on the last page of this syllabus, and will be administered online through Blackboard. Deadlines for quizzes will be strictly enforced. You can access the quizzes anytime during the hours listed in the last page of this syllabus, but must click the submit button before the assignment closing time. If you do not submit your homework to Blackboard before the assignment closing time, your assignment will not be accepted. You must click on the Submit button once you have completed the quiz. Instructions for quizzes will be posted on Blackboard before the first quiz is administered. You can only make one submission to the quiz, and will be able to see the answers to the quiz online a day after the quiz submission deadline.

The open-book quizzes are to be completed individually. You are bound by the Honor Code.
GRADING SYSTEM

Your course grade will be based on your performance in quizzes and exams. The exams will consist of both multiple choice and short answer questions. The quizzes are open book but have to be completed individually (i.e. you cannot even discuss the questions or answers on the quiz with your classmates until the grades for the quiz has been posted on Blackboard). Your final letter grade is based on the following distribution:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ASSIGNMENT</th>
<th>POINTS POSSIBLE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Midterm</td>
<td>150 (37.5% of your final grade)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quizzes (5 @ 20 points each)</td>
<td>100 (25% of your final grade)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam (Friday, August 6th, 10:30am-12:45pm)</td>
<td>150 (37.5% of your final grade)</td>
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<td>Total</td>
<td>400</td>
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The anticipated grading scale for the course is:
400 – 360 points A
359 – 320 points B
319 – 280 points C
279 – 240 points D
Below 240 points F

This scale may be adjusted to reflect class performance only at the end of the semester. The cut-offs for B+, C+ and D+ will be determined only at the end of the semester.

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA HONOR CODE:

“It is the responsibility of every student at the University of South Carolina Columbia to adhere steadfastly to truthfulness and to avoid dishonesty, fraud, or deceit of any type in connection with any academic program. Any student who violates this Honor Code or who knowingly assists another to violate this Honor Code shall be subject to discipline.”

The Honor Code is intended to prohibit all forms of academic dishonesty and should be interpreted broadly to carry out that purpose.

The following Honor Pledge applies to all assignments, examinations, or other course work undertaken by undergraduate students and is implied, whether or not it is stated explicitly:

‘On my honor, as a student, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid on this academic work’

Cheating will not be tolerated and will be prosecuted at the highest level based on university policy which may result in a grade of XF (the F would indicate failure of the course with the X on the transcript indicating failure as a result of a breach of academic honesty), or suspension from the University for a period of no less than one semester. Please refer to http://www.sc.edu/academicintegrity/honorcode.html for information on the Honor Code.

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS

If you have any condition, such as a physical or learning disability, which will make it difficult for you to carry out the work as I have outlined it or which will require academic accommodations, please notify me in the first two days of the course.
GUIDELINES

"All who open their minds in this community are considered students and all students engage the academic enterprise with basic expectations, needs, freedoms, and responsibilities"

I will attempt to provide you with good lectures as well as supplemental materials to help increase your understanding of economics. The following outline your responsibilities in this class.

