

ECON 2300(07): INTRODUCTION TO ECONOMICS (CRN: 24020)
An Online Course
Spring 2018

Instructor: Dr. Santosh Kumar
Assistant Professor of Economics
Department of Economics & International Business
Sam Houston State University

Office: Smith Hutson Business Bldg (SHB) 241A
Phone: 936 294 2416
Fax: 936 294 3488
Email: skumar@shsu.edu (always write “ECON 2300” in the subject line while communicating with me)

Office Hours: MW 10:30 - 11:30 AM, or by Appointment.

Since it is an online course, most of the time you will be interacting with me over phone, fax, email, blackboard etc.; however when you are on-campus you can always visit me during my office hours.

Course Description: This is an introductory undergraduate-level course designed to expose students to elementary and basic concepts in microeconomics as well as macroeconomics. The first half of the semester will discuss topics related to microeconomics such as, demand & supply, cost of production and different forms of markets (competitive and monopoly). The second half of the semester will be devoted to macroeconomics aspects of the economy such as GDP & Growth, consumer price index, inflation, monetary system, aggregate demand & supply. Graphs and simple algebra will be used to simplify the comprehension of the concepts central to economic theory.

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

1. Develop an understanding of fundamental principles, generalizations, and theories in economics
2. Gain some factual knowledge about the US economy
3. Learn how to apply course materials to critically evaluate economic issues.

IDEA Course Evaluation Learning Objectives:

Towards the end of the semester, you will be required to complete a course evaluation survey. The survey will be administered online through Blackboard. You are encouraged to complete the survey in reference to the following two main learning objectives of this course:

- **Gaining a basic understanding of the subject (e.g., factual knowledge, methods, principles, generalizations, theories)**
- **Learning to *apply* course material (to improve thinking, problem solving, and decisions)**

Required Text: Foundations of Economics by Bade and Parkin, 8th edition (ISBN: 0134486811). Or older edition if it is cheaper. But you will be responsible for matching the materials between 8th edition and the older editions. I will be using 8th edition for my lectures.

Blackboard

All course materials including syllabus, lecture notes, practice questions, videos will be uploaded on blackboard. However, these course materials are not a substitute for the book, therefore, you are required to read the book and comprehend the material- the blackboard materials are meant to aid your understanding of the book. **READING THE ASSIGNED TEXT IS A MUST TO DO WELL IN THIS CLASS.**

Tutoring

The Department of Economics & International Business offers free tutoring for all students enrolled in economics classes. Tutoring is held in the afternoon in Room 108, on Monday-Friday from 11:00-4:30pm in Smith-Hutson Business Building.

Evaluation

Each student will be evaluated on the basis of his or her performance in the exams and weekly quizzes.

1. **Exams (80%):** There will be four mid-term exams and one comprehensive final exam. However, you may miss one of the exams as the best FOUR out of the FIVE exams will be considered for the final course grade. Each exam will be worth 20% of the final grade. Each mid-term exam will be on-line and will have 40 multiple-choice questions. Final exam will have 50 questions.

Each exam will be timed and will be available for ONE week and students will have 2 hours to complete it. For example, if you open the exam at 11am, then you are supposed to complete it by 1pm as you have only 2 hours to complete it. All exams will be due on 11.59pm (not 11.59am) on the last day of its availability.

Without exception, no additional time will be given to complete the exam, and under no circumstances will the exam deadline will be extended. To avoid last minute personal/family emergencies or technical glitches, students are advised to take the exams atleast 2 days before the deadline. If you wait till the last day to take the exam, then you risk an unforeseen event forcing you to take a zero in that exam. In case you miss an exam due to unforeseen circumstances, then the missed exam will be replaced by 40% weightage of the final exam.

2. **Quizzes (20%):** There will be 10 quizzes. Each quiz will consist of 20 multiple choice questions. The best 5 quizzes (out of 10) will count for 20% of the final grade. Quizzes will open on Wednesday at 11:59pm and will be due on Sunday midnight.

Grading

Your final grade will be based on the following work:

10 homeworks (5 worst is dropped)

200

5 exams (worst is dropped)

800

- Each quiz will be worth 40 points
- Each exam will be worth 200 points

Exam Administration

Exams will be proctored and monitored by a software “ProctorFree”. ProctorFree is inbuilt in the course and you should access exams only through ProctorFree. Read the instructions on how to use ProctorFree (see the tab on the left on your course homepage).

Having a webcam is a mandatory requirement for this course. Exams are closed book and cheating or use of unfair means will result into an F.

ProctorFree Rule

1. Students are allowed to use scratch paper and calculator during the exam but before starting the exam, show them in the camera, and also show the testing environment before starting the exam.
2. Exams are closed book.
3. You should access exams only through “ProctorFree” link. If you access exams through any other links, you will receive ZERO.

