

LAKES REGION COMMUNITY COLLEGE

379 Belmont Road
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COURSE OUTLINE/SYLLABUS

COURSE NO:	SOSC2310L - section ES
COURSE TITLE	Microeconomics
CREDIT HOURS:	3
SEMESTER:	Fall 2021
INSTRUCTOR NAME:	Rick Underbakke, Ph.D.
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PHONE:	309.235.6252
CLASSROOM:	https://ccsnh.instructure.com/courses/41211
OFFICE LOCATION:	Virtual
CONFERENCE HOURS:	Tuesday and Thursday 10-10:30 AM or by appointment.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course provides an introduction to the economic concepts that are studied in microeconomics. Students gain an understanding of how consumer and producer decision making forms the basis of supply and demand and how the price system operates within a market economy to allocate scarce resources among unlimited wants.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Upon Completion of this course the student will be able to:

- Explain the economic way of thinking by applying the following: scarcity, specialization, opportunity cost, marginal analysis, and production possibility.
- Apply the supply and demand model and elasticity for economic analysis.
- Analyze relationship between production and cost as it pertains to total, average, and marginal costs.
- Compare and contrast the operation of different market structures.
- Critique the causes and effects of market failures.

COURSE MATERIALS:

Principles of Macroeconomics
OpenStax College. 19 March 2014
Available at:

<https://cnx.org/contents/6i8iXmBj@11.9:JgDXaOLP@11/Introduction>

All material is either Open Educational Resources, or public domain information (Free). It can be read online, or downloaded or printed if you wish. The majority of the assignments and quiz questions will come directly from this text.

Software Requirements

All assignments and current events must be submitted using Microsoft Office 2013 or newer. You can get a free copy of MS Office 365 from the college. (For Mac or PC) Contact the IT department.

BASIC ONLINE COURSE EXPECTATIONS:

Participation and learning: Popular online education shows that you will learn best in your online class if you “touch” the material 4-5 times per week. This class is set up in a way that will allow you to work on your Economics homework over several days, I require you to be in class a minimum of two days per week but expect to see you much more often.

Email: You are required to use your official CCSNH issued email account. I will communicate exclusive via CCSNH email. Make sure you check your email not less than 3 days per week.

Computer and Internet: You are responsible for ensuring that you have a reliable up-to-date computer, updated virus protection, and Internet connection to access materials and complete course activities. I recommend you make alternate arrangements in case of unexpected problems.

Credit: Online Program students should expect to spend approximately 14 - 15 hours per week on course-related matters (per three-credit course). You should consider this when deciding how many credits to register for each term.

NETiquette:

Communication and postings in discussions should be professional in an online course. Instant Message Acronyms are not acceptable. Your submissions will be reduced by up to 30% if you use IM language. Remember that your body language and tone will not be communicated in an online environment Emoticons can help with this but they should be used sparingly.

QUESTIONS:

General Course Questions:

To ensure efficient student-instructor communication and to assist others who may share your thoughts, please post all general course-related questions to the “Virtual Office” discussion area found under “Start Here” in the online classroom. Only those inquiries of a confidential nature should be submitted to the instructor using email.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING CRITERIA

During most weeks you will have an original discussion posts plus responses to peers’ posts. You will also have a Reflections post due on some weeks. The reflections are your chance to monitor how you are doing as well as tell me what works. If you post a quality post to Reflections you will receive full credit. They do not require responses to peers.

Student Introductions

Student Introductions is the first discussion item. Since we may never have the opportunity to meet face to face, please introduce yourselves to your peers.

Homework

Each week, there will be homework assignments that consist in which you will be expected to work through to help you understand the tools economists use to explain concepts and models. To demonstrate understanding you will be expected to show work, as needed and provide a clear explanation of the problems at hand. Prepare your assignment either in Excel or Word as needed and submit to the Dropbox online. Weekly homework will also include vocabulary exercises.

