Economics for Non-Majors
Fall 2019 – ECON 1101 Section 090
Wednesday 7:00 - 9:45
Classroom: Friday 142

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Honors Office UNC Charlotte
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Office Hours: after class when available and making arrangements prior to the class meeting

Description of the Course:

Economic issues without emphasis on theoretical models. Contemporary economic issues such as pollution control, health care, unemployment, and crime are studied. This course will expose students to both economic issues and the economic way of thinking.

TEXTBOOK/COURSE MATERIALS:

Additional Articles/Cases, & Course Notes From Professor: Provided via CANVAS / Email

COURSE POLICIES

CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS: This syllabus contains the policies and expectations I have established for this course. Please read the entire syllabus carefully before continuing in this course. These policies and expectations are intended to create a productive learning atmosphere for all students. Unless you are prepared to abide by these policies and expectations, you risk losing the opportunity to participate further in the course.

MAINTAINING ORDERLY AND PRODUCTIVE CLASSROOM CONDUCT: I will conduct this class in an atmosphere of mutual respect. I encourage your active participation in class discussions. Each of us may have strongly differing opinions on the various topics of class discussions. The conflict of ideas is encouraged and welcome. The orderly questioning of the ideas of others, including mine, is similarly welcome. However, I will exercise my responsibility to manage the discussions so that ideas and argument can proceed in an orderly fashion. You should expect that if your conduct during class discussions seriously disrupts the atmosphere of mutual respect I expect in this class, you will not be permitted to participate further. You should also be respectful of your peers; any student leaving during a class presentation by another student or students will be counted absent for the class session.

POLICY ON ABSENTEEISM OR TARDINESS: Students are expected to attend every class and remain in class for the duration of the session. Failure to attend class or arriving late may impact your ability to
Economics for Non-Majors

Course Title: Principles of Economics

Description of Course:

The course is designed to provide a broad introduction to economic theory and its applications in real-world scenarios. It covers topics such as microeconomics, macroeconomics, and the role of economics in decision-making processes. The course aims to enhance students' understanding of economic concepts and their relevance in contemporary society.

Textbook:

Principles of Economics

Assignment Policies:

Classroom Expectations:

The course is conducted in a lecture format, and students are expected to actively participate in class discussions. Attendance is mandatory, and regular participation is crucial for understanding the course material.

Grading Criteria:

The grading is based on a combination of regular assessments and a final exam. Assignments, including homework and quizzes, will be given to reinforce learning and assess understanding.

Access to Resources:

All course materials and resources are accessible through the Canvas platform. Students are required to register for the course on Canvas and access all course materials through it.

Policy on Misconduct:

Any form of misconduct detected during the course will result in disciplinary actions. This includes academic dishonesty, plagiarism, and other forms of cheating.

Policy on Incomplete Grades:

Incomplete grades are not awarded in this course. Students who are unable to complete the course due to unforeseen circumstances must formally request an incomplete grade from the instructor.

Note: The information provided is general and serves as an example only.
achieve course objectives which could affect your course grade. An absence, excused or unexcused, does not relieve a student of any course requirement. Regular class attendance is a student’s obligation, as is a responsibility for all the work of class meetings, including tests and written tasks. Any unexcused absence or excessive tardiness may result in a loss of participation points.

CLASS ABSENCE(S): The authority to excuse a student’s class absence(s) and to grant a student an academic accommodation (turn in a late assignment(s), provide extra time on an assignment, reschedule an exam(s) etc.) sits with the individual instructor. Students are encouraged to work directly with their instructors regarding their absence(s). You should also be respectful of your peers; any student leaving during a class presentation by another student or students will be counted absent for the class session.

SPECIFIC ATTENDANCE POLICY FOR THIS COURSE: Attendance is mandatory, and I will take attendance at the beginning of every class. You may not miss classes without suffering the consequences set forth in the Student Rights and Responsibilities Manual. Come to class on time for a number of reasons, not least as a courtesy to your fellow students and me. I reserve the right to consider you absent if you are not present when I take attendance at the beginning of class. PLEASE ARRIVE ON TIME - there will be times when I am NOT able to arrive exactly on time and there will be activities for you to complete before I arrive facilitated by our unofficial TA students. Since class participation is impossible if you are absent from class, excessive absences (2 or more) will result in a letter-grade reduction in your final grade. TO BE CLEAR: 2 or more absences without some medical excuse will result in a grade no higher than a “B” — this is a grade ceiling, to use the language of economics. Part of your grade is based on a presentation to the class, and attendance for these assignments in particular is very important. Perfect attendance in class will earn participation points, which is part of how you are graded in this course during the semester.

