

Economics 1101-002
Economics of Social Issues
Spring 2020

Instructor: Kevin Crimmins
Office: 218D Friday Building
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Office Hours: MWF: 9:40 am – 11:00 am and by appointment

Course Website: <http://canvas.uncc.edu>
Textbook: Economic Analysis of Social Issues
Author: Alan Grant
Publisher: Pearson

Course Description: Economic issues without principles-level emphasis on theoretical models. Contemporary economic issues may include international issues, recession, poverty, social security, taxes, and crime. A student is ineligible to take this course if credit has already been received for either ECON 2101 or ECON 2102.

This course is a blended course of face-to-face instruction and online learning activities. Students are expected to have read and prepared to discuss the chapter being covered in class BEFORE the class session. The instructor will lead a class discussion over the main themes of the chapter, however the entirety of the material will be the responsibility of the student through the reading of the text and the completion of the online learning activities.

Course Objectives: This course satisfies a Social Science requirement under the Inquiry in the Sciences section of the General Education Requirements. Along with other course objectives, this course will help the student to develop problem-solving skills; skills associated with independent thinking; and will address social, political, and global issues using tools of economic analysis.

Course Policies

Academic Integrity: All students are required to read and abide by the Code of Student Academic Integrity. Violations of the Code of Student Academic Integrity, including plagiarism, will result in disciplinary action as provided in the Code. Definitions and examples of plagiarism are set forth in the Code. The Code is available from the Dean of Students Office or online at <https://legal.uncc.edu/policies/up-407> (This code forbids cheating, fabrication or falsification of information, multiple submissions of academic work, plagiarism, abuse of academic materials, and complicity in academic dishonesty.) Any special requirements or permission regarding academic integrity in this course will be stated by the instructor and are binding on the students. Academic evaluations in this course include a judgment that the student's work is free from academic dishonesty of any type; and grades in this course therefore should be and will be adversely affected by academic dishonesty. Students who violate the code can be expelled from UNC Charlotte. The normal penalty for a first offense is zero credit on the work involving dishonesty and further substantial reduction of the course grade. Standards of academic integrity will be enforced in this course. Students are expected to report cases of academic dishonesty to the course instructor.

Diversity: The Belk College of Business strives to create an inclusive academic climate in which the dignity of all individuals is respected and maintained. Therefore, we celebrate diversity that includes, but is not limited to ability/disability, age, culture, ethnicity, gender, language, race, religion, sexual orientation, and socio-economic status.

Academic Accommodations: UNC Charlotte is committed to access to education. If you have a disability and need academic accommodations, please provide a letter of accommodation from Disability Services early in the semester. For more information on accommodations, contact the Office of Disability Services at 704-687-0040 or visit their office at Fretwell 230.

Attendance: Attendance will be taken each day in class. Attendance counts for 5% of your final grade. Each unexcused absence after 2 will reduce your attendance grade. The 3rd unexcused absence will reduce your overall

attendance grade by 20%, and your 4th and 5th unexcused absence will reduce your overall attendance grade by 40% each. This means after 5 unexcused absences, you will receive a 0% on your overall attendance grade.

Students are expected to arrive on time and stay the entire class period. If you are not present in the classroom while I have checked your spot for attendance and you are present for that entire class, you must see me after class to have your attendance recorded. Attendance records for attending class will not be changed after the end of class.

When attending, it is expected that you will conduct yourself in a professional manner during class by being attentive. You do not need to notify me when you will be missing class. To have an absence excused, you must submit documentation to the Dean of Students Office's absence verification program. <https://sass.uncc.edu/services/absence-verification> Only absences that can be verified by the university's absence verification program will be excused.

Make-up work: There are NO make-up quizzes, NO make-up homework assignments. Make-up tests with full-credit potential will only be provided for students who are representing the university during the exam or have missed an exam due to an absence vetted and cleared by the Dean of Students Office.

Make-up exams must be completed within one week of the original test date. If the absence is unexcused, there is a 20 percentage point reduction of the student's make-up exam grade.

If a student is participating in university business during a scheduled exam, the student must provide the instructor with a written statement from university officials validating the activity before the exam. If a student misses the test for a valid reason verified by the Dean of Students Office, the Dean of Students Office will provide a leniency request letter to the instructor and at that point, the instructor will remove the 20 percentage point penalty from the student's make-up exam grade. <https://sass.uncc.edu/services/absence-verification>

Contacting Instructor: Please feel free to email me at kevin.crimmins@uncc.edu. I will respond within 24 hours. Also, I will have office hours in 218D of the Friday Building at the times listed above.

Electronic Devices: Please put away all cell phones and computers before class begins. If you are expecting a life-or death phone call, let me know.

Inclement Weather: In the event of inclement weather that closes the university the day of a scheduled test, the test is automatically rescheduled for the next class meeting. In the event of inclement weather, I will assess the safety of traveling to class and make an appropriate decision that balances safety and class obligations. I recommend that you do the same. If possible, I will message the class prior to the regular class time. (You are advised to save your free absences for the possibility of inclement weather as well as other unforeseen contingencies).

Grading

Homework: Homework constitutes 25% of the final grade. Required homework assignments will be completed and submitted through Canvas. You have 3 (three) attempts to complete each homework assignment; the highest score of the three attempts will be the grade for the homework assignment. The homework assignments are intended to help you learn the material. The worst mistake students make in doing homework is to wait until the last minute, just before the time limit expires, to try and cram in the assignment without actually learning anything. I know the strategy with assignments like these is usually to just click on answers until you get the right one and move on. That won't help you learn. I will not lecture on all the material in class, so it is in your best interest to read the book before and during the homework. You should also be proactive about asking for help with concepts that aren't clear and studying with your classmates. DO NOT miss your deadlines – I will not extend any deadlines. Your lowest homework grade will be dropped.

Quizzes: Quizzes constitute 10% of the final grade. Required quizzes will be completed and submitted through Canvas. The quizzes are intended to see how prepared you are for a test on the material. You have 2 (two) attempts to complete each quiz; the highest score between the two attempts will be the grade for the quiz. Quizzes

are intended to be completed in one setting. Your lowest quiz grade will be dropped. DO NOT miss your deadlines – I will not extend any deadlines.

Tests and Final Exam: Tests constitute 60% of the final grade. There will be four in-semester tests and one optional cumulative final exam. If the cumulative final exam is taken, the score on the final exam will either replace the student's lowest test grade or not count if the final exam grade is the lowest exam grade. Each exam will be comprised of multiple choice questions and will be taken using OpSCAN forms. Students should be prepared for the tests by bringing a calculator and pencils (cell phones ≠ calculators). Please note, students are not allowed to leave the classroom and return during an exam, so please take care of personal business before entering the room for the exam. Students who arrive late for tests will be permitted to take the test. However, there will be a 10% reduction of the test score for students arriving after one test has been turned in. A student who begins an exam late will not be given extra time at the end of the regular test period.

TEST SCHEDULE (Test dates are firm)

Test 1 – Monday, February 3rd

Test 2 – Friday, February 28th

Test 3 – Wednesday, April 1st

Test 4 – Monday, April 27th

Optional Final – See University Exam Schedule

Grade Calculation: Your grade is computed with the following formula:

$$\text{GRADE} = \text{Test Avg} \times 60\% + \text{Homework Avg} \times 25\% + \text{Quiz Avg} \times 10\% + \text{Attendance} \times 5\%$$

Your course grade is determined by the following scale in percentage (your final, overall grade will be rounded to the nearest whole number):

A = 90 or above

B = 80 – 89

C = 70 – 79

D = 60 – 69

F = below 60