

Driehaus College of Business
BUS 213: Economics for Everybody
Course Syllabus

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Hello and welcome!!! I am excited to be taking you on a journey through a whole new way of thinking. This syllabus covers some important administrative details about the course. Please have a read, and feel free to email me with questions at any time.

Office Hours: To be held via Zoom Open Mic session once per week, and by appointment.

Email: gbuggi@depaul.edu I check email many times daily including weekends. I will reply to emails the same day (unless they come late at night), and usually within a couple of ours—including on weekends.

Course Description:

In this class we explore the beauty and usefulness of economics. You will learn the economic way of thinking by studying cases and real-world examples that teach you the basic tools of economics. We will use economic thinking for decision-making in business and life, and learn how economics can help us make the world a better place

Course Goal:

The premise of this class is that learning the economic way of thinking is valuable for everyone without needing to learn elaborate economic theories or complex mathematical techniques. The goal of this class is to teach you the economic way of thinking and apply it to issues in the media and everyday life. We will use a combination of careful logic and simple analytical tools that economists use regularly.

Learning Objectives:

- A. Decision-Making; Communication Skills:
 1. Understand and explain verbally and in writing how consumers make decisions and how these decisions affect the allocation of goods across households.
 2. Understand and explain verbally and in writing how markets function and predict what outcomes will result from a group of interacting individuals.
 3. Understand and explain verbally and in writing how firms make decisions and how these decisions affect what goods get produced, and who gets them.

B. Ethical and Regulatory Awareness; Communication Skills

4. Understand and explain verbally and in writing some reasons market fail-- such as monopoly and externalities such as pollution and vaccines.
5. Understand and explain verbally and in writing the role (and success/lack of success) of government policy in addressing market failures such as pollution, and in promoting economic growth and monetary stability.
6. Understand and explain verbally and in writing commonly used macroeconomics measures of economic health such as GDP, GNP, inflation, unemployment, trade balance.

Pre-requisites: None

Weekly Content:

Each week will include

1. Short Lecture videos and slide deck
2. Required outside reading (posted on D2L)
3. Required Multimedia products including podcasts, TED talks, and/or videos that you are required to watch as they contain new content and examples and will often be the basis of assignments.

Course Format

We will conduct this course entirely online in an asynchronous format. This means you do not have to be online at any specific time. You can work through each week's material at your own pace but keep in mind that there will be weekly deadlines for discussion posts and assignments.

I will post new weekly content on Tuesdays.

Please make sure to have the necessary technical resources to be able to access course materials and complete assignments. If you do not have access to the following resources, please let me know immediately so I can make accommodations for you:

- A computer that connects to the internet (web cam helpful but not required)
- A DePaul email account that you check regularly.
- Access to Microsoft Office or similar software
- Ability to playback video files

Office Hours

I will conduct office hours in two ways:

1. By appointment at a mutually convenient date and time. Please email me to make an appointment. I am responsive to email and will reply the same day.

2. I will poll the class about times when most students are available for a weekly **Open Mic Session** on Zoom to chat and answer your questions. I will schedule a recurring Open Mic at a time that most students are available to attend.

Course Materials

1. No required text.
2. I will post lecture slides and video lectures on D2L. I will make the slides available to you as separate files in addition to the video lectures.
3. Required assignments, multi-media and readings are all posted on D2L. The readings in this class will come from articles and cases in popular economics books such as *Freakonomics*, *The Why Axis*, *Naked Economics*, *Think Like a Freak*, the press, blogs, and the *Journal of Economic Perspectives*. I will also post links to TED talks, outside videos, and clips from commercials, movies, sitcoms and other shows that help elucidate the concepts for the week.

Grading

I will calculate your grade using the following components and weights:

Case reports/Assignments	35
Discussion Boards	25
Midterm Assessment	20
Final Assessment	20

I will grade and return all of your assignments within one week of their due dates

The grading scale in this course is:

A	93% and above	C	73-76%
A-	90-92%	C-	70-72%
B+	87-89%	D+	67-69%
B	83-86%	D	60-66%
B-	80-82%	F	59% and below
C+	77-79%		

Description of Assignments:

Case Reports/Assignments (completed in teams of 2)

You will have four assignments throughout the quarter. There is also an optional fifth assignment that you can submit to replace the score of a lower assignment if you wish. The assignments will include mini-case reports and/or questions that you must answer in writing. Assignments are due one week after they are assigned. Please see the table below with the schedule of due dates. Assignments will be based on lecture content, required readings, and required multimedia.

If a team member has not worked on an assignment, that person's name may be omitted from the assignment. Should this happen, the person whose name is omitted will make a zero on that assignment.