REVISION OF THE SYLLABUS DURING THE SEMESTER: The standards and requirements set forth in this syllabus may be modified at any time by the course instructor. Notice of such changes will be by announcement in class, or by written or email notice, or by changes to this syllabus posted on the course website on CANVAS.

POLICY ON THE INSTRUCTOR’S ABSENCE OR TARDINESS: If I am late in arriving to class, you must wait a full 20 minutes after the start of class before you may leave without being counted absent, or you must follow any written instructions I may give you about my anticipated tardiness.

STUDENTS’ RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES IN OBTAINING DISABILITY ACCOMMODATIONS: Students in this course seeking accommodations to disabilities must first consult with the Office of Disability Services and follow the instructions of that office for obtaining 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 in Fretwell 230.

NON-DISCRIMINATION IN THE CLASSROOM: All students and the instructor are expected to engage with each other respectfully. Unwelcome conduct directed toward another person based upon that person’s actual or perceived race, actual or perceived gender, color, religion, age, national origin, ethnicity, disability, or veteran status, or for any other reason, may constitute a violation of University Policy 406, The Code of Student Responsibility. Any student suspected of engaging in such conduct will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

MAKE-UP WORK AND LATE WORK: There are NO makeup tests, no makeup homework, etc. and NO late work will be accepted except for students away representing the university.

CLASS PARTICIPATION: I expect you to have done the assigned reading and to be fully prepared to participate. You should not hesitate to ask questions or contribute to any ongoing discussion. You may earn points on your final grade for outstanding participation, and I reserve the right to deduct points from your final grade if you are repeatedly unprepared, excessively tardy or simply do not participate. Also - this
class will involve discussion and exchange of ideas; this is to be carried out in a respectful, courteous, and non-chaotic manner. IMPORTANT NOTE: classroom decorum will be observed and enforced per University policies at all times; this means that our discussions will remain both polite and conducted with respect throughout the semester. Rudeness and inappropriate commentary, interruptions, and disruptions will not be tolerated.

**LAPTOPS:** Students who take notes on a computer frequently fall into the trap of transcribing the lecture...It is also very easy to become distracted by e-mail or instant messaging, the Internet, or other computer applications and to miss what is happening in the classroom. Students have told me in prior semesters that having fellow students around them on e-mail, IM, Facebook, and the Internet is distracting and disruptive. In addition, I have noticed that students who are using the Internet frequently ask me to repeat what I have said, which slows us down as a class. For that reason, do not use the Internet (including IM and e-mail applications) in class. Violations will be penalized as noted above for lack of class participation. To be clear: Laptops should **NOT** be used unless authorized for class activities. PLEASE SEE ME IF THIS PRESENTS A PROBLEM.

**USE OF CELL PHONES, SMART PHONES, OR OTHER MOBILE COMMUNICATION DEVICES IN THE CLASSROOM:** The use of cell phones, smart phones, or other mobile communication devices is disruptive, and is therefore **prohibited during class.** Except in emergencies, those using such devices must leave the classroom for the remainder of the class period.

**PROHIBITION ON RECORDING IN THE CLASSROOM:** Electronic video and/or audio recording is **not permitted** during class unless the student obtains permission from the instructor. If permission is granted, any distribution of the recording is prohibited. Students with specific electronic recording accommodations authorized by the Office of Disability Services do not require instructor permission; however, the instructor must be notified of any such accommodation prior to recording. Any distribution of such recordings is prohibited.

**CAMPUS POLICIES AND SERVICES**

- **Academic Integrity and Plagiarism:** Students have the responsibility to know the requirements of and abide by the [UNCC Code of Student Academic Integrity](https://www.uncc.edu) 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 UNCC. 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. Standards of academic integrity will be enforced in this course. Students are expected to report cases of academic dishonesty to the course instructor.

- **Title IX:** UNC Charlotte is committed to providing an environment free of all forms of discrimination and sexual harassment, including sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. If you (or someone you know) has experienced or experiences any of these incidents, know that you are not alone. UNC Charlotte has staff members trained to support you in navigating campus life, accessing health and counseling services, providing academic and housing accommodations, helping with legal protective orders, and more. If you wish to speak to someone confidentially, you can contact any of the following on-campus resources, who are not required to report the incident to the Title IX Coordinator: (1) University Counseling Center ([counselingcenter.uncc.edu](https://counselingcenter.uncc.edu), 687-0311); (2) Student Health Center ([studenthealth.uncc.edu](https://studenthealth.uncc.edu), 687-7400); or (3) Center for Wellness Promotion ([wellness.uncc.edu](https://wellness.uncc.edu), 687-7407). Additional information about your options is also available at [titleix.uncc.edu](https://titleix.uncc.edu) under the “Students” tab.
• Disability Services: Students with documented disabilities who need accommodations with regard to assignments and/or exams should inform the instructor at the beginning of the semester. Students with disabilities are encouraged to visit disability services (http://ds.uncc.edu, Fretwell 230, 704-687-0040).

