



ECON 224 Winter 2020 Introduction to Economics

Winter 2020

Instructor:
Dr. Elizabeth Breitbach

Syllabus

Quick Tips for a Successful Semester!

- **You will only get out of this class as much as you put in. It is easy to put the class off until the due date. Try to get started on the material early in the week.**
- **Contact the instructor as soon as you realize there is a problem!**
- **Visit the Student Success Center! Even if you are doing well on the quizzes, students are often surprised by their first exam score!**
- **Come into the class with an open mind. Economics is fun! Enjoy the course!**

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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.

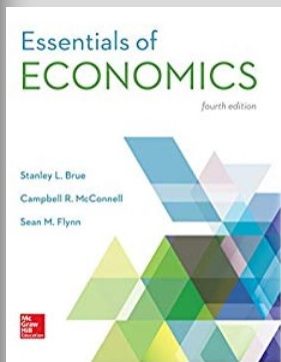


Have you taken an online course before?

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

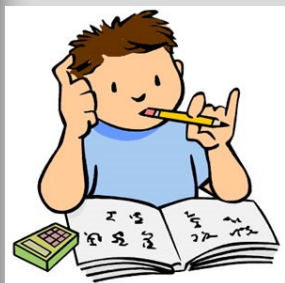
complete the assignments; you will not have an instructor reminding you at the start and end of class to complete any assignments or quizzes. You may also need to wait for an answer to a question (either for an email response or until a virtual office hour) rather than asking immediately during class. It is important to keep the challenges in mind going forward. While the worksheets and exams are open

book/note, that does not mean you do not need to study for the assessments. The exams are 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.



Course FAQ Page

If you have a question for the course I recommend that you first see the FAQ page. If you do not find the answer there, please email me. I will post Frequently Asked Questions on the page to ensure all students have access to the same information.



Course Information

Course Number: ECON 224 Winter 2020
Office Hours: See Weekly Announcement
 Contact instructor for individual session.

Required Materials:

- Essentials of Economics, Brue, McConnell, and Flynn, 4th edition
- Connect Access
- Strong, Wired Internet Connection
- Basic Function Calculator

Assignment	Individual Points	Total for Semester	Percent Total
Worksheets	20 points each	140 points total	28.3%
Exams	50 points each	350 points total	70.7%
Course Contract	5 points	5 points total	1%
Total		495 points	100%

Required Course Assignments and Exams

Sections: This course is divided into 7 sections, each approximately 2 weeks long. The sections, along with release and due dates are listed in the course schedule. In addition to the 7 sections there is one additional worksheet and a final exam that can be used to replace your lowest score on the worksheet and exam.

Schedule: The sections will open on a Monday, with the Worksheet due the following Wednesday. On that Wednesday the Exam

for the section will open and will be due on Friday of the same week. All assignments are due at 11:59pm on the date listed in the syllabus. More information on the exams will be posted as the release date approaches.

Worksheets: Worksheets and Exams are distributed through Blackboard and Connect. You may enter either system to access the assessments. The Worksheets are not timed and you have the opportunity to exit the assignment and

reenter. You will have two attempts for each worksheet. Each worksheet will be worth 20 points, for a total of 140 points or 28.3% of your final grade. The course contract completed at the start of the semester is worth 5 points or 1% of your final grade. **Exams:** Exams are timed, based on the number of questions and whether any questions require calculations. You will only have one attempt to complete an exam. When clicking on the exam, both in Black-

Letter Grade	Min. Number Points Needed
A	445.5 points
B+	425.7 points
B	396.0 points
C+	376.2 points
C	346.5 points
D+	326.7 points
D	297.0 points
F	

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.

“There is no such thing as a free lunch”
~Milton
Freedman

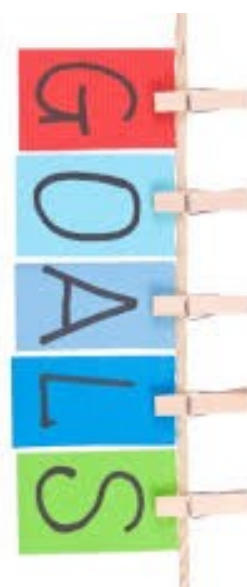
Goals and Learning Outcomes

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 exams and worksheets. Student under-

standing 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.

Instructor:

Dr. Elizabeth Breitbach

Darla Moore School of Business

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A little about myself. Since this is an online course and we do not get to meet formally, I thought I would include a bit about myself.

I have been teaching at the University of South Carolina for seven years. I am originally from the Midwest, I did my undergraduate at a small liberal arts college in Iowa and earned my PhD in Economics from University of Nebraska.

My family includes four daughters Katherine, Laurel, Margaret, and Alma along with my husband Ben. We love to spend time outdoors, whether it is going to the park or on a hike. We also enjoy traveling, especially to the mountains.

My favorite things about South Carolina is the barbeque, beaches, and winter weather!

Student Success Center and Academic Resources

In partnership with University of South Carolina faculty, the Student Success Center (SSC) offers a number of 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. Drop-in Tutoring and Online Tutoring may also be available for this course. Visit our website for a full schedule of times, lo-

cations, 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

[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.