**Introduction to Economics**

**Course Information:**

**Course Number**: ECON 224

**Required Materials**:

 Essentials of Economics, Brue, McConnell, and Flynn, 3rd edition

 Connect Access

 Strong Internet Connection

**Instructor Information:**

**Instructor**: Elizabeth Breitbach

**Email**: elizabeth.breitbach@moore.sc.edu

**Virtual Office Hours**: By appointment

**Welcome to ECON 224 ~ A message from the instructor**

Welcome to Introduction to Economics. Some students come into an economics course with misconceptions on what economics is and what economists do. What we will ***not*** do in this course is provide you with tips on stocks and the stock market. What we will talk about is incentives and decisions that individuals, businesses, and societies must make. While some areas of economics focus on the stock market, it can also be used to help us make daily decisions. We must weigh the benefits and costs of every decision we make; when a student chooses to attend class they must give something up, whether it is working at a part-time job or shopping with friends. Economics helps us better understand that decision-making process. This course will give you an introduction to economic concepts and help you better grasp how economics can be used in our everyday lives.

To ensure you get all you can from this course it is important to watch the video lectures, read the textbook, and ask questions during office hours. If you find yourself struggling with the material contact me as soon as possible. I also encourage you to come into the course with an open mind, even if you have had a bad experience in the past or heard horror stories from others. I want to assure you that I will do my best to make economics interesting and relevant to you.

Finally, it is important to recognize any problems or issues you are having early in the semester. If I am not made aware of a problem, I cannot be of any assistance. Keep track of your grades and progress throughout the semester and ask for help when it is needed.

**Have you taken an online course before?**

Online courses come with different sets of benefits and challenges compared to traditional lectures. The benefits of this course include “attending class” at a time that is convenient for you, the ability to watch a confusing lecture multiple times, and having access to the internet and other resources during lectures and exams. However, there are also challenges that come with an online class. You must be self-motivated to complete the assignments; you will not have an instructor reminding you at the start and end of class to complete any assignments or quizzes. You may also need to wait for an answer to a question (either for an email response or until a virtual lecture) rather than asking immediately during class. It is important to keep the challenges in mind going forward. While the quizzes and exams are open book/note, that does not mean you do not need to study for the assessments. These assessments will be timed and you will need to be fully prepared. Treat these assessments as you would any other to ensure you earn the highest grade possible.

**University Policies:**

Academic Integrity: Assignments and examination work are expected to be the sole effort of the student submitting the work. Students are expected to follow the University of South Carolina Honor Code and should expect that every instance of a suspected violation will be reported. Students found responsible for violations of the Code will be subject to academic penalties under the Code in addition to whatever disciplinary sanctions are applied. Cheating on a test or copying someone else’s work, will result in a 0 for the work, possibly a grade of F in the course, and, in accordance with University policy, be referred to the University Committee for Academic Responsibility and may result in expulsion from the University.

The use of previous semester course materials is **not** allowed in this course. This is inclusive of homework, projects, quizzes and/or tests. These aids are not available to all students within the course and undermines the fundamental principles of fairness and disrupts your professor’s ability to accurately evaluate your work.

A student’s grades are to represent to what extent that individual student has mastered the course content. As such, students should assume that they are to complete course work individually. It is the responsibility of each student to seek clarification if they are unclear on what constitutes proper or improper collaboration*.*

**Message from IT on Online Testing**

Students taking tests should be sure they are using a browser that works well with Blackboard – we recommend Mozilla Firefox or Google Chrome.  Other browsers may have inconsistent results, especially while taking tests.  The second thing is that they must be sure they have a strong connection to the internet – a wired network connection is preferred, but if they are using wireless, they should be as near to the wireless broadcasting system as possible to get a strong connection.

 If students are getting other errors on Blackboard, they should contact the **UTS Service Desk at 803-777-1800** and report the error.  We can then follow up to determine what exactly may have occurred – if it was a Blackboard error or a computer error.

**Goals and Learning Objectives**

After this course you will be able to define basic economic concepts and theories, use economics to analyze current events and personal decisions, and evaluate political issues in economic terms. More specific learning outcomes will be included in each module.

 To achieve these outcomes multiple forms of evaluation will be used. To ensure that students comprehend economic concepts and theories, there will be three exams and module quizzes. Student understanding of current events and political issues will be assessed through class discussion, article analysis, and individual reflection.

Amending the Syllabus: Amendments and changes to the syllabus, including evaluation and grading mechanisms, are possible. All amendments will be distributed in writing to students via Blackboard.

**What do I need to do to pass this course?**



 Exam 1: 100 points

 Exam 2: 100 points

 Exam 3: 100 points

 Quizzes: 110 points

 **Total: 410 points**

You have the opportunity to drop your lowest required quiz and exam scores by completing optional assignments. The optional assignments will never hurt your grade, I will only keep the score if you improve.

