

**36-106 GENERAL ECONOMICS**  
**Syllabus for January 2011**

**INSTRUCTOR:** Dr. Denise Robson                      **E-mail:** robson@uwosh.edu  
**OFFICE:** Clow Faculty 318                              **PHONE:** 424-7152  
**OFFICE HOURS:** 12:30 - 2 P.M. M,T,W,TH and by appointment.

Please feel free to set up times outside of my official office hours, especially since interim is fast paced.

**REQUIRED**                      Essentials of Economics, 8<sup>th</sup> edition, by Bradley Schiller  
**MATERIALS:**                      Access to D2L [www.uwosh.edu/d2l](http://www.uwosh.edu/d2l)  
   Access to E-instruction, [www.einstruction.com](http://www.einstruction.com) and a "clicker"  
   Other materials assigned by the instructor.

*Ask questions!!*

*Economics can be a confusing and unsettling area to study. It is not like other subjects where answers tend to be black and white. Economics is known as the dismal science –  
– be wary!*

**General Course Objectives**

The broad objective of this course is to help develop a reasonable perspective of economic behavior and acquire an understanding of basic principles, which should give you a better view of how the economy works.

In this course students will:

- apply the economic way of thinking to everyday situations
- understand how the U.S. economy works and compare it with workings of other countries in answering the problems of scarcity.
- have a better understanding of the role of business in the economy
- relate why economic policies affect various cohorts of the population, especially those based on race, age, and gender, differently.
- comprehend how politics and ideology affects economic policies.
- assess how current events affect the economy
- explore the international dimension of the economy
- contemplate the role of growth in shaping economic development over time
- discuss the impact of current economic events

**COURSE STRUCTURE:** Economics is a discipline that on the surface seems deceptively easy, when in actuality it is quite complex. While the nature of a large "pit" classroom dictates a predominately lecture type course, the use of the Classroom Performance System (CPS) will enable you to be more engaged in the learning process. I will be using the system to help check you progress and understanding as we move through the material. I also use group activities designed to help you understand the theories by having to explain them to each other or just discuss the pros and cons of different policy options.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:** Your grade will be based on the following weighted components:

- |                 |     |
|-----------------|-----|
| 1. Examinations | 70% |
| 2. Course Work  | 30% |

**Grade determination:** Letter grades will be based on the following point (weighted) breakdowns:

90 percent or above	A - Superior Achievement on assignments, demonstrating initiative and independent resourcefulness.
80 percent	B - Above Average Achievement
66 percent	C - Average Achievement
50 percent	D - Below Average Achievement
below 50 percent	F - Failure to complete assignments or complete them with a marginal level of proficiency.

**Exams:** There will be three exams during the interim worth 70% of your grade. The first exam will be 20% of your grade and the last two exams will each be worth 25% of your grade. The majority of your exams will contain problem based multiple-choice that emphasize your ability to apply what you have learned, not just whether you know terms or techniques.

**Course work:** The clickers will be used throughout the course to elicit discussion and to check for progress and understanding of the course materials. You will be expected to take a quiz at the beginning of each class using the "clicker", so **don't be late**. The quizzes cover the basic concept provided in the text. It will include terms found in the chapters that are to be read **prior** to class. Also, when problems are assigned, you can expect them to be assessed in the form of "clicker" questions relating to the problems, instead of the problem itself being graded. Finally, during the course of the class period there will be several quick check type questions; for each of these exercises you will receive 1 point for just answering each question and another point for getting the question correct (5 point exercise would be worth 10 points, 5 for answering each question and 1 for each correct answer). Besides breaking up a long class and gauging your understanding of the course material, the clickers provide you examples of types of questions you can expect to see on your examinations.

Attendance is EXPECTED. Success is VERY UNLIKELY without regular attendance.

**Make-up Policies:** This is a three week interim course. If you miss any work, without making prior arrangements will be **no** make-ups. **No excuses**. Each class period you miss is the equivalent to missing a full week during the semester. If this is going to be a problem, you may want to drop this course.

**Academic Honesty Policy.** Cheating on exams, plagiarizing, or any other form of academic dishonesty will be dealt with in accordance with the current UWO Student Discipline Code. I reserve the right to assign a grade of **A<sup>F</sup>** for the course should circumstances warrant.

Intelligent Inquiry: "To learn to ask: Is that true? Maybe there is something to what she just said, Let me think about it. That's interesting. Maybe I should change my mind, I changed my mind."  
President Lee Bollinger, Columbia University, Commencement Address May, 2005.

## Tips for Doing Well

- **This is an interim course. To be successful it will require you to put in, at least, two hours of study each day outside of class.**
- Each chapter should be read carefully, highlight the main points. Go over and think about the *Questions for Discussion*. It is advisable for you to keep a notebook that will contain notes, comments and questions about the assigned readings. You will then be better prepared to discuss the material in class and respond your classmates' questions and comments.
- Attempt to work the end of chapter problems.
- There is always the temptation on the part of any instructor to move too quickly through the material. Make sure you are able to grasp the material presented, if it is going to fast ask me for clarification, even if it is only to repeat the material.
- Take time after class to review notes and rework problems. Clarify any weak points. Make a list of questions to ask instructor or classmates.
- You can pose questions via e-mail, if you don't want to ask them in class.
- Study with peers. A good way to find out if you know something is to try to explain it to someone else.
- Remember I am a resource, just like your text, the library, the Internet, etc. Feel free to see me whenever you have questions or just want to discuss the material.

## Course Policies

- My responsibility in this course is to lead and motivate students who are committed to the learning process, and to determine the extent to which students have mastered the material covered.
- By signing up for this course you have accepted the responsibility for attending class regularly and on-time, reading the text and other materials, being an active learner who contributes to the classroom discussion, and for your performance on assignments.
- Don't be late to class, and don't interrupt speakers. If you absolutely must be late, please keep the class disturbance to a minimum. Be courteous of others, and engage the subject matter.
- Help create a friendly, inclusive, and rigorous classroom climate in which everyone feels welcome to comment and contribute. Diverse views are welcome and should be respected.
- **No Cells phones, ipods, ipads or lap-top computers unless absolutely necessary.** If you must use them during class, make sure you do not disturb the people around you. Surfing the web, playing games, etc. can be distracting for those sitting near you.
- Headphones are not to be worn during class.
- Cell phone calculators and programmable calculators cannot be used on exams. All ball caps need to be removed or turned backwards during exams.
- If you sleep and snore, I reserve the right to awaken you. If you sleep quietly, I reserve the right NOT to awaken you. At all times, I reserve the right to ask you to leave, should I deem your behavior inappropriate.

## TENTATIVE COURSE OUTLINE

Overview	Chapter 1
The U.S. Economy	Chapter 2
Supply and Demand	Chapter 3
Consumer Demand	Chapter 4

**FIRST EXAM - Beginning of class Friday, January 6<sup>th</sup>**  
**Class will resume at 10:30**

Supply Decisions	Chapter 5
Competition	Chapter 6
Monopoly	Chapter 7
Labor Markets	Chapter 8

**SECOND EXAM - 10:00 a.m. Thursday, January 13<sup>th</sup>**  
**Keynes Video D2L questions**

*No Class Martin Luther King Day, January 17<sup>th</sup>*

Business Cycles	Chapter 10
Aggregate Supply and Demand	Chapter 11
Fiscal Policy	Chapter 12 Pages 257 - 262, 271 - 274
Money and Banks	Chapter 13
Monetary Policy	Chapter 14
Economic Growth	Chapter 15
Theory and Reality (review chapter)	Chapter 16

**THIRD EXAM - Friday, January 21<sup>st</sup>**