Syllabus
Lamar University, a Member of The Texas State University System, is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools to award Associate, Baccalaureate, Masters, and Doctorate degrees (more details at http://www.lamar.edu).

Department       Economics
Course Number    1301
Course Title     Economics: Principles and Policy

Professor

Contact Information

Personal Introduction

Course Description
Comprehensive introduction to economic principles and problems for non-business students. Resource utilization; price determination; distribution of income; fiscal and monetary problems; economic growth.

Course Objectives and Student Learning Outcomes
Upon successful completion of this course, students will:
1. Explain the scarcity/choice problem existing throughout the world.
2. Describe the economic system of the United States.
3. Utilize the basic demand and supply model to predict the effects of different market forces on equilibrium price and quantity.
4. Explain the concept of market failure and the alternatives to market processes in resource allocations.
5. Define and calculate gross domestic product, inflation rate, and unemployment rate.
6. Use aggregate supply and aggregate demand to predict the effects of fiscal and monetary policy actions on output, unemployment, and inflation.
7. Explain the benefits and costs of international trade and the role of international trade in the U.S. economy.
8. Describe governmental efforts to address market failure such as monopoly power, asymmetric information, externalities, and public goods.

Lamar University Core Curriculum
This course satisfies the Social Science component of Lamar University’s Core Curriculum. While you are learning about economics, you will also be required to develop skills that will transcend your mastery of this course’s content. The specific skills that will be addressed
include:

- **Critical Thinking Skills** (creative thinking; innovation; inquiry; and analysis, evaluation, and synthesis of information): Economics, generally, is involved with making choices under conditions of some kind of constraints. You will be introduced to the concept of “opportunity costs” and be confronted with the reality that economic policy decisions have positive dimensions as well as negative ones. Who is right? Who is wrong? Is there a definitive right or wrong in economic or any other type of decision in our imperfect world?

- **Communications Skills** (effective development, interpretation, and expressing ideas through written, oral, and visual communication): Throughout the semester, you will be required to provide written answers to questions and problems using Blackboard and in-class assignments. Additionally, you will be required to participate in Blackboard discussions by posting an original response to a question/video and evaluate and comment on the postings of at least two other students in class.

- **Empirical and Quantitative Skills** (manipulation and analysis of numerical data or observable facts resulting in informed decisions): Economics is the most highly quantitative discipline among the social sciences. As examples of quantitative analysis, you will be taught how to calculate elasticity coefficients to make decisions concerning product pricing, how to calculate revenue and cost schedules to make output decisions, and how to calculate multipliers to determine the impact of government taxes and expenditures.

- **Social Responsibility** (intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities): While the market system has been demonstrated to be better than a command system in providing personal freedom and high standards of living, it is not perfect and cannot do its job without a facilitating social and legal framework. This course will challenge you to critically evaluate the role of government in the United States and your responsibilities as a citizen.

**Academic Prerequisites**
Advisor Approval.

**myLamar Portal**
Students are asked to obtain a Lamar Electronic Account username and password so they can log onto the myLamar Web site. Students may get information on how to get into the myLamar Web site from the University’s homepage (http://www.lamar.edu) by clicking on the myLamar link on the left top corner of the screen. Follow the steps to secure your myLamar username and password. Access to library resources is described on the Academic Partnership page, also available through the http://www.lamar.edu.

**Technology Prerequisites**
This course will have an online component. Students are not required to have advanced technology training or skills in order to be successful in the class. They should, however, feel confident about their ability to navigate through typical online websites and their ability to use
common word processing software in order to submit written assignments. The minimum technical skills and the system requirements for this course:

**System Requirements**

**Computer/Technology Requirements**

1. Students will need regular access to a computer with a broadband Internet connection. The minimum computer requirements are:
   - Any current Flash-compliant browser (recent versions of Firefox or Safari)
     - Please note that Blackboard may not support Internet Explorer or Chrome.
     - **FIREFOX IS THE RECOMMENDED BROWSER**
   - 512 MB of RAM, 1 GB or more preferred
   - Broadband connection (cable modem, DSL, or other high speed) required – courses are heavily video intensive
   - Video display capable of high-color 16-bit display – 1024 x 768 or higher resolution
   - A sound card and speakers or headphones
   - Current anti-virus software must be installed and kept up to date.
   - Students will need some additional free software for enhanced web browsing. Be certain to download the free versions of the software.
     - Adobe Reader
     - Adobe Flash Player
   - Most home computers purchased within the last 3-4 years meet or surpass these requirements.

