

**Syllabus for Independent Study**  
***Economic Issues & Policy***  
ECON 4399  
Fall 2025  
**Professor Susan Doty**

**Course Name:** Economic Issues & Policy

**Course Number:** ECON 4399

**Meeting Times:** Asynchronous Online

**Instructor:** Susan Doty (Call me "Professor Doty" or "Mrs. Doty" please!)

**Office:** CAS #141

**Office Hours:** Mondays and Wednesdays 3:00-4:00 pm and Thursdays 8-10:00am

**Zoom:** By appointment

**Course Description:** We look at controversial issues, framed as dichotomous questions. We examine current context and underlying economic concepts. We identify credible “yes” and “no” experts, analyze their biases and opposing positions. We recognize what is missing and research additional experts. Then, we come to our own informed opinions on the issue.

**Learning objectives:** Provided on each weekly module page in Canvas.

**Required Course Materials:** All materials for the course will be provided at no additional financial cost to you. ***DO NOT*** purchase any course materials.

- Get your copy of *How Economics Explains the World: A Short History of Humanity* by Andrew Leigh from me on the first day of class.
- Download the VOTE (*Voices on the Economy*) textbook, by Dr. Amy S. Cramer, from the Canvas link when the course opens.

**Technology Requirements:** Computer with Microsoft Office software, reliable internet access, video and audio recording capability, and portable device for use in the classroom.

**Additional Resources Provided at No Financial Cost to You:** *NY Times* subscription and *Microsoft Office* software. These are both university-provided perks for students. The links in Canvas when the course opens.

**Course Navigation:** You will always land on the Canvas Course Home Page. Each Monday morning, I will open and highlight in orange the linked page to our weekly module. Simply follow the order on each page.

**Make-up Policy:** All submitted work is due on Fridays at 5:00pm and will be accepted late – without penalty – through Sunday evenings of the same weekend.

This is an independent study class and your active involvement in your own learning is key. We will agree upon the deliverables in the first two weeks of the semester and you will commit to the deadlines

<b><i>Course Organization</i></b>	<b><i>Point Value</i></b>	<b><i>Preparation</i></b>	<b><i>Assignments</i></b>
<b>Week One: 8/25-8/29</b> <i>How Economics Explains the World</i>	50 points	Read chapters 1-2 in Leigh text	First Impressions Video #1 Due Friday, August 29th at 5:00pm
<b>Week Two: 9/1-9/5</b> <i>How Economics Explains the World</i>	50 points	Read chapters 3-4 in Leigh text	Writing Assignment #1 Due Friday, September 5th at 5:00pm
<b>Week Three: 9/8-9/12</b> <i>How Economics Explains the World</i>	50 points	Read chapters 5-7 in Leigh text	Graphing Assignment #1 Due Friday, September 12th at 5:00 pm
<b>Week Four: 9/15-9/19</b> <i>Voices on the Economy</i>	50 points	Read chapters 1-3 in <i>VOTE</i>	Quiz Assessment #1 Due Friday, September 19th at 5:00p
<b>Week Five: 9/22-9/26</b> <i>Voices on the Economy</i>	50 points	Read chapters 4-6 in <i>VOTE</i>	Reflection Video #2 Due Friday, September 26th at 5:00pm
<b>Week Six: 9/29-10/3</b> <i>Voices on the Economy</i>	50 points	Read chapters 7&10 in <i>VOTE</i>	Writing Assignment #2 Due Friday, October 3rd at 5:00pm
<b>Week Seven: 10/6-10/10</b> <i>Voices on the Economy</i>	50 points	Choose two issues from chapters 11-15 in <i>VOTE</i> to analyze.	Graphing Assignment #2 Due Friday, October 10th at 5:00pm
<b>Week Eight: 10/13-10/17</b> <i>Voices on the Economy</i>	50 Points	Choose two issues from chapters 16-20 in <i>VOTE</i> to analyze.	Quiz Assessment #2 Due Friday, October 17th at 5:00pm
<b>Week Nine: 10/20-10/24</b> <i>Voices on the Economy</i>	50 points	Read chapter 21 in <i>VOTE</i>	Future-focused <i>VOTE</i> essay Due Friday, October 24th at 5:00pm

