SYLLABUS ECON 5300 (Fall 2014)

Course: Econ 5300.061 (online)


Note: All times are Central Standard Time (CST)

Instructor: Luis Gautier

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

Elements of production costs, demand and market structures as well as income determination and monetary and fiscal policy. Will satisfy prerequisites calling for six hours of Principles of Economics. An introduction to economics for those without credit for Principles of Economics or who need a stronger background in Principles. One of the main objectives of this course is to expose students to the concepts of principles of economics so that they can better tackle advanced economic analysis (Econ 5320).

This course introduces students to the basic concepts of microeconomics and macroeconomics. The course, on the one hand, introduces students to the basic concepts of microeconomics; in particular, it presents the role of perfectly competitive markets in resource allocation vis-à-vis imperfectly competitive markets. Issues of efficiency are covered in this class; consumer choice theory is also discussed in this course. Additionally, the role of policy is presented within a microeconomics perspective; examples include environmental policy and health economics. On the other hand, this course deals with broad economic aggregates such as national income, the overall level of prices, unemployment, interest rates. It provides an overview of macroeconomic issues and introduces concepts concerning the overall performance of the U.S. economy. In particular, it covers business cycles, economic growth and inflation, and explores the role of government in fiscal and monetary policy.

COURSE STRUCTURE

The class material is divided into what I call modules and each of these modules consists of one or more topics. Modules are available on the "Course Documents" link on Blackboard (BB). Each module has a brief description with the required reading, resources (e.g., Power Point slides, internet resources) and assignments. In each module you will see suggested problems/activities, which aim at helping you study/apply the material. Module components which will be part of your final grade have been identified as "Graded". Information about each module is available on the link "Course Documents". Each module (and associated materials) will be made available as the semester progresses.

As a rule of thumb, there will be an assessment (e.g., quiz, test) at the end of each module, which will be part of your final grade. The time allowed for each quiz will vary across modules; information about number of questions, time limit and deadline for each quiz is provided on the document.
“Quiz_description_econ5300”, which is available on BB. As a general rule, quizzes must be completed in one sitting and have a time limit so make sure to study and learn the material well before you decide to work on the quiz.

NOTE ON THE COURSE

The material presented in this class covers that of a 1-year long introductory economics course in one semester. As a result, the course is very intensive both in terms of time and the amount of material covered. It is thus expected that students will work as independently as possible, but students should feel free to ask questions to the instructor. Students taking this course should feel comfortable with algebra and graphing techniques. As a general rule (but this may vary depending on the student’s background), students should spend at least 18 hours a week working on this class. Again, this is a 1-year long class compressed into a 15-week structure and so the ability to work independently is crucial to successfully complete this course. One of the objectives of the course (Econ 5300) is to expose students to introductory level economics to better tackle advanced economics (Econ5230), and so the current course (Econ 5300) is somewhat similar to a math course in the sense that the focus is on working through the problem sets. Econ 5320 offers a more applied approach to economics.

NOTE ON THE COURSE DYNAMIC

This is a class which is entirely online. Different students will have different schedules (work, family, etc.) and therefore asking questions either via email or Blackboard IM (see below) is the most effective way of doing so. To illustrate, students may study the material and work on homework problems and throughout this process it is advisable to send questions to the instructor via email or Blackboard IM. DO NOT wait until the last minute to clarify any questions you may have. The Discussion Board (see below) is an additional forum through which students may exchange questions.

NOTE ON QUIZZES AND TESTS

You can access quizzes, tests and homework problems on MyEconLab (see required materials below). As a general rule, for most modules there will be a quiz/test as an assessment. All quizzes and tests will be part of your final grade. It is important that you keep track of due dates for each quiz and test!

Additionally, to complete all tests, homework and quizzes on myeconlab you will need to install Pearson Lockdownbrowser. Please click here to learn more about installing the Lockdown browser software and/or go to myeconlab.com for more information.

Thus, the class material is available on BB and the course assessments and homework on myeconlab.
NOTE ON HOMEWORK

I have assigned homework problems for each module to work on MyEconLab (see the required materials section below). Homework problems will not be graded and therefore will not be part of your final grade. However, it is important that you work the suggested problems as these will help you with each assessment in each module.

EXPECTATIONS

Students are expected to meet all deadlines and work as independently as possible. Grading (see below) depends on quizzes and tests, and homework problems are therefore optional. However, students are encouraged to work on this homework problems. Feel free to ask questions on the material and homework problems. Remember: the idea is to expose you to economics concepts so that you are better prepared to tackle Advanced Economics Analysis (Econ5320) and so the more you practice the better. Students are expected to keep track of all deadlines, and University Calendar for course drop out dates and other important dates.