• Multicultural Resource Center: This center offers a host of multicultural programs providing expanded learning opportunities for students while honoring the unique diversity present at UNC Charlotte and the greater Charlotte community. (http://mrc.uncc.edu, Student Union Room 210, 704-687-7121).

• Academic and Personal Support: If you find yourself struggling with this course, please make an appointment to meet with the instructor and/or seek academic support before it is too late. (See Academic Excellence/Tutorial Services; http://ucae.uncc.edu/, Colvard 2300, 704-687-7837)

• Religious Holidays: Students who observe religious holidays that happen to fall during class time will be asked to fill out and submit a Religious Holiday Observance Form before the census date for the semester, preferably during the first week of class. Students will not be penalized for being absent from class in observance of a religious holiday as long as they have notified the instructor of their absence via the Religious Holiday Observance Form the first week of class. (See NC General Assembly approved law codified as NCGS116-11(3a).) This form falls under the guidelines of the Honor Code. Any fabrication or dishonest statement will be considered a violation of the honor code and will be referred to the Academic Integrity Board.

DIVERSITY STATEMENT: 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 create diversity that includes, but is not limited to ability/disability, age, culture, ethnicity, gender, language, race, religion, sexual orientation, and socio-economic status.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY: Students have the responsibility to know and observe the requirements of The UNCC Code of Student Academic Integrity. This code forbids cheating, fabrication or falsification of information, multiple submission 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 UNCC. This 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.

• Preferred Gender Pronoun: This course affirms people of all gender expressions and gender identities. If you prefer to be called a different name than what is indicated on the class roster, please let me know. Feel free to correct me on your preferred gender pronoun. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

• Inclement Weather Policy: In the event of inclement weather, the Office of Public Relations will contact radio and television stations in the area should it be necessary to close the University. There is also a University Inclement Weather Line at 704-687-1900. I will follow whatever the University decides with respect to class cancellation. The Business College advises students to use their best judgment as to conditions in their area.
A NOTE (GUIDE) ON GRADING PHILOSOPHY:

Here is a little on my philosophy of grading assessments, whether they are individual or group projects, written or presentation-type assignments. My goal is to promote learning and thinking, and to reward effort. Though there is no "curve" in this class, I do grade all assessments in relation to each other - to be specific though there is no curve, when it is clear that students put in a lot of effort, that effort will be rewarded with a correspondingly higher grade. If everyone puts in a great effort, everyone will receive a higher grade, and I have no issue with that. If, however, some students clearly haven't put an effort into assignments then the graded outcome will be lower, relatively speaking. You will have a practice assignment, and will always receive good sample work after every assignment has been handed in, to give you a better and more specific idea of what expectations are for excellent quality assignments.

Course Evaluation: Assessments will include:

1. Student Participation (5%): Each student will be responsible for participating throughout the course of the semester in several in-class exercises that will demonstrate ideas in economics. In addition students will gain points for perfect attendance, class discussion, and other ways in which you can participate. As mentioned above in the attendance policies of the course, there is a penalty for missing class. Each absence in addition to the policy stated above will cost 1 points of the 5 from the student's participation grade (as well as the grading "cap").

2. "Practice" Examination Question (10%) - We will have an in class short essay question (one question) that will be practice in the same format and style as the midterm and final examination. This also will be open book and notes, and will be due at the end of the class. This will be completed before the midterm reporting period so that you will know where you stand in the progression of the course.

3. Midterm Examination (30%) - This will be an in class, open book three question examination. Students will be able to use textbooks, class notes, and any other materials that you want to bring to class. The format will be several short answer essay questions. Aspects of the question's answer will come from the class discussions, and good complete answers will use class discussion and other provided sources to incorporate economics ideas and research. An example will be provided in class, as well as a "practice" question. The midterm will cover the first half of the course material.

4. Final Examination (30%) - This will be an in class, open book three question examination. Students will be able to use textbooks, class notes, and any other materials that you want to bring to class. The format will be several short answer essay questions. Aspects of the question's answer will come from the class discussions, and good complete answers will use class discussion and other provided sources to incorporate economics ideas and research. The final will cover the second half of the course material as well as your knowledge of free market theory.

5. "Issue" Presentation (15%) - we will have a number of economics topics where there are two sides of an opposing issue - for example, in our discussion of the minimum wage, there are opinions on whether or not it can be raised without a significant impact on employment. Students will be broken into small groups of several students each and for their topic on the night it is discussed will be responsible for a brief presentation and leading some of the discussion.