Letter grades will be assigned as follows:

| | |
|---------------|---|
| 90% and above | A |
| 80% to 89% | B |
| 70% to 79% | C |
| 60% to 69% | D |
| Below 60% | F |

GENERAL CLASS POLICIES

Students with disability policy:

It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that individuals otherwise qualified shall not be excluded, solely due to their disability, from participation in any academic program of the university. Further, they shall not be denied the benefits of these programs nor shall they be subjected to discrimination. Students with disabilities that might affect their academic performance should register with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Lee Drain Annex (telephone 936-294-3512, TDD 936-294-3786, and e-mail disability@shsu.edu). They should then make arrangements with their individual instructors so that appropriate strategies can be considered and helpful procedures can be developed to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired.

SHSU adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. If you have a disability that may affect adversely your work in this class, then I encourage you to register with the SHSU Services for Students with Disabilities and to talk with me about how I can best help you. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. NOTE: No accommodation can be made until you register with the Services for Students with Disabilities. For a complete listing of the university policy, see:

<http://www.shsu.edu/dept/academic-affairs/documents/aps/students/811006.pdf>

Academic dishonesty:

All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. The University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials. For a complete listing of the university policy, see:

<http://www.shsu.edu/administrative/faculty/sectionb.html#dishonesty>

Student absences on religious holy days policy:

Section 51.911(b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. Section 51.911 (a) (2) defines a religious holy day as: “a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Section 11.20....” A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence.

University policy 861001 provides the procedures to be followed by the student and instructor. A student desiring to absent himself/herself from a scheduled class in order to observe (a) religious holy day(s) shall present to each instructor involved a written statement concerning the religious holy day(s). The instructor will complete a form notifying the student of a reasonable timeframe in which the missed assignments and/or examinations are to be completed. For a complete listing of the university policy, see:

http://www.shsu.edu/%7Evaf_www/aps/documents/861001.pd

Course Schedule

| Week | Topics (Tentative schedule) | Chapters | Exams | Quiz |
|-------------------------------|---|------------|--|---|
| UNIT 1: MACROECONOMICS | | | | |
| Week 1 (Jan 17- 21) | Introduction, Basic concepts, The U.S. and global economies | Ch 1 and 2 | | |
| Week 2 (Jan 22-28) | The economic problem | Ch 3 | | Quiz 1 (Ch 1, 2, & 3) Open: 1/24 (11:59pm) Due: 1/28 (11:59pm) |
| Week 3 (Jan 29-Feb 4) | Demand and Supply | Ch 4 | | Quiz 2 (Ch 4) Open: 1/31 (11:59pm) Due: 2/4 (11:59pm) |
| Week 4 (Feb 5-11) | Elasticities of demand and supply | Ch 5 | | Quiz 3 (Ch 5) Open: 2/7 (11:59pm) Due: 2/11 (11:59pm) |
| Week 5 (Feb 12-18) | Efficiencies and fairness of market | Ch 6 | | Quiz 4 (Ch 6) Open: 2/14 (11:59pm) Due: 2/18 (11:59pm) |
| Week 6 (Feb 19-25) | Government actions in markets | Ch 7 | Exam 1 (ch 1-6) Open: 2/20 (11:59pm) Due: 2/27 (11:59pm) | |
| Week 7 (Feb 26-Mar 4) | Global market in actions | Ch 9 | | Quiz 5 (Ch 7 & 9) Open: 2/28 (11:59pm) Due: 3/4 (11:59pm) |
| Week 8 (Mar 5-11) | Production and cost | Ch 14 | | Quiz 6 (Ch 14) Open: 3/7 (11:59pm) Due: 3/11 (11:59pm) |
| Week 9 (Mar 12-18) | SPRING RECESS (MAR 12-16) | | | |
| Week 10 (Mar 19-25) | Market Structures: Competitive Markets | Ch 15 | | |
| Week 11 (Mar 26-Apr 1) | Market Structures: Monopoly | Ch 16 | Exam 2 (ch 7,9,14-16) Open: 3/27 (11:59pm) Due: 4/3 (11:59pm) | Quiz 7 (Ch 15 & 16) Open: 3/28 (11:59pm) Due: 4/1 (11:59pm) |
| UNIT 2: MACROECONOMICS | | | | |
| Week 12 (Apr 2-8) | Measurement of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) | Ch 21 | | |
| Week 13 (Apr 9-15) | Unemployment | Ch 22 | Exam 3 (ch 21 & 22) Open: 4/17 (11:59pm) Due: 4/24 (11:59pm) | Quiz 8 (Ch 21 & 22) Open: 4/11 (11:59pm) Due: 4/15 (11:59pm) |
| Week 14 (Apr 16-22) | Consumer Price Index (CPI) & Inflation | Ch 23 | | Quiz 9 (Ch 23) Open: 4/18 (11:59pm) Due: 4/22 (11:59pm) |

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| Week 15 (Apr 23-29) | The Monetary System | Ch 27 | | Quiz 10 (Ch 27) Open: 4/25 (11:59pm) Due: 4/29 (11:59pm) |
| Week 16 (Apr 30-May 7) | Review, exam 4 | | Exam 4 (ch 23 & 27) Open: 4/27 (11:59pm) Due: 5/4 (11:59pm) | |
| Comprehensive final exam (all chapters) | | | Open: 4/30 (11:59pm) Due: 5/8 (11:59pm) | |