<b>Week Ten: 10/27-10/29</b> <b>Economic Issues &amp; Policy</b>	50 points	Read Sample Issue	Dichotomous question & Current context Project draft #1 due on Friday, 10/31 at 5:00pm
<b>Week Eleven: 11/3-11/7</b> <b>Economic Issues &amp; Policy</b>	50 points	Controversial issues 1&2	Balanced experts, backgrounds, & biases Project draft #2 due on Friday, 11/7 at 5:00pm
<b>Week Twelve: 11/10-11/14</b> <b>Economic Issues &amp; Policy</b>	50 points	Controversial issues 3&4	Expert opinion summaries Project draft #3 due on Friday, 11/14 at 5:00pm
<b>Week Thirteen: 11/17 - 11/21</b> <b>Economic Issues &amp; Policy</b>	50 points	Controversial issues 5&6	What's missing & literature review Project draft #4 due on Friday, 11/21 at 5:00pm
<b>Fall Break: 11/24-11/28</b>	0 points	<b>Refresh, renew, be safe, and come back to finish strong!</b>	<i>Although nothing is due over the Fall Break, be aware of what happens next week and be prepared!</i>
<b>Week Fourteen: 12/1-12/5</b> <b>Project Presentations</b>	200 points	Written Project Video Project	Final Video Project & Final Paper due on Friday, 12/5 at 5:00pm

Final grade will be based on the percentage of 850 points earned: 90% A, 80% B, 70% C, 60% D, <60% F

**University-required additional syllabus information (the “Fine Print” in your Sway Syllabus!) and also posted on Canvas.**

### **Student Resources:**

Faculty can update student resources to provide additional supports appropriate for each course.

Resources to assist you in the course · UT Tyler Student Accessibility and Resource (SAR) Office (provides needed accommodations to students with document needs related to access and learning) · UT Tyler Writing Center · The Mathematics Learning Center · UT Tyler PASS Tutoring Center · UT Tyler Supplemental Instruction · Upswing (24/7 online tutoring) - covers nearly all undergraduate course areas · Robert Muntz Library and Library Liaison · Canvas 101 (learn to use Canvas, proctoring, Unicheck, and other software)

· Digital Support Toolkit (for supported courses only. Students are automatically enrolled in the toolkit for supported courses)

· LIB 422 -- Computer Lab where students can take a proctored exam · The Career Success Center · UT Tyler Testing Center · Office of Research & Scholarship Design and Data Analysis Lab

**Resources available to UT Tyler Students** · UT Tyler Counseling Center (available to all students) · MySSP App (24/7 access to Student Support Program counseling through phone or chat and online wellness resources available in a variety of languages) · Student Assistance and Advocacy Center · Military and Veterans Success Center (supports for our military-affiliated students) · UT Tyler Patriot Food Pantry · UT Tyler Financial Aid and Scholarships · UT Tyler Student Business Services (pay or set up payment plans, etc.) · UT Tyler Registrar's Office · Office of International Programs · Title IX Reporting · Patriots Engage (available to all students. Get engaged at UT Tyler.)