6. "Pop Quiz" Examination Question (10%) - We will have an in class short essay question (one question) that will be in the same format and style as the midterm and final examination. This also will be open book and notes, and will be due at the end of the class during one of the class sessions chosen at random.
## Course Assignments - Fall 2019

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Assignment / Class Activity-Assignment</th>
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| 8/21  | Introduction to the course; discussion of syllabus and assignments. | **Economics Worldview, Part I**  
Assignment of Groups |
| 8/28  | The Role of Economic Reasoning  
**OBJECTIVES:** To understand how wants are satisfied by means. To understand the purposes of studying economics; understand some basic ideas about the field.  
**KEY TERMS:** Poverty; GDP | **SOCIAL CH 1**  
Class Seat Auction Exercise |
| 9/4   | Economic Systems & Resource Allocation  
**OBJECTIVES:** To understand the difference among different ways of organizing the factors and means of production  
**KEY TERMS:** Competitive market (capitalism), command economy, competitive market equilibrium | **SOCIAL CH 2**  
*Adam Smith: Wealth of Nations*  
Article: *Recovering the Case for Capitalism* (Moodle)  
Examination "practice" question |
| 9/11  | Government Control of Prices  
**OBJECTIVES:** To understand the effects of price controls in an economy  
**KEY TERMS:** Price ceilings, price floors, rent controls, minimum wages | **SOCIAL CH 3**  
**PRESENTATION TOPIC:**  
Minimum Wage Laws are Good/Bad |
| 9/18  | Pollution, Markets, & Externalities  
**OBJECTIVES:** To understand the effects of pollution in and on an economy  
**KEY TERMS:** Externalities, tragedy of the commons | **SOCIAL CH 4**  
**PRESENTATION TOPIC:**  
Pollution Rights Markets are Good/Bad |
| 9/25  | Economics & Crime  
**OBJECTIVES:** To understand how economics helps explain the causes and | **SOCIAL CH 5**  
**PRESENTATION TOPIC:**  
Laws Legalizing Marijuana are Good/Bad |
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>OBJECTIVES</th>
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<tr>
<td>10/2</td>
<td>Poverty &amp; Discrimination</td>
<td>To understand how poverty and discrimination impact economies</td>
<td>Public goods, free-riding</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Evidence on Wage Discrimination is Good/Bad</td>
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<td>10/9</td>
<td>Economics of Monopoly</td>
<td>To understand how monopolies and monopoly power affect competitive markets</td>
<td>Income inequality;</td>
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<td>Fair Fight in the Marketplace</td>
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<td>Monopoly power, natural monopoly, antitrust law</td>
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<td>Airlines exercise</td>
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<td>10/16</td>
<td>MIDTERM EXAMINATION DUE</td>
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<td>Inequality for All / The Ascent of Money</td>
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<td>10/23</td>
<td>International Trade Economics</td>
<td>To understand how international trade benefits consumers and the economy</td>
<td>World Trade Organization, comparative advantage, absolute advantage</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>International trade restrictions are Good/Bad</td>
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<td>10/30</td>
<td>Economic Growth &amp; Development</td>
<td>To understand what economic growth is and what determines it</td>
<td>Economic growth</td>
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<td>Stimulus Packages are Good/Bad</td>
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<td>11/6</td>
<td>Money &amp; Banking Economics</td>
<td>To understand the role of banks and other financial intermediaries in the economy</td>
<td>Financial Crisis, functions of money,</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>Repeal of the Glass-Steagall Act is Good/Bad</td>
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<td>Inside the Meltdown</td>
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<td>Date</td>
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<td>11/13</td>
<td>Unemployment &amp; Inflation</td>
<td><strong>OBJECTIVES:</strong> To understand the relationship between unemployment and inflation, and their effects on the economy</td>
<td>Unemployment rate, inflation</td>
<td>Social CH 13</td>
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<td><strong>PRESENTATION TOPIC:</strong> Current Unemployment Statistics are Good/Bad</td>
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<td>11/20</td>
<td>Health Care, Medicare, &amp; Social Security Economics</td>
<td><strong>OBJECTIVES:</strong> To understand the economics of the health care market and social insurance programs</td>
<td>Insurance</td>
<td>Social CH 15</td>
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<td><strong>PRESENTATION TOPIC:</strong> Government Health Insurance Programs are Good/Bad</td>
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<td>Article: <em>Health Care &amp; the Profit Motive</em> (Moodle)</td>
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<td>11/28</td>
<td>THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY</td>
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<td>12/4</td>
<td>The Role of Economic Reasoning, <em>Redux</em></td>
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<td>Economics Worldview, Part II</td>
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<td>12/11</td>
<td>FINAL EXAM</td>
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<td>CLASS MEETING FOR EXAMINATION</td>
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**SOCIAL** Denotes chapters that can be found in *Economics of Social Issues*