PLAGIARISM/CHEATING

This course will follow the policies and procedures stated in the University of Texas at Tyler Manual of Policies and Procedures for Student Affairs, chapter 8 available here http://www2.uttyler.edu/mopp/documents/MOPPChapter8StudentConductandDiscipline-updated011411.pdf

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All the course material available on Blackboard is copyrighted.

COMMUNICATION

MAKE SURE TO SPECIFY YOUR LAST NAME, COURSE AND SECTION NUMBER (e.g., econ 5300.702) in every email. Given the online setting of the class, communication between the professor and students will take place via Blackboard IM (IM messaging system in Blackboard), email, and the discussion board. You can reach me via email at lgautier@uttyler.edu. You will need to install Blackboard IM in order to have access to the messaging system (For the installation of Blackboard IM go to the “Tools” link on the left side of the screen, click on “Blackboard IM” and follow the instructions). Note: Students are expected to work as independently as possible and meet all deadlines.

Please give me between 24 and 48 hours to respond to your email during the week, and during weekends it may take more than 48 hours to respond.
OFFICE HOURS

I'll make every effort to be available online (via Blackboard IM) as much as possible (mainly during the day) and answer questions sent via email in an expeditious fashion (see the Communication section above). Please give me some time to respond to emails. Tentative times I'll be online (i.e., my office hours) via Blackboard IM are as follows: Tu, W, Th from 11:00 am – 12:00 pm. Apart from these times I’ll try to be on Blackboard IM throughout the week. Please note that OFFICE HOURS MAY CHANGE as the semester progresses. If this is the case I’ll let you know via email. Alternatively, if you'd rather “meet” with me (using an application called Zoom) to talk about the class material in more detail please let me know via email. If you decide you want to communicate via Zoom, then a session will be created and you'll receive an email so you can join the session. Please give some time to install the software needed to run the session.

Contact information: office – BUS204C; (2) phone-903 565 5397; (3) email – lgautier@uttyler.edu

Please note that questions about specific homework/quiz/test problems are more efficiently dealt with via email.

GRADING

Quizzes: 25%

Test 1: 25%

Test 2: 25%

Test 3*: 25%

*The test 3 is not comprehensive.

A: 100% - 90%; B: 89 -80; C: 79 - 70; D: 69-60; F: 59 -0

Note on Grading: Each student may access his/her scores on quizzes and tests via myeconlab.

Note on Quizzes: The lowest 4 scores of quizzes will be dropped from your final grade.

Note on Tests: I’ll drop the lowest score from the three tests.
NOTE ON TECHNICAL ISSUES

It is important to note that having issues with, but not limited to, the internet connection, software and hardware performance do not excuse students from completing the online assessments (i.e., tests and quizzes). Any issues that may arise during (or before) the completion of the assessment will not grant an extension or a re-make.

IMPORTANT

Students are expected to meet all deadlines and work as independently as possible. There is NO make-up work (i.e., extra credit) in this course.

Other University policies: student rights, absence for religious observance, absence for university-supported trips, services to students with disabilities, grade replacement, state-mandated course drop policy, emergency exit strategy, and Social Security and Privacy. A pdf of these policies can be found at http://www.uttler.edu/academicaffairs/syllabuspolicies.pdf
CLASS SCHEDULE

- for details about each module please see each module’s description file on Blackboard (BB);
- for details about due dates/times for quizzes, homework and tests see myeconlab;
- for details about the number of questions for quizzes and tests see file “Quiz_description_econ5300” (on Blackboard).

Week 1 – 8/25 – 8/29

Module 1: Read Chapter 1 (optional), Appendix to chapter 1, chapter 2 (pp. 25-27 and pp. 33-42). Work on Quiz 0 (Practice Quiz - not graded).

Module 1: Complete Quiz 1, HW Module 1.

Week 2- 9/1 – 9/5

Module 2: Read Chapter 3. Complete Quiz 2, HW Module 2.

Week 3 – 9/8 – 9/12

Module 3: Read Chapter 4. Complete Quiz 3, HW Module 3.

September 8 - Census Date: Deadline for all registration, schedule changes, and section changes.

Week 4- 9/15 - 9/19


Week 5 – 9/22 - 9/26

Module 5: Read Chapter 6, Appendix to chapter 6. Complete Quiz 5, HW Module 5

Week 6 – 9/29 - 10/3

Module 6: Read Chapter 7, Appendix to chapter 7. Complete Quiz 6, HW Module 6.

Week 7 – 10/6 - 10/10

Module 7: Read Chapter 8, 9. HW Module 7.

