

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

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Winter 2025

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.

Lab Hour: To be held via Zoom Mondays 5-6 pm central time, and by appointment. If nobody shows up to the lab by 5:15 pm, I will end the lab session. If you will be arriving to lab later than 5:15 pm please let me know in advance.

Email: 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.

Due Dates for Assignments and Assessments

Assignment	Due Date--11:59 pm Chicago time
Assignment 1	January 20
Discussion Board 1	January 27
Assignment 2	February 3 (midterm opens)
Midterm Due	February 14
Assignment 3	March 3
Discussion Board 2	March 10
Final Due	March 17

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. **The first half of the course is open now, and the second half opens February 3.** If you need the content opened earlier, just ask and I will be happy to open it earlier.

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 Lab session 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	30
Discussion Boards	20

Midterm Assessment (take home)	25
Final Assessment (take home)	25

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%		

Description of Assignments:

Assignments

You will have three 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.

Discussions (400 word limit per comment):

There will be two discussion prompts to assess your understanding of the material. These are noted on the Due Date Schedule and in the Course Content. ***You do not need to respond to any posts. However, you are required to make one individual post for each discussion board.***

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.

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.

Outside Sources:

You may 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. **You will earn more credit by using and referring to class concepts with citations to the lecture slides.**

Artificial Intelligence Acceptable Use Policy:

You may use **AI** in this class to help correct your grammar and style subject to the restrictions below. If you use AI to help you write a discussion post, homework answer or test answer you must adhere to the following steps:

- a. You must state at the end of the writing that "This post/answer was written with the assistance of AI"
- b. You must provide a link to your original post and to the AI prompt. Use of AI is limited to correcting grammar and style. You may not use AI to add any substantial content to the original post.
- c. Any use of AI that violates this policy will be a violation of academic integrity and will be treated as such.

Topic Outline:

Week 1: Basic Concepts in Economics

Week 2: Decision-Making

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

Week 5: Elasticities of Supply and Demand

Week 6: Market Structure: Competition and Monopoly

Week 7: When Markets Don't Work

Week 8: Consumption, Investment, GDP, Inflation

Week 9: Inflation and Unemployment, Government Spending, Taxes

Week 10: Inequality