### **University Policies and Information**

Withdrawing from Class Students may withdraw (drop) from this course using the Withdrawal Portal. Withdrawing (dropping) this course can impact your Financial Aid, Scholarships, Veteran Benefits, Exemptions, Waivers, International Student Status, housing, and degree progress. Please speak with your instructors, consider your options, speak with your advisor, and visit the One-Stop Service Center (STE 230) or email [enroll@uttyler.edu](mailto:enroll@uttyler.edu) to get a complete review of your student account and the possible impacts to withdrawing. We want you to make an informed decision. UT Tyler faculty and staff are here for you and often can provide additional support options or assistance. Make sure to carefully read the implications for withdrawing from a course and the instructions on using the Withdrawal portal.. Texas law prohibits students from dropping more than six courses during their entire undergraduate career\*. The six courses dropped includes those from other 2-year or 4-year Texas public colleges and universities. Consider the impact withdrawing from this class has on your academic progress and other areas, such as financial implications. We encourage you to consult your advisor(s) and Enrollment Services for additional guidance. CAUTION #1: Withdrawing before census day does not mean you get a full refund. Please see the Tuition and Fee Refund Schedule. CAUTION #2: All international students must check with the Office of International Programs before withdrawing. All international students are required to enroll full-time for fall and spring terms. CAUTION #3: All UT Tyler Athletes must check with the Athletic Academic Coordinator before withdrawing from a course. CAUTION #4: All veterans or military-affiliated students should consult with the Military and Veterans Success Center.

\* Students who began college for the first time before 2007 are exempt from this law.

### **Artificial Intelligence Statement**

UT Tyler is committed to exploring and using artificial intelligence (AI) tools as appropriate for the discipline and task undertaken. We encourage discussing AI tools' ethical, societal, philosophical, and disciplinary implications. All uses of AI should be acknowledged as this aligns with our commitment to honor and integrity, as noted in UT Tyler's Honor Code. Faculty and students must not use protected information, data,

or copyrighted materials when using any AI tool. Additionally, users should be aware that AI tools rely on predictive models to generate content that may appear correct but is sometimes shown to be incomplete, inaccurate, taken without attribution from other sources, and/or biased. Consequently, an AI tool should not be considered a substitute for traditional approaches to research. You are ultimately responsible for the quality and content of the information you submit. Misusing AI tools that violate the guidelines specified for this course is considered a breach of academic integrity. The student will be subject to disciplinary actions as outlined in UT Tyler's Academic Integrity Policy. Refer to the About This Course section of the UT Tyler Syllabus Module for specific information on appropriate use of AI in your course(s).

### Final Exam Policy

Final examinations are administered as scheduled. If unusual circumstances require that special arrangements be made for an individual student or class, the Dean of the appropriate college, after consultation with the faculty member involved, may authorize an exception to the schedule. Faculty members must maintain student final examination papers for a minimum of three months following the examination date.

### Incomplete Grade Policy

If a student, because of extenuating circumstances, is unable to complete all of the requirements for a course by the end of the semester, then the instructor may recommend an Incomplete (I) for the course. The "I" may be assigned in place of a grade only when all of the following conditions are met: (a) the student has been making satisfactory progress in the course; (b) the student is unable to complete all coursework or final exam due to unusual circumstances that are beyond personal control and are acceptable to the instructor, and (c) the student presents these reasons before the time that the final grade roster is due. The semester credit hours for an Incomplete will not be used to calculate the grade point average. The student and the instructor must submit an Incomplete Form detailing the work required and the time by which the work must be completed to their respective department chair or college dean for approval. The time limit established must not exceed one year. Should the student fail to meet all of the work for the course within the time limit, then the instructor may assign zeros to the unfinished work, compute the course average for the student, and assign the appropriate grade. If a grade has yet to be assigned within one year, then the Incomplete will be changed to an F, or NC. If the course was initially taken under the CR/NC grading basis, this may adversely affect the student's academic standing.

### Grade Appeal Policy

Disputes regarding grades must be initiated within sixty (60) days from the date of receiving the final course grade by filing a Grade Appeal Form with the instructor who assigned the grade. A grade appeal should be used when the student thinks the final course grade awarded does not reflect the grades earned on assessments or follow the grading scale as documented in the syllabus. The student should provide the rationale for the grade appeal and attach supporting document about the grades earned. The form should be sent via email to the faculty member who assigned the grade. The faculty member reviews the rationale and supporting documentation and completes the instruction section of the form. The instructor should return the form to the student, even if a grade change is made at this level. If the student is not satisfied with the decision, the student may appeal in writing to the Chairperson of the department from which the grade was issued. In situations where there is an allegation of capricious grading,

discrimination, or unlawful actions, appeals may go beyond the Chairperson to the Dean or the Dean's designee of the college from which the grade was issued, with that decision being final. The Grade Appeal form is found in the Registrar's Form Library.

