

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

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**Winter 2022**

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 Thursdays 4-5 pm central time, and by appointment.

**Email:** [gbucci@depaul.edu](mailto:gbucci@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 hours—including on weekends.

**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 Mondays.**

**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.

## **Equipment and Software Requirements:**

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. **Weekly Open Mic Session** Thursdays 4-5 pm Central time on Zoom to chat, network, and answer your questions.

## 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:

Assignments	20
Discussion Boards	25
Midterm Assessment (take home)	25
Final Assessment (take home)	30

Assignments will be graded and returned 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%		

### **Group Formation:**

**You will work on assignments in groups of 3 people.** Team-work is an important part of any career; working in teams will also help you bounce ideas off your team mates to help you learn the material better.

N.B. If a team member is not doing their share of the work, please contact Professor Bucci immediately .

### **Description of Assignments:**

#### **Assignments (completed in your group)**

You will have four assignments throughout the quarter. 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.**

#### **Discussions (300 word limit per comment)**

There will be discussion activities most weeks as a way to assess your understanding of the material. These will be noted each week in the weekly module on D2L. The discussions will be based on the content for the corresponding week and will generally ask you to apply the concepts. Details for each discussion will be in the content section for the corresponding week. I will update your discussion grade 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 post one original response to the prompt and one reply to a classmate. 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 -especially when pointing out possible errors in thinking and 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.

### **Due Dates for Assignments and Assessments**

<b>Assignment</b>	<b>Due Date--11:59 pm Chicago time</b>
<b>Video Introduction</b>	Week 2 January 10 (on discussion board)
<b>Assignment 1</b>	Week 3 January 17
<b>Assignment 2</b>	Week 5 January 31 (midterm assigned)
<b>Midterm Due</b>	February 10
<b>Assignment 3</b>	Week 8 February 21
<b>Assignment 4</b>	Week 9 February 28
<b>Final Due</b>	March 16

### **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 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 assignments; however 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: Basic Concepts in Economics

Week 2: Decision-Making

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

Weeks 3-4: Basic Economic Framework: Supply, Demand, Equilibrium, Invisible Hand

**\*\*Week 3 Assignment 1 due**  
Week 4 Assignment 2 assigned

Week 5: Elasticities of Supply and Demand

**\*\*Assignment 2 Due**  
**Midterm assigned**

Week 6: Market Structure: Competition and Monopoly

**\*\*Midterm Due February 10, 11:59 pm**

Week 7: When Markets Don't Work

Assignment 3 assigned

Week 8: Consumption, Investment, GDP, Inflation

**\*\* Assignment 3 due**

Assignment 4 assigned

Week 9: Inflation and Unemployment, Government Spending, Taxes

**\*\*Assignment 4 due**

Week 10: Inequality

**Final Assigned, Due March 16 11:59 pm**