Economics 1101-090
Economics of Social Issues
Spring 2014

Instructor: Kevin Crimmins
Office: 218C Friday Building
E-Mail: kerimmi1@uncc.edu
Office Hours: M: 5:00pm – 6:00pm
W: 2:15pm – 3:15pm

Course Website: http://moodle.uncc.edu (All course materials are available on Moodle)
Textbook: Economics of Social Issues (required)
Author: Sharp, Register, and Grimes
Publisher: McGraw Hill/Irwin
ISBN: 9780073523248
Text Web Page: http://www.mhhe.com/sharp20e
eTextbook: http://www.coursesmart.com/9780073523248

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.

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: Students have the responsibility to know and observe the requirements of The UNC Charlotte Code of Student Academic Integrity. (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. In almost all cases, the course grade is reduced to F. Copies of the code can be obtained from the Dean of Students Office. 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.
Clickers: Each student is required to have their own ResponseCard NXT clicker and to register it for this class in Moodle ASAP. To register your clicker, select ECON 1101 in your Moodle class list, click on “Clicker Registration” in the “Clickers” box that is located on the upper, right-hand side of the class page, and enter your Device ID. When you enter your Device ID located on the rear of your clicker, know that the Device ID will not have any alpha-letters “O”, “I”, or “L”. Any characters that looks like those letters are a “zero” or a “one”.

You will use your clicker to participate in class and answer quiz and test questions. Failure to bring your clicker to class is the same as not attending. You will be unable to take a test, quiz, or participate in class without your clicker. So, make sure to bring it to every class.

Using another student’s clicker to enter responses in their absence is a violation of the academic integrity code. To that end, there is no plausible motive for possessing another student’s clicker other than to complete a test, a quiz, or attendance for an absent student. Consequently, possession of another student’s clicker will be taken as evidence of intent to violate the academic integrity code and will be prosecuted to the fullest extent allowed under the UNC-Charlotte Academic Integrity Code. Any student found improperly using “Clickers” in the classroom are violating UNC Charlotte’s Code of Student Academic Integrity in their improper use of “Clickers” in the classroom. These violations include, but are not limited to, the following examples:

- Using a classmates clicker for quizzes, tests, or attendance.
- Using a clicker to register for attendance without being present in the classroom.
- Using a clicker for attendance and immediately leaving the classroom for the remainder of the class session.

According to the Code of Student Academic Integrity, the aforementioned examples are classified as:

- Cheating. Intentionally using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information, notes, study aids or other devices in any academic exercise. This definition includes unauthorized communication of information during an academic exercise.
- Complicity in Academic Dishonesty. Intentionally or knowingly helping or attempting to help another to commit an act of academic dishonesty.

Attendance: Attendance is taken with the Turning Technologies clicker system. Therefore, each student is required to bring his or her own clicker to each class meeting. Students are counted present by recording an answer (either correct or incorrect) of clicker questions asked during the class period. If you forget your clicker, you may be counted present one time during the semester by providing written and dated notice at the end of class that you were present but did not have your clicker. If there is a quiz the day you forget your clicker, please write your answers to the quiz on your dated notice to receive credit for the quiz. You may receive attendance and quiz credit for no more than one “forgotten clicker” incident. Because I do not audit student attendance on a daily basis, I will accept multiple “forgot my clicker” statements from the same student. Realize that at the end of the semester, only one “forgot my clicker” statement will be honored and all other such incidents will be treated as absences.

Clicker attendance will be posted to Moodle by the end of the each class period. Each student is responsible for checking Moodle by the following class meeting to insure that their attendance is properly recorded to the student’s individual Moodle account and to report recording errors to the course instructor prior to the next class meeting. Failure to report clicker attendance recording errors prior to the next class meeting will result in loss of the opportunity to have errors corrected.

Students who miss two classes may drop their lowest test, but are still required to take the final. Students who miss zero or one class may choose to drop the final as their lowest test and therefore not take the
final exam if they are satisfied with their test average. There are no excused absences under this policy for any reason – do not ask! Students are advised to behave maturely and “bank” their absences in the event of an illness or other unforeseen event.

Students are expected to attend, to arrive on time, and to stay the entire class period. When missing class, students will be expected to obtain class notes or assignments from other students in the class, not from me. It is expected that you will conduct yourself in a professional manner during class by being attentive and by refraining from extraneous conversation with your neighbor.

Recent empirical evidence suggests that certain learning objectives cannot be mastered while multi-tasking. Although I am not aware of specific empirical evidence for studying economics, I am quite certain that economics is a learning objective that requires your full attention. You are advised against surfing the net, texting or other multi-tasking during class. You should come to class every day expecting to devote your full attention to economics.

Groups: Each student will be randomly assigned to a group for the purpose of completing weekly homework assignments, which include short presentations to the class. Over the course of the semester, each group member is required to participate in at least one presentation. Also, each member of the group will receive the same grade on each assignment. At the end of the semester, each student’s overall homework grade may be adjusted based on feedback from other group members. There will be a total of 10 groups.