1. Regular class attendance and good study habits. Success in the class is contingent upon class attendance.
2. Print out the lecture notes from Blackboard every Monday before class (after the first week of class).
3. Take complete notes in class. The lecture notes are just the beginning. Review all notes frequently.
4. Appropriate behavior is expected and relevant questions are welcome during the lecture. Unless you have questions or comments about the material, please try not to disrupt class by talking amongst yourselves, whispering, reading the newspapers, texting, surfing the web, or talking on the cell phone. If you want to leave the lecture for any reason, leave quietly without drawing attention to yourself.
5. If you have problems with the course material, I advise you to approach me for assistance early in the semester. You can talk to me regarding any issue immediately after lectures or stop by my office during my office hours. If you cannot meet at these times, please e-mail me to set up an appointment. If you do not want to see me personally in my office, you can e-mail me your question. Questions about the course material are often difficult to answer by e-mail but I will be happy to set-up an appointment to meet with you to discuss your problem. Replies to e-mails will be timely, but will rarely be immediate.
6. Exams will cover all topics discussed in class, not just those from the book. Study for exams early and effectively. Forming study groups may be useful.
7. To prepare for exams read the textbook, review your notes, the material from your textbook’s website, and practice questions from your quizzes.
8. There will be no make-up quizzes under any circumstances. It is your responsibility to log onto Blackboard and complete the assignments on the scheduled days.
9. Athletes or members of other clubs who will miss the midterm exams must present official letters prior to exam days in order to take the make-up midterms (these must be administered prior to leaving). If a student misses the midterm for any other documented valid reason (sickness, death in the family, jury duty etc) the student’s final exam score will count twice (for the midterm and final). You must contact me through e-mail within 1 week of the missed midterm and present documentation of your illness etc. to receive permission for your final to count twice. If you miss more than one exam, or the final examination, you will receive a failing grade in this course.
10. No laptops are allowed during the lecture or exams. Programmable and graphical calculators are not allowed for exams. Please purchase a non-programmable calculator (you can find them at Walmart for less than $10) to use during exams.
11. Copyright 2010 (Chandini Sankaran) as to this syllabus and all lectures. During this course students are prohibited from selling notes to or being paid for taking notes by any person or commercial firm without the express written permission of the professor teaching this course.
**TENTATIVE SCHEDULE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chapter 1</th>
<th>Introduction</th>
<th>July 6th</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chapter 2</td>
<td>Crime &amp; Drugs</td>
<td>July 7th</td>
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<td>Chapter 3</td>
<td>The Environment</td>
<td>July 8th</td>
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<td>Quiz # 1 at BB (Chpts. 1, 2 &amp; 3)</td>
<td>Friday July 9th</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chapter 4</td>
<td>Education</td>
<td>July 12th</td>
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<td>Chapter 5</td>
<td>Discrimination</td>
<td>July 13th</td>
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<td>Chapter 6</td>
<td>U.S. Poverty</td>
<td>July 14th</td>
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<td>Chapter 7</td>
<td>Housing</td>
<td>July 15th</td>
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<td>Quiz # 2 at BB (Chpts. 4,5,6,7)</td>
<td>Friday July 16th</td>
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<td>Chapter 8</td>
<td>Healthcare</td>
<td>July 19th</td>
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<td>Chapter 9</td>
<td>Social Security</td>
<td>July 20th</td>
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**MIDTERM EXAM (CHPTS. 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,& 9)**  
**WEDNESDAY JULY 21ST**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chapter 10</th>
<th>World Poverty</th>
<th>July 22nd</th>
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<tr>
<td>Chapter 12</td>
<td>International Trade</td>
<td>July 26th</td>
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<td>Quiz # 3 at BB (Chpts. 10 &amp;12)</td>
<td>Tuesday July 27th</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chapter 11</td>
<td>Global Agriculture</td>
<td>July 27th</td>
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<td>Chapter 13</td>
<td>Market Power</td>
<td>July 28th</td>
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<td>Chapter 14</td>
<td>Unemployment &amp; Inflation</td>
<td>July 29th</td>
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<td>Quiz # 4 at BB (Chpts. 11,13 &amp; 14)</td>
<td>Friday July 30th</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chapter 15</td>
<td>Government Macroeconomic Policy</td>
<td>August 2nd</td>
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<td>Chapter 16</td>
<td>Taxes, Borrowing, &amp; the National Debt</td>
<td>August 3rd</td>
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<td>Chapter 17</td>
<td>Globally Free Markets for the 21st Century?</td>
<td>August 4th</td>
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<td>Quiz # 5 at BB (Chpts. 15,16 &amp; 17)</td>
<td>Thursday August 5th</td>
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**FINAL EXAMINATION (Chpts. 10,11,12,13,14,15,16 & 17)**  
**FRIDAY August 6th**

**Any changes will be announced in class and posted on Blackboard. It is your responsibility to be aware of any changes.**