

Montana State University Department of Ag. Economics and Economics	
Course:	Professor:
ECNS 101 – The Economic Way of Thinking Sections 1 and 3 Fall 2013	Dr. Urban Office: 208 Linfield Hall Phone: 994-2005 E-mail: carly.urban@montana.edu Internet: www.montana.edu/urban
Hours & Location:	Office Hours:
Section 1: T, TH 12:15-1:30 in JOHN 339 Section 3: T, TH 3:05-4:20 in GH 101	T, TH: 8:00-10:00 AM, or by appointment
Web: www.montana.edu/urban	

READ THIS SYLLABUS. IT REPRESENTS A CONTRACT BETWEEN YOU AND THE INSTRUCTOR OF THIS COURSE. YOUR CONTINUED ENROLLMENT IN THE COURSE WILL BE INTERPRETED AS YOUR ACCEPTANCE OF THIS CONTRACT.

Course Description and Course Objectives: The most important skills that businesses want in their employees are the ability to think critically and carefully, the ability to learn new things, and the ability to anticipate and solve problems. Specific occupations may require particular skills, but these necessarily change and evolve over time. The need for people who can think, learn, and solve problems does not. The objective of this course is to help foster your understanding of the basic tools and core reasoning that underlies decision-making, analytical thinking, and problem solving, and to help you apply these tools to an array of social and personal issues.

Text: Stock, Social Issues and Economic Thinking. Hard copies are available at the MSU bookstore or online via Amazon.com and similar outlets. Electronic textbook rental is available through www.coursesmart.com or via access cards at the MSU bookstore.

You are also required to subscribe to the Sapling Learning online learning tool for homework assignments (in addition to providing extensive practice and excellent homework assignments, this online tool provides access to additional online content and cuts down on the use of paper). The website is www.saplinglearning.com. Directions for subscribing are provided on the website and on the last page of this syllabus. The course keys are "section1" and "section3" for Section 1 and Section 3, respectively. Be sure to register for the correct section!

Class Participation: You are encouraged to ask questions and make constructive contributions during lectures. Many of our learning activities will rely on class participation. Reading the textbook's discussion of topics and issues **BEFORE** we cover them in class will help you to better understand the material and to participate in the discussions. Accordingly, you should come to class having read the assigned chapters and prepared to discuss and answer questions about them.

NOTE: Class participation does NOT include using cell phones, texting, accessing the internet, having outside conversations, or otherwise distracting others during class. Please be respectful of other students and keep cell phones, ipads, and laptops put away during class time.



Optional Directed Study Lab: An optional one-credit directed study lab is available for ECNS 101 students this semester. Interested students should enroll in ECNS 105 Study in the Economic Way of Thinking. Students in ECNS 101 are not required to enroll in this course, but the course will provide supplemental weekly meetings taught by peer instructors. ECNS 105 is a graded, one credit course, based on attendance and completion of assignments. Research from previous semesters indicates that students who enrolled in the study labs performed better on exams, showed greater improvement in exam scores, and were less likely to drop out over the course of the semester than did other ECNS 101 students. Because of this, **enrollment in ECNS 105 is strongly recommended.**

Teaching Assistants: We have two teaching assistants for this class. These TAs are available to answer questions about the course material, help with assignments, and review with students during their TA office hours. Their office hours and location are posted on the class website. I encourage you to meet with them regularly to keep on track in the course.

Learning Activities: Economics is a subject best learned through practice rather than rote memorization, and there are several activities we will do during the semester to assist in your learning:

1. Graded Homework Problems: Graded homework assignments are available through your Sapling Learning subscription. You are strongly encouraged to work through the homework before it is due and come to class prepared to discuss it. **Late homework assignments will not be accepted and cannot be made up, period.** An assignment is late if it is not completed by 11:45 p.m. on the day it is due. Work on the homework assignments early.

2. Interactive In-Class Quizzes: There will be four in-class interactive quizzes given during the semester. They will consist of multiple choice questions over the current topics being covered in class and are designed to aid in your learning of the material and in your preparation for exams. There will be several versions of each quiz distributed during class, and you are allowed and encouraged to work in groups to solve the quiz questions – as long as each member of the group has a different version of the quiz. **Missed quizzes cannot be made up, period.** If you know you will be missing a class on the day of a quiz, make arrangements with me **at least one week in advance** to take the quiz early.