Week 8 – 10/13 - 10/17

Module 7: Read Chapter 8, 9. Complete Quiz 7, HW Module 7. Complete Test 2.

Week 9 – 10/20 - 10/24
Module 8: Read Chapter 13 (pp. 269-282), 14 (pp. 293-303) and complete Quiz 8-1, HW Module 8.

Week 10 – 10/27 - 10/31

Module 8: Read Chapter 15 (entire chapter) and 16 (pp. 329-339) and complete Quiz 8-2, complete HW Module 8.

October 27- Last day to withdraw from one or more courses.

Week 11 – 11/3 - 11/7

Module 9: Read Chapters 20, 21, 22. Complete Quiz 9, HW Module 9.

Week 12 – 11/10 - 11/14

Module 10: Read Chapter 23. HW Module 10 & 11.

Week 13 – 11/17 - 11/21


Week 14 – 11/24 - 11/28

Module 12: Read Chapters 25, 26. Complete Quiz 12, HW Module 12

Week 15 – 12/1 - 12/5


Week 16 – 12/8 - 12/12

Finals Week. Complete Test 3.

You may find more information about the University calendar here.
KEY LEARNING OBJECTIVES

1. Introduce students to the basic concepts of microeconomics and macroeconomics.
2. Develop an understanding of the role of price theory (neoclassical microeconomics) in resource allocation.
3. Develop an understanding of the main theoretical macroeconomic models and policy implications.

REQUIRED MATERIALS

Textbook:


2. Optional: We’ll be reading a bit from Introduction to Health Economics, 2nd edition, by Lorna Guinness and Virginia Wiseman (ISBN 978-0-335-24356-3). This text is available as an Ebook from the UT-Tyler library, but access may be restricted. Check with the library if this title (or parts of it) can be downloaded as an Ebook and if access is restricted to one user at a time. This is an optional class resource, which may be useful for those of you in the health care MBA program.

MyEconLab: Students are required to purchase access to this resource. For this class all quizzes, tests and homework problems will be available on MyEconLab. MyEconLab is based on Case, Oster and Fair Principles of Economics 10th edition. You may register on myeconlab August 23. The course per se starts August 25, 2014. Please see www.myeconlab.com

In order to register you will also need the following Course ID: gautier97633

Your Course Name: Econ5300 Fall 2014 (15-week)

Using this information code, go to the following link to register:
http://www.pearsonmylabandmastering.com/northamerica/myeconlab/students/get-registered/index.html

For more information on how register please go to the “How to Register on Myeconlab” link on Blackboard.

It is important that you explore the resources available on MyEconLab (e.g., textbook resources, help videos) to study for quizzes and tests!

Additional information about myeconlab is available here.

Make sure to check your browser: go to the “Check your browser” link here:
http://www.pearsonmylabandmastering.com/northamerica/myeconlab/students/get-registered/index.html
**Note:** the due date/time for each quiz/test stipulated on myeconlab indicates the deadline for the corresponding quiz/test, no matter the time you actually start working on the assessment. This means that at the due date/time you won't be able to continue working on the quiz and it will be submitted automatically with questions you answered. Unanswered questions will be counted as incorrect.

To illustrate, suppose, for example, that for a given quiz, call it "Quiz A", the due date/time is 2/3/12, 9 pm. Suppose further that Quiz A consists of 10 questions and you have 1 hour to complete the quiz. Notice that if (i) you start working on this quiz at, say, 2/3/12, 8:30 pm, and (ii) at 8:59 pm you are only half way through the quiz, then at 9 pm you won't be able to continue working on the quiz and it will be submitted automatically at 9 pm with the questions you have answered. Unanswered questions will be counted as incorrect. Additionally, after 9 pm you won't be able to re-access the quiz either.

So, when planning on taking your assessments make sure you keep in mind the due date/time.

If you have any questions about this please let me know.

**Note on required textbook:**

(1) You have the choice of purchasing the 10th edition of Case and Fair as an E-text (e.g., via the Kindle edition). Also, you may purchase the e-text via myeconlab once you go through the course registration process using the Course ID.

Extra resources:

1. Apart from the required textbook, I'll assign additional readings from other textbooks, articles and videos. You can find out more about the required reading in each module on Blackboard.

2. The Khan Academy gives access (for free!) to short videos on some of the topics in this class. I encourage you to explore this resource since it is a nice complement to the assigned reading and homework problems: [http://www.khanacademy.org/#microeconomics](http://www.khanacademy.org/#microeconomics). It is important to remember that these video do not serve as a substitute for the assigned reading.