NOTE: The Grade Appeal Form is different from the Application for Appeal form submitted to the Student Appeals Committee, which does not rule on grade disputes as described in this policy.

### Disability/Accessibility Services

In accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the ADA Amendments Act (ADAAA), the University of Texas at Tyler offers accommodations to students with learning, physical, and/or psychological disabilities. If you have a disability, including a non-visible diagnosis such as a learning disorder, chronic illness, TBI, PTSD, ADHD, or a history of modifications or accommodations in a previous educational environment, you are encouraged to visit <https://hood.accessiblelearning.com/UTTyler/> and fill out the New Student application. The Student Accessibility and Resources (SAR) office will contact you when your application has been submitted and an appointment with the Assistant Director Student Accessibility and Resources/ADA Coordinator. For more information, including filling out an application for services, please visit the SAR webpage at <https://www.uttyler.edu/disability-services>, the SAR office located in the Robert Muntz Library, LIB 460, email [saroffice@uttyler.edu](mailto:saroffice@uttyler.edu), or call 903.566.7079."

### Military Affiliated Students

UT Tyler honors the service and sacrifices of our military-affiliated students. If you are a student who is a veteran, on active duty, in the reserves or National Guard, or a military spouse or dependent, please stay in contact with your faculty member if any aspect of your present or prior service or family situation makes it difficult for you to fulfill the requirements of a course or creates disruption in your academic progress. It is important to make your faculty member aware of any complications as far in advance as possible. Your faculty member is willing to work with you and, if needed, put you in contact with university staff who are trained to assist you. The Military and Veterans Success Center (MVSC) has campus resources for military-affiliated students. The MVSC can be reached at [MVSC@uttyler.edu](mailto:MVSC@uttyler.edu) or via phone at 903.565.5972.

### Students on an F-1 Visa

To remain in compliance with Federal Regulations requirements you must do the following:

- Traditional face-to-face classes: Attend classes on the regular meeting days/times.
- Hybrid Classes: Attend all face-to-face classes convened by the instructor according to the schedule set for your specific course.
- Online course: Only one online course can count toward your full-time enrollment. Students are expected to be fully engaged and meet all requirements for the online course.

### Academic Honesty and Academic Misconduct

The UT Tyler community comes together to pledge that "Honor and integrity will not allow me to lie, cheat, or steal, nor to accept the actions of those who do." Therefore, we enforce the Student Conduct and Discipline policy in the Student Manual Of Operating Procedures (Section 8).

FERPA UT Tyler follows the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) as noted in University Policy 5.2.3. The course instructor will follow all requirements to protect your confidential information.

Absence for Official University Events or Activities This course follows the practices related to Excused Absences for University Events or Activities as noted in the Catalog.

Absence for Religious Holidays This course follows the practices related to Excused Absences for Religious Holy Days as noted in the Catalog.

Absence for Pregnant Students This course follows the requirements of Texas Laws SB 412, SB 459, SB 597/HB 1361 to meet the needs of pregnant and parenting students. Part of the supports afforded pregnant students includes excused absences. Faculty who are informed by a student of needing this support should make a referral to the Parenting Student Liaison. NOTE: Students must work with the Parenting Student Liaison in order to receive these supports. Students should reach out to the Parenting Student Liaison at [parents@uttyler.edu](mailto:parents@uttyler.edu) and also complete the Pregnant and Parenting Self-Reporting Form.

## Campus Carry

We respect the right and privacy of students who are duly licensed to carry concealed weapons in this class. License holders are expected to behave responsibly and keep a handgun secure and concealed. More information is available at <http://www.uttyler.edu/about/campus-carry/index.php>.

Note that the university boilerplate information may change before or during the semester. If it does, I will post it separately on Canvas.