3. In-Class Projects: There will be eight in-class group projects during the semester. Each project is done within a single course period. The projects consist of a group discussion and write up on a given topic or question relating to economics and are designed to aid in your understanding of the material and in your preparation for exams. **Missed in-class projects cannot be made up, period.** If you know you will be missing a class on the day of a class project, make arrangements with me **at least one week in advance** to work the project early. Students who prefer to complete the in-class projects individually rather than as part of a group are free to do so.

Policy on Missed Assignments: To account for any unanticipated absences and/or occurrences (e.g., illness, forgot homework, toilet flooded, alarm didn't go off, car wouldn't start, coffee maker wouldn't work, pet iguana needed emergency surgery, etc.), the **lowest two** scores (a total of 20 points) from the combined project/quiz score will be automatically dropped when final grades are computed. The **lowest four** Sapling homework scores (40 points) will also be automatically dropped when final grades are computed

Exams: There will be two midterm exams and a comprehensive final exam in the course. The exams will cover material covered in class and in the assigned readings. You should take all exams at the scheduled time. **No make up midterm exams will be given, period.** If you miss an exam **for ANY reason**, the percent score you earn on the final will replace the missing exam score when calculating your final grade earned in the course. You cannot, however, apply a midterm grade toward the final exam (i.e., you **MUST** take the final exam). The percent score on the final exam will also automatically replace your lowest midterm exam score when calculating your final grade earned in the course. **You are responsible for assessing your own preparedness for the midterm exams and deciding whether to take them.**

Challenges: If you feel that an exam question has been mistakenly or unfairly graded, you may request re-grading of the exam. Except for simple mistakes in adding up points, any request for re-grading must be submitted in writing within one-week after the exam grades are posted and must include an explanation that uses the economic theory and applications we learn in class to explain why your answer is correct. "Challenging" the grading of a question **does not guarantee** that you will receive credit for the question, only that the *entire* exam will be re-graded in light of the quality and content of your challenge.

Grading: Grades will be assigned based on the exams, homework, quizzes, and projects as follows:

Assignment	points possible
Midterm 1	100
Midterm 2	100
Interactive Quizzes: 4 @ 10 points each = 40 points	
In-Class Projects: 8 @ 10 points each = 80 points	
Drop lowest 2 quiz/project scores = -20 points	
Total for quizzes & projects	100
Sapling Homework: 14 @ 10 points each = 140 points	
Drop lowest 4 homework scores = -40 points	
Total for Sapling homework	100
Comprehensive Final Exam	150
Total	550

There is no extra credit in this course. The grading scale for the course is: A: >=90%, B: 80-90%, C: 65-80%, D: 50-65%.

Grades of "Incomplete": In accordance with the MSU undergraduate catalog, it is class policy not to give incomplete grades except for extreme personal hardship or unusual academic situations that are verifiable or certified through the Office of Student Affairs.

Academic Integrity: Please read and comply with the student conduct expectations contained in the document, *Student Conduct Code*, available online at http://www2.montana.edu/policy/student_conduct/cg600.html. For this class, the homework assignments and in-class activities may be done in collaboration with other students, although simply copying another student's assignment will be considered a violation of academic integrity. The amount of learning you gain from class is directly related to the amount of effort you put into it. Calculators, collaboration, peeking, peering, sneaking, sharing, looking, and leering at others' answers or at any notes anywhere are NOT allowed during exams. Your answers to exams should consist entirely of the work you do on your own during the time you take the exam. Violations of academic integrity diminish the value of a degree earned at MSU and cheating will result in failure on the assignment and/or the course and all other disciplinary sanctions possible.

