ECON 1101

Economics of Social Issues

Fall 2022

Instructor: Kevin Crimmins
E-Mail: kevin.crimmins@uncc.edu
Office Hours: Virtually MW: 12:30pm – 2:15pm by appointment.

Course Website: http://canvas.charlotte.edu/

Textbook: Economic Analysis of Social Issues
Author: Alan Grant
ISBN: 978-1-4533-9896-8

At a minimum, students are required to have Online Access to the textbook ($32.95), however there are additional options through the Online Access link.

Course Description: Economic issues without principles-level emphasis on theoretical models. Contemporary economic issues may include international issues, recession, poverty, social security, taxes, and crime. A student is ineligible to take this course if credit has already been received for either ECON 2101 or ECON 2102.

Course Objectives: This course satisfies a Social Science requirement under the Inquiry in the Sciences section of the General Education Requirements. Along with other course objectives, this course will help the student to develop problem-solving skills; skills associated with independent thinking; and will address social, political, and global issues using tools of economic analysis.

Course Expectation: This course expects that you will master unfamiliar and challenging concepts. However, it is designed in a way that anyone willing to read the text, attend class regularly, use or develop good study strategies, complete assignments on time, and contact the instructor when they are struggling, can develop a mastery of the material and succeed in the course.

The typical workflow for each chapter will be as follows:

Attend Class ➔ Read ➔ Homework ➔ Attend Class ➔ Quiz ➔ Review in/out of Class

Course Policies

Contacting Instructor: To contact me directly, please email me at kevin.crimmins@uncc.edu. If you have a general question that you feel everyone would benefit from, post the question in “Q & A” in Canvas. My goal is to respond within 12-24 hours.
Academic Integrity: Students have the responsibility to know and observe the requirements of The UNC Charlotte Code of Student Academic Integrity. (This code forbids cheating, fabrication or falsification of information, multiple submissions of academic work, plagiarism, abuse of academic materials, and complicity in academic dishonesty.) Any special requirements or permission regarding academic integrity in this course will be stated by the instructor and are binding on the students. Academic evaluations in this course include a judgment that the student’s work is free from academic dishonesty of any type, and grades in this course therefore should be and will be adversely affected by academic dishonesty. Students who violate the code can be expelled from UNC Charlotte. The normal penalty for a first offense is zero credit on the work involving dishonesty and further substantial reduction of the course grade. In almost all cases, the course grade is reduced to F. Copies of the code can be obtained from the Dean of Students Office. Standards of academic integrity will be enforced in this course. Students are expected to report cases of academic dishonesty to the course instructor.

Diversity: The Belk College of Business strives to create an inclusive academic climate in which the dignity of all individuals is respected and maintained. Therefore, we celebrate diversity that includes, but is not limited to ability/disability, age, culture, ethnicity, gender, language, race, religion, sexual orientation, and socio-economic status.

All students and the instructor are expected to engage with each other respectfully. Unwelcome conduct directed toward another person based upon that person’s actual or perceived race, actual or perceived gender, color, religion, age, national origin, ethnicity, disability, or veteran status, or for any other reason, may constitute a violation of University Policy 406, The Code of Student Responsibility. Any student suspected of engaging in such conduct will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

This course affirms people of all gender expressions and gender identities. If you prefer to be called a different name than what is indicated on the class roster, please let me know. Feel free to correct me on your preferred gender pronoun. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Academic Accommodations: UNC Charlotte is committed to access to education. If you have a disability and need academic accommodations, please provide a letter of accommodation from Disability Services early in the semester. For more information on accommodations, contact the Office of Disability Services at 704-687-0040.

Make-up work: There are NO make-up quizzes, NO make-up homework assignments, and NO make-up tests. However, a make-up test will be given to students who have missed a test due to an absence vetted and cleared by the Office of Student Assistance and Support Services. Student Assistance and Support Services will provide a leniency request letter to the instructor, which the instructor will use to allow a makeup exam. To verify an absence, please go to https://sass.charlotte.edu/services/absence-verification. Make-up tests must be completed within one week of the scheduled test.