2. At a minimum, students must have Microsoft Office 2003, XP, 2007 or OpenOffice, or Student Office for Mac. Microsoft Office is the standard office productivity software utilized by faculty, students, and staff. Microsoft Word is the standard word processing software, Microsoft Excel is the standard spreadsheet software, and Microsoft PowerPoint is the standard presentation software. Copying and pasting, along with attaching/uploading documents for assignment submission will also be required. If you do not have Microsoft Office or Student Office for Mac, you can check with the bookstore to see if they have any student copies.

3. **Your computer must be compatible with Blackboard.** Please see the [Blackboard Supported Browsers and Operating System](#) page to make sure your system will allow you to use all the tools and features available.

**Technology Skills Requirements**

You need to be able to:

- Navigate websites, including downloading and reading files from them.
- Download and install software or plug-ins such as Adobe Reader, Window Media Player or Flash.
- Use e-mail, including attaching and downloading documents/files from e-mail.
- Save files in commonly used word processing formats (.doc, .docx, .rtf).
- Copy and paste text and other items in computer documents.
- Save and retrieve documents and files on your computer.
- Locate information on the Internet using search engines.
- Locate information in the library using the online catalog.
Course Materials

Required Electronic Course Materials
- Access to a reliable computer meeting previously identified requirements.
- Access to reliable internet service.

Accessibility Statement
It is the policy of Lamar University to accommodate students with disabilities, pursuant to federal and state law. Should you need accommodation, visit the Office for Students with Disabilities website at http://dept.lamar.edu/sfswd or call the office by dialing (409)-880-8347. Also know that I will assist in whatever way I can to ensure that this course supports the university’s commitment to equal education opportunities.

Academic Integrity Statement
Lamar University expects all students to engage in academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in their academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. Disciplinary proceedings may be initiated against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion, and the abuse of resource materials.

Plagiarism shall mean the appropriation of another’s work or idea and the unacknowledged incorporation of that work or idea into one’s own work offered for credit.

Collusion shall mean the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing work offered for credit.

Abuse of resource materials shall mean the mutilation, destruction, concealment, theft or alteration of materials provided to assist students in the mastery of course materials.

Academic work shall mean the preparation of an essay, report, problem, assignment, creative work or other project that the student submits as a course requirement or for a grade.

Students are specifically warned against all forms of plagiarism, which include “purchasing, or otherwise acquiring and submitting as one’s own work any research paper or other writing assignment prepared by an individual or firm.” Plagiarism is defined as, “the appropriation and the unacknowledged incorporation of another’s work or ideas into one’s own offered for credit” (82). Students seeking to avoid plagiarism should consult either the course instructor or the most recent addition of the MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers. The course instructor will complete a thorough and impartial investigation of any instance of academic dishonesty. A student found guilty of academic dishonesty will be notified in writing by the instructor of the violation, the penalty, and the student’s right to appeal the determination of dishonesty and/or the sanction imposed. Penalties for academic dishonesty in this course will result in either a lowered letter grade or failure of the course as determined by the instructor.

Copyright Policy Statement
Copyright is defined as the ownership and control of the intellectual property in original works of authorship which are subject to copyright law. As an institution of higher learning that values intellectual integrity, Lamar University prohibits the distribution of published materials (print or electronic) in violation of copyright law.

Netiquette (Online Etiquette) Statement

Please adhere to the same standards of behavior and professional respect online that you would follow in face-to-face communication with others, but most particularly when writing email and when taking part in collaborative and discussion board activities. Lamar provides access to network resources, including the Internet, in order to support learning and to prepare students for the 21st century world. Students, however, are expected to adhere to the Lamar University Acceptable Use Policies when Using Networks

- **Acceptable Use**
  Students must respect the integrity and security of LU's computer systems and network, and the privacy and preferences of other users. Responsibility for learning about and complying with LU's Acceptable Use Policy ultimately rests with the individual. The network may be used to download, copy, or store any software, shareware, digital media files or freeware, as long as the use complies with copyright law; licensing agreements, and campus policies such as storage space limitations and network bandwidth restrictions. The network may not be used for any activity, or to transmit any material, that violates United States or local laws.