Anticipated Time Schedule for Course

(WEEK) DATES	TOPIC	PROJECTS, QUIZZES, & READINGS	HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS
(1) 8/27, 8/29	Introduction & Overview	Chapters 1 (& appendix), 2	None
(2) 9/3, 9/5	Production Possibilities Frontier 9/9 is last day to register for ECNS 105, and last day to pay for Sapling	Project 1: 9/5 Chapter 2	Due 9/3: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Using the Tools in Sapling Learning • Introduction to the Economic Way of Thinking • Graphing Review
(3) 9/10, 9/12	Production Possibilities Frontier Supply and Demand	Quiz 1: 9/10 Project 2: 9/12 Chapters 2, 3	Due 9/10: Production Possibilities
(4) 9/17, 9/19	Supply and Demand	Chapter 3	Due 9/17: Demand
(5) 9/24, 9/26	Consumer Surplus, Producer Surplus, and Economic Efficiency	Quiz 2: 9/24 Chapter 4	Due 9/24: Supply and Equilibrium
(6) 10/1, 10/3	10/1: Consumer Surplus, Producer Surplus, and Economic Efficiency 10/3: The Power and Limits of Markets	Project 3: 10/1 Chapter 4	Due 10/1: Consumer Surplus, Producer Surplus, and Economic Efficiency
(7) 10/8, 10/10	10/8: The Power and Limits of Markets; Review for Midterm 1 10/10: Midterm 1	Chapter 8 10/10: Midterm 1	Due 10/8: The Power and Limits of Markets
(8) 10/15, 10/17	10/15: NO CLASS The Economics of Education	Project 4: 10/17 Chapter 17 (& appendix)	None
(9) 10/22, 10/24	Pollution, the Environment, and Global Warming	Project 5: 10/24 Chapter 16	Due 10/22: The Economics of Education
(10) 10/29, 10/31	Elasticity	Quiz 3: 10/29 Project 6: 10/31 Chapter 5 (& appendix)	Due 10/29: Pollution, the Environment, and Global Warming
(11) 11/5, 11/7	11/5: Elasticity, Review for Midterm 2 11/7: Midterm 2	Quiz 4: 11/5 Chapter 5(including appendix)	Due 11/5: Elasticity
(12) 11/12, 11/14	Farm Policy	Project 7:11/14 Chapter 14	None
(13) 11/19, 11/21	The Economics of Illegal Drugs	Chapter 15	Due 11/19: Farm Policy
(14) 11/26, 11/28	Wage Determination & Superstar Salaries 11/28: Thanksgiving Holiday – No Classes	Chapters 15, 9	Due 11/26: The Economics of Illegal Drugs
(15) 12/3, 12/5	Poverty and the Distribution of Income 12/5: Review for Final Exam	Project 8: 12/3 Chapter 20	Due 12/6: Wage Determination & Superstar Salaries
FINAL EXAM	Section 1: 12/10, 12:00-1:50 PM Section 3: 12/13, 12-1:50 PM		

Note: The information in this syllabus, including grading information, may be subject to change. Any changes to the syllabus will be discussed in class.

HOW TO ACCESS YOUR SAPLING LEARNING HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS

1. Go to <http://saplinglearning.com> and click "US Higher Ed" at the top right.

2a. If you already have a Sapling Learning account, log in then skip to step 3.

2b. If you have Facebook account, you can use it to quickly create a SaplingLearning account. Click the blue button with the Facebook symbol on it (just to the left of the username field). The form will auto-fill with information from your Facebook account (you may need to log into Facebook in the popup window first). Choose a password and timezone, accept the site policy agreement, and click "Create my new account." You can then skip to step 3.

2c. Otherwise, click "Create Account." Supply the requested information and click "Create my new account." Check your email (and spam filter) for a message from Sapling Learning and click on the link provided in that email.

3. Find your course in the list (you may need to expand the subject and term categories) and click the link.

4. Select a payment option and follow the remaining instructions.

5. When prompted, enter the key code for your course: section1 or section3

6. Work on the Sapling Learning training materials. The activities, videos, and information pages will familiarize you with the Sapling Learning user environment and serve as tutorials for efficiently drawing molecules, stereochemistry, etc. within the Sapling Learning answer modules. These training materials are already accessible in your Sapling Learning course.

Once you have registered and enrolled, you can log in at any time to complete or review your homework assignments. During sign up - and throughout the term - if you have any technical problems or grading issues, send an email to support@saplinglearning.com explaining the issue. The Sapling support team is almost always better able to resolve technical issues than your instructor.