Current Event Discussion

Current Event Discussions provide an active learning environment for you and your peers to master the content in this course. Discussions in this class are used to help you apply Microeconomics to the world around you and areas of your interest. There are two parts for each Current Event Discussion - Initial Response to Discussion Question and Participation-responses to peers' posts.

During the term you will be expected to complete weekly Current Event Article Reviews. These articles will be posted as a discussion it will serve as a second discussion for the week.

- A current event must be within the last 30 days.
- Current events will be at least 3 paragraphs to receive full credit.
- Current events will be posted by Saturday each week

The assignment will consist of ;

- A summary of the article
- How the article relates to the chapters we are studying.
- Your personal view and opinion on the article or event.
- How the topic or event impacts you.
- Work Cite your information.

Here is a good example of a previous student's original post;

[Current Event sample](#)

Participation in Current Event Discussions: The minimum requirement for participation In the Current Event Discussion is the same as discussions above. Participation does not include your initial response. It means to actively engage by substantively contributing or responding to your peers' posts in weekly Current Event threads. Substantive means comments that demonstrate comprehension and involve dialogue which extends the depth and/or breadth of discussions. 'I agree' or 'disagree' alone or similar statements will not be considered as a substantive response.

Reflections (Discussion)

Each week, you will complete a Reflection using the discussion area. A prompt will be provided each week for you to respond in your words. It should not be more than 75 words. You are welcome but not required to respond to others posts.

Concept Paper

There will be one opportunity to do a Concept Paper. Your Concept Paper will be an overview of an economists life, and/or his/her significant theories. It will typically be 3-5 pages, not including

cover page and works cited page. It must be prepared in a word processing program (i.e. Microsoft Word). The concept paper will also be an opportunity to hone your APA style writing.

Quizzes (Open Book)

There are 4 open book quizzes which consist of 10 multiple choice questions (5 points each) randomly selected from a question pool. The quizzes are timed at 45 minutes each with one attempt. Each of the quizzes will cover 4 units.

Research Paper

Your Research paper will be submitted in two parts. The first part will be due approximately 3 weeks prior to the end of the term. Part 1 of the research paper will include an introduction to your topic, and outline and a list of at least 3 of your references. If you wish you can also identify why you chose this topic and begin on any of the sections you feel prepared.

In the final week, you will submit a completed research paper to meet the requirements below that includes your work in Part 1.

This paper should be 8-12 pages in length-not including cover page and works cited page-in APA format and include at least 5 works cited.

Include causes and possible solutions, as well as implications on economic systems and unintended consequences. Use theories learned in this class in your evaluation. Also, if possible include examples from your life experiences to support your research.

- Your paper can cover any economic topic covered in this class. You are encouraged to select your own topic of interest and propose it to me.

Some suggestions may be:

- Income Distribution and Poverty.
 - Criminalization of poverty
 - Gender roles in poverty
 - Race and poverty
 - Poverty causes and issues in a given state or country
 - If we eliminate poverty, will our economic system crash?
 - Social programs
- Hyperinflation (Select a specific country-Argentina, Greece, Chili, etc.)
- Market Failure and Public Goods.
- Monopoly and Anti-Trust regulation. (Select a specific case to discuss)
- Impact of tariffs- i.e. proposed 20% tax on Mexican goods, or breaking the GATT or other trade agreements

Grading Criteria:

The course letter grade will be based on weighted grades as follows.

Activity	% Weight
Extra Credit-Student Introductions	3%
Homework	25%
Current Events Posts and Replies	25%
Quizzes (Exams)	20%

Reflections	5%
Research Papers	25%
Total	100%

Grading Scale

This course will use +/- grades.

Letter Grade	Percent
A	93-100%
A-	90-92%
B+	87-89%
B	83-86%
B-	80-82%
C+	77-79%
C	73-76%
C-	70-72%
D+	67-69%
D	60-66%
F	0-59.9%