

The University of Texas at Tyler
ECON 1301.D060, 1301.D061, 1301.D062

Introduction to Economics

Spring 2023

Instructor: Meryem Saygili

Email: msaygili@uttyler.edu

Place and Time: Online (Asynchronous)

Office Hours: TuTh 12:30 pm – 2:00 pm Online via Zoom (or by appointment)

[Zoom link](#)

Meeting ID: 827 2227 9821

Passcode: spring2023

Course Description: This course introduces students to the fundamental concepts of economics. The course has elements from both microeconomics and macroeconomics.

Course Objectives:

After completing this course, students will be able to

1. Describe basic economic concepts and principles.
2. Judge or interpret discussions, news, articles involving economic concepts/principles.

Grading Policy: The components of final grades are:

Exams	45%
Econ Lowdown	25%
Quizzes	20%
Discussion Assignment	10%

The course consists of four non-cumulative exams. I will drop the lowest, and the remaining three will make up **45%** of your final grade. You will have a quiz every week except for exam weeks. Similarly, I will drop the lowest quiz score, and the rest will make up **20%** of your final grade. I will assign work from the Econ Lowdown website every week. These assignments will be **25%** of your final grade. Finally, you will have a **discussion assignment**, which will constitute **10%** of your final grade. For this writing assignment, you have to find a prompt that you will relate to the concepts covered in the course. The prompt could be a TED video talk, an article from a respected print or online publication, a political or economic cartoon, a movie, a TV show, a book, a song, a poem, or a commercial. You may find more details about the discussion assignment on Canvas. I also posted some example discussions. Even though this assignment is not due until **March 26** (the week after Spring Break), it will be open from the start so, you can submit it early. All due dates are available in the course schedule below.

Grading Scale:

A	88% or greater
B	78 – 87%
C	65 – 77%
D	64 – 50%
F	below 50%

THERE IS NO MAKE-UP EXAM. The assignments in this course will be available for a whole week. Do not wait until the last minute to take tests. Unexpected things may happen. I recommend my students submit assignments a day or at least a couple of hours before they are due.

Textbook: There is no textbook. Econ Lowdown and my videos are the main sources of content.

Course Structure: We will rely on Canvas for communication. Check it regularly for announcements or any other updated materials. Make sure you receive emails sent through Canvas.

My videos (and slides), quizzes, and exams will be on Canvas under Modules. I will create weekly “Modules” where I include a list of the duties you must finish each week. The discussion assignment is available under Discussions if you want to submit it early. You will also find the discussion assignment in the weekly module when it will be due. For the Econ Lowdown assignments, you need to sign into their website. You will receive an email with your credentials to log into our Econ Lowdown course page.

Communication: Email is my preferred method of contact. I will make every effort to respond quickly to your emails. I check my emails several times a day during the week and less frequently on the weekend. When you send me an email, I will generally respond within 24 hours during the week and 48 hours on the weekend (excluding holidays). Note that I will be available via Zoom office hours regularly.

Online Proctoring: The quizzes on Canvas will be proctored using ProctorU. Beyond the cost of initial equipment needed (e.g. a camera for your computer), there will not be any additional cost for proctoring. You will need to create a ProctorU account and install the ProctorU extension before attempting any assessment. To create a ProctorU account, follow the ProctorU tool within Canvas. Please make sure you are using the current version of Chrome or Firefox and download the ProctorU extension available at <http://bit.ly/proctoruchrome> or <https://www.proctoru.com/firefox>.

In order to use ProctorU, you will need the following:

- High-speed Internet connection
- Webcam (internal or external)
- Windows, Mac, or Chrome Operating System
- Up-to-date Chrome or Firefox browser and ProctorU extension installed
- Valid photo ID
- Quiet environment to take your assessment

You can visit the Test Taker Resource Page for additional information at <https://bit.ly/ProctorMe>. If you are new to ProctorU, watch [this video](#) that explains how to take a test with ProctorU auto.

Week 1 (January 9-15)

What is economics?

Microeconomics vs. Macroeconomics

Concepts of scarcity and opportunity cost

Quiz 1 (Due on Sunday, January 15 @ 11:59 pm)

Week 2 (January 16 – 22)

Factors of Production

Economic Models:

- Circular Flow Diagram
- Production Possibilities Frontier

Quiz 2 (Due on Sunday, January 22 @ 11:59 pm)

Note: The Census date (last day to drop without W) is Monday, January 23rd.