Attendance: You are expected to arrive on time, stay the entire class period, and conduct yourself in a professional manner during class by being attentive. Attendance will be taken each class period for extra credit. Extra credit will be included at the end of the semester and will be determined by the percentage of classes you attended when attendance was taken. The maximum extra credit will be 3% of your overall grade. If you are not present in the classroom while I have checked your spot for attendance and you are present for that entire class, you must see me after class to have your attendance recorded. Attendance records for attending class will not be changed after the end of class. You do not need to notify me when you will be missing class.
**LockDown Browser + Webcam Requirement:** This course requires the use of LockDown Browser and a webcam for online exams. The webcam can be the type that's built into your computer or one that plugs in with a USB cable. Watch this brief video to get a basic understanding of LockDown Browser and the webcam feature.


**Download Instructions**
Download and install LockDown Browser from this link:

https://download.respondus.com/lockdown/download.php?id=536515735

Finally, when taking an online exam, follow these guidelines:

- Select a location where you won't be interrupted
- Before starting the test, know how much time is available for it, and that you've allotted sufficient time to complete it
- Turn off all mobile devices, phones, etc. and don't have them within reach
- Clear your area of all external materials — books, papers, other computers, or devices
- Remain at your desk or workstation for the duration of the test
- Avoid wearing baseball caps or hats with brims.
- Ensure your computer or device is on a firm surface.
- If using a built-in webcam, avoid readjusting the tilt of the screen after the webcam setup is complete.
- Take the exam in a well-lit room but avoid backlighting (such as sitting with your back to a window).
- LockDown Browser will prevent you from accessing other websites or applications; you will be unable to exit the test until all questions are completed and submitted

Note: You won't be able to access a quiz that requires LockDown Browser with a standard web browser. If this is tried, an error message will indicate that the test requires the use of LockDown Browser. Simply start LockDown Browser and navigate back to the exam to continue.

**Getting Help for LockDown Browser**
Several resources are available if you encounter problems with LockDown Browser:

- The Windows and Mac versions of LockDown Browser have a "Help Center" button located on the toolbar. Use the "System & Network Check" to troubleshoot issues.
- Contact the IT Help Desk at https://help.charlotte.edu/ or 704-687-5500.
- Respondus has a Knowledge Base available from support.respondus.com. Select the "Knowledge Base" link and then select "Respondus LockDown Browser" as the product. If your problem is with a webcam, select "Respondus Monitor" as your product.

If you're still unable to resolve a technical issue with LockDown Browser, go to support.respondus.com and select "Submit a Ticket". Provide detailed information about your problem and what steps you took to resolve it.
Netiquette: Throughout the semester there may be times we interact online through Zoom or "Q & A" on Canvas. I expect that you will practice good netiquette in these online spaces. Here are a few tips:

For Asynchronous Communication
- Even in an online environment, your writing should represent you as a professional, educated person.
  - Use proper grammar, spelling, syntax, and word choice in your posts.
  - Be precise. Using specific word choice will make your ideas clear to your readers. Read your posts aloud before posting them, to ensure that you are writing clearly.
  - Avoid emoticons and “texting” abbreviations. These products of casual, online conversations are not professional and can distract from the message you are sending in your post.
- Be thorough and carefully proofread your work
  - Use examples and explanations to justify your opinion. Make an assertion, and then support it with evidence.
  - Avoid simply saying “I agree with you” in a reply to a classmate’s post. You can tell them you agree, but then tell them why.
  - Some online forums build-in edit time after you hit submit. Others do not. So, make sure you read through your post, count to 10, and read it again before submitting.
- Be respectful -- “remember the human.”
  - It is fine to have strong opinions, as long as you present them rationally and use evidence/reason to support them. But make sure you are doing just that.
  - Respect diversity of cultural background, ethnicity, religion, race, and gender.
  - Profanity and sexist/ageist/racist comments are unacceptable, so make sure not to use them -- and if you are the recipient of a comment like that, remain calm and report the issue to your instructor.
  - Control your temper. Be respectful, even if others are not.
- Take your posts seriously. They are not only part of your grade, but they are also part of your learning process. Make sure you are giving yourself the right learning environment, and that you are also supporting your colleagues’ learning with well-reasoned, informed, and respectful posts.

For Synchronous Live Sessions
- Respectful behavior and clear, concise discussions are still a part of video conference discussions, therefore many of the guidelines above apply. But, video conferencing requires another level of intentionality, so that other attendees can see and hear you. For anyone on the conference, instructor and student alike:
  - Wear headphones or earbuds, and/or mute your audio when you are not speaking, to avoid feedback or ambient noise.
  - Attend your meetings in as quiet a space as possible, to avoid distractions
  - For your video, make sure you have lighting in front of you, and avoid bright light behind you.
  - Remove any clutter behind you, so that your colleagues are not distracted.

