

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS

**ECON 101-002: INTRODUCTION TO ECONOMICS**

Summer I, 2014

MoTuWeThFr 9:45 AM-11:15 AM, GA 308

**Instructor:** Brett Matsumoto

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**Office Hours:** M,Th. (9:00 AM – 9:30 AM), W (1:00 PM – 2:00 PM), and by appointment.

**Course Objectives:** We will cover a significant amount of material in a very short period of time. The key objectives are to introduce you to:

- 1) The economic way of thinking;
- 2) Some basic economic models and how economists use models to explain the world around us;
- 3) The impact that government policy has on our communities.

**Important Course Dates:**

May 22: First Midterm Examination

May 26: Holiday, no class

June 5: Second Midterm Examination

June 13: Last day of class

June 16: Final Exam, 8:00 - 11:00 AM

**Required Materials:**

- Modern Principles of Economics by Cowen and Tabarrok.
- Sapling Learning (saplinglearning.com) for homework assignments. Instructions for creating an account are at the end of the syllabus.
- Course Website: Sakai
- Basic calculator (~ \$1).

**Course Requirements:** This course is designed to be very rigorous and demanding. You are expected to work hard, actively participate, ask questions when you have any doubts, and perform to the very best of your ability. Still, the purpose of this course is to teach you something about economics, not to destroy your GPA. Evaluation for this course will be based upon two mid-term exams (20% each), a cumulative final exam (35%), Sapling problem sets (17.5%) and written assignments (7.5%).

**All Sapling problem sets must be completed on time – no exceptions.** Students are expected to work independently on the graded problem sets.

**Writing Assignments:** Econ-101 is designated as a General Education course by the university. GE courses must require ten pages of writing. This class will meet this requirement through 3 or 4 written homework assignments.

**Grades:** Letter grades are based on total points and not on an average of the letter grades for course components. A standard 10 point grading scale is used to determine letter grades.

**Exam Format:** There will be two mid-term exams given during the semester (**May 22<sup>nd</sup>** and **June 5<sup>th</sup>**) and a cumulative final exam (**June 13<sup>th</sup> @8:00 am**). Each exam will cover material presented in class and assigned readings. The exam format will be provided in class prior to a given exam. You should bring a #2 pencil, your UNC ID, and a basic calculator with you to each exam.

**Course Policies:**

- **Academic Integrity:** All students are expected to adhere to the Honor Code (<http://instrument.unc.edu>). The use of cell phones, pagers, computers, or any other unauthorized device during examinations is an explicit violation of the honor code. Any violation will result in an F for the course, and other sanctions may apply.
  
- **Missed Exams:** There are no make-up examinations. You are forewarned well in advance to properly schedule your time and make proper arrangements for other potential conflicts. If you must miss a midterm exam, say due to illness, you may be allowed to transfer the missed credit to the final examination. To qualify for a transfer of credit, you are expected to contact me before the start of the missed midterm examination and provide me with an acceptable explanation for missing exam. Only in exceptional cases will credit be transferred if you do not contact me until later. You are required to support your explanation with suitable documentation. If an acceptable explanation is provided, then the percentage (20%) for the missed midterm examination will be added to your final exam. If you miss both midterm exams, then your final exam will carry a weight of 75%. If you should be unable to attend the final exam, then you will need to provide me with an "Exam Excuse" from the Dean's Office. The date and time of the make-up final will be determined on an individual basis once the "Exam Excuse" is received.
  
- **Attendance Policy:** Regular attendance is strongly recommended. Absenteeism is most likely to negatively affect your understanding of the subject and, therefore, your grade. Office hours cannot be used as a substitute for a missed class meeting. You are responsible for any announcements and assignments that you may have missed if you choose not to attend class. You should get the missed notes/announcements from one of your peers. It is expected that you will respect your peers and the instructor with appropriate behavior while in class and that you will arrive to class on time with your cell phones turned to the off position. This means that you should refrain from reading the paper, browsing the web, instant messaging, playing games, etc. during class time. I do not consider it appropriate for students to play computer games, work on their

Facebook pages, or otherwise engage in recreational activity during class. **Students who are not willing to attend regularly should drop the course.**

### **Tips for Being Successful in ECON 101**

- Attend all lectures and exam Q&A Sessions.
- Stick to the deadlines given on Sapling. This means all assigned readings should be completed before they are presented, problem sets should be done by the due date, etc.
- Dedicate at least three hours of study time outside of class for every hour in class.
- If you find that you are having particular difficulty with any of the material in this course, then get help immediately. Do not let it build up. It is expected that you will have read the appropriate sections of the textbook and reviewed your notes BEFORE the scheduled meeting. Many students will wait until the last minute to get help and put extraordinary demands on their instructor's time.

**Disclaimer:** Although the instructor intends to follow this syllabus as closely as possible, there may be times when deviations from the material presented herein are necessary.

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Instructions for Sapling:

1. Go to <http://saplinglearning.com>
- 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 time zone, 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.

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](mailto:support@saplinglearning.com) explaining the issue. The Sapling support team is almost always more able (and faster) to resolve issues than your instructor.