Week 3 (January 23 - 29)

Absolute Advantage

Comparative Advantage

Specialization

Quiz 3 (Due on Sunday, January 29 @ 11:59 pm)

Week 4 (January 30 – February 5)

Benefits of Trade

International Trade

Exam 1 (Due on Sunday, February 5 @ 11:59 pm)

Week 5 (February 6 - 12)

Demand

Supply

Quiz 4 (Due on Sunday, February 12 @ 11:59 pm)

Week 6 (February 13 – 19)

Market Equilibrium

Quiz 5 (Due on Sunday, February 19 @ 11: 59 pm)

Week 7 (February 20 - 26)

Market Failures, Externalities, Public goods

Exam 2 (Due on Sunday, February 26 @ 11:59 pm)

Week 8 (February 27 – March 5)

Gross Domestic Product (GDP), GDP Growth, GDP per capita

Quiz 6 (Due on Sunday, March 5 @ 11:59 pm)

Week 9 (March 6 - 12)

Economic Growth

Quiz 7 (Due on Sunday, March 12 @ 11:59 pm)

Week 10 (March 13 – 19) SPRING BREAK

Week 11 (March 20 - 26)

Inflation

Quiz 8 (Due on Sunday, March 26 @ 11:59 pm)

Discussion Assignment (Due on Sunday, March 26 @ 11:59 pm)

Week 12 (March 27 -April 2)

Unemployment

Exam 3 (Due on Sunday, April 2 @ 11:59 pm)

Week 13 (April 3 -9)

Business Cycles

The Structure of the Federal Reserve System

Quiz 9 (Due on Sunday, April 9 @ 11:59 pm)

Week 14 (April 10 - 16)

Monetary Policy and Fiscal Policy

Quiz 10 (Due on Sunday, April 16 @ 11:59 pm)

Week 15 (April 17 – April 23)

Personal Finance

Exam 4 (Due on Sunday, April 23 @ 11:59 pm)

University Policies and Information

- **Withdrawing from Class:** Students are allowed to [withdraw](#) (drop) from this course through the University's [Withdrawal Portal](#). Texas law prohibits students who began college for the first time in Fall 2007 or thereafter from dropping more than six courses during their entire undergraduate career. This includes courses dropped at other 2-year or 4-year Texas public colleges and universities. Make sure to consider the impact withdrawing from this class has on your academic progress as well as the financial implications. We encourage you to consult your advisor(s) and financial aid 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.
- **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 are required to 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 lieu 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 course work 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 prior to 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 for a student. 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 complete 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 not been assigned within one year, then the Incomplete will be changed to an F, or to NC if the course was originally taken under the CR/NC grading basis.
- **Grade Appeal Policy:** UT Tyler's Grade Appeal policy requires the completion of a Grade Appeal form for this action to take place. The grade appeal begins with the instructor of your course. If you do not agree with the decision of the instructor, you may then move your appeal to the department chair/school director for that course. If you are still dissatisfied with the decision of the chair/director, you may move the appeal to the Dean of the College offering that course who has the final decision. Grade appeals must be initiated within sixty (60) days from the date of receiving the final course grade. The Grade Appeal form is found on the [Registrar's Form Library](#).
- **Disability/Accessibility Services:** The University of Texas at Tyler has a continuing commitment to providing reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities. Students with disabilities who may need accommodation(s) in order to fully participate in this class are urged to contact the Student Accessibility and Resources Office (SAR) as soon as possible to explore what arrangements need to be made to ensure access. If you have a disability, you are encouraged to visit the [SAR Portal](https://hood.accessiblelearning.com/UTTyler/) (<https://hood.accessiblelearning.com/UTTyler/>) and complete the New Student Application. For more information, please visit the [SAR](#) webpage 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 me 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 me aware of any complications as far

in advance as possible. I am willing to work with you and, if needed, put you in contact with university staff who are trained to assist you. Campus resources for military affiliated students are in the [Military and Veterans Success Center \(MVSC\)](#). The MVSC can be reached at MVSC@uttyler.edu, or via phone at 903.565.5972.

- **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 in protecting your confidential information.
- **COVID Guidance:** It is important to take the necessary precautions to ensure a healthy and successful year. UT Tyler continues to urge you to protect yourselves against the flu, COVID and any new threats that may be developing. Be diligent about preventive measures such as washing hands, covering sneezes/coughs, social distancing and vaccinations, which have proven to be successful in slowing the spread of viruses. Encourage those who don't feel well to stay home, and if they show symptoms, ask them to get tested for the flu or COVID. Self-isolation is important to reduce exposure ([CDC quarantine/isolation guidelines](#)). Please work with your faculty members to maintain coursework and please consult [existing campus resources](#) for support.
- **Absence for Official University Events or Activities:** This course follows the practices related to approved absences as noted by the Student Manual of Operating Procedures ([Sec. 1 -501](#)).
- **Absence for Religious Holidays:** Students who anticipate being absent from class due to a religious holiday are requested to inform the instructor by the second class-meeting of the semester.
- **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>.

Student Resources

Resources to assist you in this 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](#)