Grading

Homework: Homework constitutes 25% of the final grade. Required homework assignments will be completed and submitted through Canvas. The homework assignments are intended to help you learn the material. The worst mistake students make in doing homework is to wait until the last minute to cram the assignment in without actually learning anything. Also, just clicking on answers until you get the right one will not help you learn. I will not lecture on all the material in class, so it is in your best interest to read the book before and during the homework. You should also be proactive about asking for help with concepts that aren’t clear and using proven learning strategies to learn the material. DO NOT miss your
deadlines – I will not extend any deadlines. If the homework is turned in late, there will be a 20% reduction of the grade for each hour it is late. However, things happen, so I will drop your lowest homework grade for the semester.

Quizzes: Quizzes constitute 15% of the final grade. Required quizzes will be completed and submitted through Canvas. The quizzes are intended to see how prepared you are for a test on the material. You have 2 (two) attempts to complete each quiz. The higher score will count as your grade for the quiz. DO NOT miss your deadlines – I will not extend any deadlines. If the quiz is turned in late, there will be a 20% reduction of the grade for each hour it is late. Your lowest quiz grade will be dropped.

Tests and Final Exam: Tests constitute 60% of the final grade. There will be four tests. The fourth test is your Final Exam and will only cover the chapters completed since Test 3. Each test will be comprised of multiple-choice questions and will be taken on Canvas in class using Respondus LockDown Browser. Students will only be allowed a blank sheet of paper and a pencil. The LockDown Browser will provide a calculator, however personal calculators are allowed. Any other electronic devices are not allowed. If you begin a test late, you will not be given extra time at the end of the exam period to complete the test. If you attempt to take the exam outside of our classroom, you will receive a zero on the test.

Grade Calculation: Your grade is computed with the following formula:

\[
\text{GRADE} = (\text{Exam Avg}) \times 60\% + (\text{Homework Avg}) \times 25\% + (\text{Quiz Avg}) \times 15\% + \text{Attendance Grade} \times 3\%
\]

Your overall course grade is determined by the following scale in percentage:

A = 89.5 or above; B = 79.5 < 89.5; C = 69.5 < 79.5; D = 59.5 < 69.5; F = below 69.5

Schedule

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Content</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8/24</td>
<td>Chapter 1: Fundamental Concepts in Economics</td>
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<td>8/26, 8/29</td>
<td>Chapter 2: Cost-Benefit Analysis and the Value of a Life</td>
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<td>8/31 – 9/7</td>
<td>Chapter 4: Basic Game Theory: Games between Two Players</td>
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<td>Friday, September 16th</td>
<td>TEST 1 (Chapters 1, 2, 4, and 5)</td>
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<td>9/26 – 9/28</td>
<td>Chapter 7: The Nature of Pollution Problems</td>
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<td>9/30 – 10/3</td>
<td>Chapter 8: Government Policies to Regulate Pollution</td>
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<td>Wednesday, October 5th</td>
<td>TEST 2 (Chapters 6 - 8)</td>
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<td>10/12 – 10/17</td>
<td>Chapter 9: Resource Depletion and Sustainability</td>
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<td>10/19 – 10/21</td>
<td>Chapter 10: Public Goods and the Role of Government</td>
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<td>10/24 – 10/28</td>
<td>Chapter 12: The Volunteer’s Dilemma: A Collective Inaction Problem</td>
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<td>10/31 – 11/4</td>
<td>Chapter 13: Voting: You Can’t Always Get What You Want</td>
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<td>Monday, November 7th</td>
<td>TEST 3 (Chapters 9, 10, 12, and 13)</td>
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<td>11/9 – 11/16</td>
<td>Chapter 14: The Economics of Health Insurance and Health Care</td>
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<td>11/18 – 11/30</td>
<td>Chapter 16: GDP and Wealth of Nations</td>
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<td>12/2 – 12/7</td>
<td>Chapter 21: Income Inequality and the Redistribution of Income</td>
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<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>TEST 4 (Chapters 14, 16, and 21)</td>
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