For example, suppose you have taken the required four quizzes for a section and received the following grades: 9, 8, 6, 8 for a total of 31 points. If you take the optional quiz and earn a 9, your new score will be calculated using 9, 8, 9, 8 for a total of 34 points. If you would have instead earned a 5 on the optional assignment I would keep the original scores and your total is 31 points, the same is true if you do not take the optional assessment.

**Assessments**

The course is divided into 3 sections, each with a set of modules. The required modules are listed in the syllabus schedule. An optional module is also included and can be used to replace your lowest required module for that section. The section modules will all open on the date specified in the schedule. Each module is graded based on a 10-point quiz. Quiz due dates can be found on the schedule.

Three exams will be given throughout the semester. Exams have 40 questions, worth 2.5 points each. Exam dates are listed on the course schedule.

Quizzes and Exams will be distributed through Blackboard/Connect. They will be timed; submitting an assessment after the allotted time has passed will result in a zero. The assessments are also open for a limited time period, be sure to pay attention to due dates as submitting an assessment after the due date will result in a score of zero. For more information and directions see the individual quiz or exam posting.

**Winter Session Note**

This version of the course is condensed into three weeks. It is important to devote enough time to this course during this period. There will be one section of content completed every week, this is similar to a months worth of work in a traditional course.

All content will be released on the start date for the course. You may work ahead in the course, but you will need to complete assessments before the due date passes. See the schedule for the list of due dates for assessments.

**Student Success Center and Academic Resources**

In partnership with University of South Carolina faculty, the Student Success Center (SSC) offers several programs to assist you in better understanding your course material and to aid you on your path to success.  SSC programs are facilitated by trained undergraduate peer leaders who have previously excelled in their courses.  Resources available to students in this course include:

**Peer Tutoring:** You can make a one-on-one appointment with a peer tutor by going to [www.sc.edu/success](http://www.sc.edu/success).   Drop-in Tutoring and Online Tutoring may also be available for this course.  Visit our website for a full schedule of times, locations, and courses.

**Success Connect:** Throughout the semester, your instructor may communicate with the SSC regarding your progress in the course.  If contacted by the SSC, please schedule an appointment to discuss campus resources that are available to you.  Success Connect referrals are not punitive and any information shared by your professor is confidential and subject to FERPA regulations.

 SSC services are offered to all USC undergraduates at no additional cost.  You are invited to call the Student Success Hotline at (803) 777-1000 or visit [www.sc.edu/success](http://www.sc.edu/success) to check schedules and make appointments.  Success Consultants are available to assist you in navigating the University and connecting to available resources.

**Accommodating Disabilities:** Reasonable accommodations are available for students with a documented disability. If you have a disability and may need accommodations to fully participate in this class, contact the Office of Student Disability Services: 777-6142, TDD 777-6744, email sasds@mailbox.sc.edu, or stop by LeConte College Room 112A. All accommodations must be approved through the Office of Student Disability Services. The instructor must be notified of all accommodations before the first exam.

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| **Schedule by Module** | **Quiz and Exam Information** |
| Introductory Folder | Course Contract Due |  | Wednesday, January 3rd |
| Introduction to Economics | Quiz 1 Due |   | Friday, January 5th |
| Supply and Demand Part 1 | Quiz 2 Due |   | Friday, January 5th |
| Supply and Demand Part 2 | Quiz 3 Due |   | Friday, January 5th |
| Market Failures | Quiz 4 Due |   | Friday, January 5th |
| Labor Market | Optional Quiz Section 1 Due |   | Friday, January 5th |
| Exam 1 | Exam 1 Due |   | Friday, January 5th |
| PPF and Comparative Advantage | Quiz 5 Due |   | Thursday, January 11th |
| GDP and Growth | Quiz 6 Due |   | Thursday, January 11th |
| Business Cycles and Unemployment | Quiz 7 Due |   | Thursday, January 11th |
| Inflation | Quiz 8 Due |   | Thursday, January 11th |
| International Economics |  Optional Quiz Section 2 Due |   | Thursday, January 11th |
| Exam 2 | Exam 2 Due |   | Thursday, January 11th |
| Fiscal Policy and Government Debt | Quiz 9 Due |   | Wednesday, January 17th |
| Money and Financial Institutions | Quiz 10 Due |   | Wednesday, January 17th |
| Monetary Policy | Quiz 11 Due |   | Wednesday, January 17th |
| Income Inequality | Optional Quiz Section 3 Due |   | Wednesday, January 17th |
| Exam 3 | Exam 3 Due |   | Wednesday, January 17th |
| Optional Comprehensive Final | Optional Final Exam |   | Thursday, January 18th |