Discussion Boards (250 word limit per comment/reply)

There will be discussion activities most weeks. These will be noted each week in the weekly module on D2L. Some weeks the discussions will take place in small groups. Other weeks they will take place in larger groups or with the entire class. The discussion boards will be based on the content for the corresponding week and will generally give you the opportunity to practice applying the concepts and bouncing ideas off peers. The Discussion board grade is an individual grade, and I will update it twice; midway through the course and at the end of the course.

Discussion Board Requirements and Etiquette:

- a. Posts demonstrate knowledge of the class concepts and are linked to evidence and/or course material. Evidence includes examples, current events, base knowledge, evidence from readings and videos etc.
- b. Adhere to the posting requirements which will be posted on D2L. In general you will be required to make a minimum of one original comment and one reply, however the requirements may vary in any given week, so make sure to read the instructions on each discussion board
- c. Timely -adhere to the time window set aside for each discussion, not posted at the last minute. Timely posting leads to productive discussions, in that it allows class members to respond to each other's comments. Posts will be marked down if they are consistently entered during the last hours the board is open.
- d. If your post is related to an existing thread, you must reply to the existing thread, not create a new thread.
- e. Respectful -even when there is strong disagreement.
- f. Stimulate thinking. Do not be afraid to challenge existing comments.
- g. Encourage others to provide evidence and/or refer to course concepts to support their arguments.

Assessments

There will be a midterm and final assessment that will be task- based. You will work on these individually. More information will be posted as we approach the exam periods. The assessments will *not* be timed tests on D2L. See the schedule below for the dates.

Schedule of Assignments and Assessments

Assignment	Due Date--11:59 pm Chicago time
Video Introduction	Week 2 January 12 (on discussion board)
Assignment 1	Week 3 January 19
Assignment 2	Week 5 February 2 (midterm assigned)
Midterm Due	February 12
Assignment 3	Week 8 February 23
Assignment 4	Week 9 March 2
Optional Assignment	Week 10 March 9 (final assigned)
Final Due	March 19

Dean of Students

The Dean of Students Office (DOS) helps students in navigating the university, particularly during difficult situations, such as personal, financial, medical, and/or family crises. DOS assists students with Absence Notifications to faculty, Late Withdrawals, and Community Resource Referrals. They also have resources and programs to support health and wellness, violence prevention, substance abuse and drug prevention, and LGBTQ student services. You may contact DOS at <http://studentaffairs.depaul.edu/dos/>.

Special Needs;

Students who feel they may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact me privately to discuss their specific needs. All discussions will remain confidential. To insure that you receive the most appropriate accommodation based on your needs, contact me as soon as possible in the quarter (preferably the first week of class) and make sure that you have contacted one of the Center for Students with Disabilities Offices for support and additional service: Lincoln Park: Student Center 370, (773)325-1677; Loop: Lewis Center 1420. (312)362-8002.

Academic Integrity

All work completed for this course must adhere to the University Academic Integrity Policy which you can review at <http://academicintegrity.depaul.edu>.

I may use plagiarism detection technology for all written work submitted for this class to ensure the work is the student's own creation and is not in violation of DePaul University's Academic Integrity Policy. Submission of work for this course constitutes (i) a pledge that the work is the student's own original work and (ii) consent to have the work submitted to verify that fact.

You are welcome to use outside sources for exams, discussion posts, and case reports. If you use any materials beyond the text and lecture videos, you must cite them properly. This includes using quotation marks if you paraphrase.

Course Outline:

Week 1 (January 5) Basic Concepts in Economics

Week 2 (January 12) Decision-Making

****Video Introduction Due 11:59 pm on Discussion Board
Case/Assignment 1 assigned**

Weeks 3-4 (January 19, 26): Basic Economic Framework: Supply, Demand, Equilibrium, Invisible Hand

****Week 3 (January 19) Assignment 1 due
Week 4 (January 26) Case/Assignment 2 assigned**

Week 5 (February 2): Elasticities of Supply and Demand

****Assignment 2 Due
Midterm assigned**

Week 6 (February 9): Market Structure: Competition and Monopoly

****Midterm Due February 12, 11:59 pm**

Week 7 (February 16): When Markets Don't Work

Assignment 3 assigned

Week 8 (February 23): Consumption, Investment, GDP, Inflation

**** Assignment 3 due
Assignment 4 assigned**

Week 9 (March 2): Inflation and Unemployment, Government Spending, Taxes

****Assignment 4 due
Optional assignment assigned**

Week 10 (March 9): Monetary and Fiscal Policy (Keynesian AD/AS framework)

Final Assigned, Due March 19 11:59 pm