- **Unacceptable use**
  The network may not be used for commercial purposes. Advertising and sponsorships on UW web sites is restricted. In addition, students may not permit other persons to use their usernames, passwords, accounts or disk space, or disclose their usernames, passwords or account information to any third party. Students may not log on to someone else's account, internet address, or other network codes, or attempt to access another user's files. Students may not create false or dummy accounts to impersonate someone else. Students may not try to gain unauthorized access ("hacking") to the files or computer systems of any other person or organization. Students may not impersonate another person by forging e-mail, web pages or other electronic media. Students who maliciously access, alter, delete, damage or destroy any computer system, computer network, computer program, or data will be subject to disciplinary action by LU, and criminal prosecution as well. Students may not disrupt or attempt to disrupt network traffic, and they may not attempt to monitor or capture network traffic in any way. Finally, students may not intentionally create, store, display, print or transmit information that violates the university’s Sexual Harassment Policy.

**General Guidelines to Respect All Participants**
- Respect the right of each person to disagree with others.
- Treat people the same as you would face-to-face.
- Respect the time of others

**Guidelines When Communicating with Others (email, discussion, blogging, and etc.)**
- Always sign your names to any contribution you choose to make.
- Be constructive in your responses to others in the class.
- Do not use all caps. (Doing so may be interpreted as shouting)
- Re-read your postings before sending them.
Always think before you write.
Respond respectively.
Use appropriate grammar and structure.
Spell-check your postings.
Use short paragraphs focused on one idea
Use appropriate business language at all times

Privacy Policy Statement
Student records maintained by Lamar University comply with the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 as amended (PL93-380). Detailed information should be accessed through this link: https://sacs.lamar.edu/catalog/PrefMaterial/V.GenAcademicPol.htm#edurights.

Course Evaluation
Instruction as well as student performance is subject to evaluation. Procedures for evaluation will be provided near the end of this course.

Required Text

Grading Policy and Evaluation
It is expected that your written assignments will be substantive and contain a minimum of 250 words. Your original posts to discussion board topics may contain fewer words than your written assignments, but must be substantive. You will be responsible for commenting on the posts of at least two other students these comments may be of any length, as long as they, too, are substantive.

Assignments will be accepted only during the period identified in the course syllabus and on the ASSIGNMENTS tab of Blackboard. Do not procrastinate doing the weekly assignments. Emergencies may arise, which may result in your not being able to complete the assignments at the “last minute.” If you miss a due date, you will receive a zero for that assignment. When submitting your assignment, do not attach a file that requires downloading. Type your answers into the SUBMISSION box. If you use a word processing program to compose your answers, cut and paste into the SUBMISSION box. Attached files will not be opened.

Study Recommendations
In addition to carefully reading the text, you would be well served to: (1) review chapter power points, (2) pay particular attention to the margin notes in each chapter, and (3) work through the practice exams on the text’s website and in MCGRAW-HILL CONNECT.

**Make-up Work**

Assignments will be made well in advance of the date when they are due; therefore, make-ups will only be allowed in very rare, unavoidable instances.

**Drop Dates**

- Last day to drop without academic penalty:
- Last day to drop with academic penalty:

This course adheres to the add/drop standards for each term as stated by Lamar University. For more details, refer to the Lamar Academic Calendar. If the link does not work, visit Lamar University at http://www.lamar.edu, and search the site with the term, “Academic Calendar.”

**Tentative Schedule**

You may want to print this schedule and keep it handy so you can keep on task this semester.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Chapter</th>
<th>Written Assignment</th>
<th>Your Original</th>
<th>Your Response</th>
<th>Exam</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Chapter 1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Chapter 2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Chapter 3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Chapter 4 &amp; 5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Chapter 6</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Chapter 7</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Chapter 8</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Chapter 9</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Chapter 10 &amp; 11</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Chapters 12 &amp; 13</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Chapter 14</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Chapter 15</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Chapter 16</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Chapter 17</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Chapter 18</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>