Make-up work and late work: There are NO makeup tests, NO makeup quizzes, NO makeup homeworks, and NO late work except for students away representing the university. If you miss an exam (due to illness, family emergency, car trouble, or any other reason besides representing the university), plan to count the zero grade as your lowest test score and make sure to miss four or fewer classes so that the grade will be dropped. See Attendance for more detail.

Contacting Instructor: Please feel free to email me at kcrimmi1@uncc.edu. I will respond within 24 hours. Also, I will have office hours in 218C of the Friday Building at the times listed above.

Cell phones: Please turn off cell phones and pagers before class begins. If you are expecting a life-or-death phone call, let me know. Otherwise, please no phones. It is very distracting for me and for those around you.

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 make a posting on Moodle prior to the regular class time. (You are advised to save your free absence for the possibility of inclement weather as well as other unforeseen contingencies).

Grading

Homework and Quizzes: This class will be more like a seminar class than a lecture class. 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 chapter, however the discussion will be driven by students’ questions and short presentations of homework questions. The homework questions will be completed in groups. (See Groups above.) Each group will be responsible for either two discussion questions at the end of each chapter or one web-based question (see “Web-Based Questions”
and “Web-Based Questions Schedule” under Homework Resources on Moodle.). When your group is not scheduled to cover a Web-Based Question for a chapter, your group is responsible for two (2) discussion questions.

Homework questions will be graded based on the in-class presentation and a submitted written response to the questions. Each group is responsible for submitting their written answers on Moodle by 11:55 pm the day before their presentation. If the written answers are not submitted by the appropriate deadline, the maximum grade for that homework will be 50%. The presentations will be graded on accuracy of material presented, effectiveness of communicating the material to the class, and how well the presenters answer questions from the class and the instructor regarding material presented.

We will take one class session to cover each chapter. During the first part of class, we will have a general discussion of the material led by students’ questions and group presentations of Discussion Questions. Groups will choose their Discussion Questions for each chapter on Moodle under Homework Resources. During the second part of class, groups scheduled to cover the Web-Based Questions for the chapter will make their presentations, and we will have a quiz covering the chapter.

Each quiz can only be completed using the Turning Technologies system clicker available with the textbook listed for this section of the course. If you forget your clicker, you may receive credit for your answers one time. Quizzes are to be completed closed notes and closed neighbor. Clicker quiz grades will be posted to Moodle by the end of the day on which the quiz is given. Students are responsible to check Moodle by the end of the day on which the quiz is given. Students are responsible to check Moodle by the following class meeting to insure that quiz scores are properly recorded to the student’s individual Moodle account and to report recording errors to the course instructor prior to the next class meeting. Failure to report clicker score recording errors prior to the next class meeting will result in loss of the opportunity to have errors corrected.

Tests: There will be two “mid-term” tests. Each test (100 points) will be comprised of multiple choice, true false, and short answer questions. The test will be taken using clickers. It is possible that other formats may be used. Students should be prepared for the tests by bringing a calculator and pencils (cell phones ≠ calculators). Test grades will be made available either via e-mail or on Moodle or both. I will e-mail the class when grades are available. 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 and/or the final examination will be permitted to take the test or exam provided that no student has turned in their paper prior to the student’s arrival. Once a paper has been turned in, late arriving students will not be permitted to begin the test or exam. A student who begins a test or exam late will not be given extra time at the end of the regular test or examination period.

Final Exam: According to the current University exam schedule, the final for this class is the following: Wednesday, May 5th, 8:00pm to 10:30pm. The final exam is cumulative (100 points) and optional for those who have an attendance record of zero to one absence. The final exam grade has the same weight as a test and will be included in the test average. See below.

Calculating the grade: Your grade is computed with the following formula:

Average(%) = (Test Average) x 50% + (Homework Average) x 30% + (Quiz Average) x 20%

Your course grade is determined by the following scale in percentage (there is no rounding):

A = 90.00 or above
B = 80.00 – 89.999
C = 70.00 – 79.999
D = 60.00 – 69.999
F = below 60
**Tentative Calendar**  
May be modified based on constraints.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan 13</td>
<td>Overview of Course and Class Resources, Chapter 1</td>
<td>Mar 17</td>
<td>Test 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan 20</td>
<td><strong>No Class</strong></td>
<td>Mar 24</td>
<td>Chapter 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 27</td>
<td>Chapter 2</td>
<td>Mar 26</td>
<td><strong>Last Day to withdraw from the course with a “W” grade</strong> and retain other courses</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 3</td>
<td>Chapter 3</td>
<td>Mar 31</td>
<td>Chapter 9</td>
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<td>Feb 10</td>
<td>Chapter 4</td>
<td>Apr 7</td>
<td>Chapter 10</td>
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<td>Chapter 5</td>
<td>Apr 14</td>
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<td>Chapter 6</td>
<td>Apr 21</td>
<td>Chapter 12</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Apr 28</td>
<td><strong>Test 2</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar 10</td>
<td>Chapter 7</td>
<td>May 5</td>
<td><strong>Final</strong></td>
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**TEST SCHEDULE** (Test dates are firm. Chapters will be updated if we get behind.)  
Test 1 – Monday, March 17th  
Test 2 – Monday, April 28th

**FINAL EXAM SCHEDULE** (Optional and Cumulative)  
Wednesday, May 5th, 8:00pm to 10:30pm