

ECON 1101-002
Economics of Social Issues
Spring 2021

Instructor: Kevin Crimmins

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Office Hours: Wednesday's during scheduled meeting time and by appointment

Course Website: <http://canvas.uncc.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 (\$29.95) and [Campuswire](#).

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.

The typical workflow for each week will be as follows:

- **Thursday:** Read the chapter using your electronic or physical text. Review homework assignment.
- **Friday:** Attend the Online class session that will look at the heart of the chapter's material with examples and class discussion.
- **Monday and Tuesday:** Complete homework and chapter quiz.
- **Wednesday:** Attend the Online class session to ask questions about material, homework, and quiz.

Course Policies

Contacting Instructor: To contact me directly, please email me at kcrimmil@uncc.edu. If you have a general question that you feel everyone would benefit from, post the question in the “Class feed” on Campuswire. My goal is to respond within 12-24 hours.

Netiquette: In order to facilitate organic learning and dissemination of information, we will have an online forum for our class sessions, direct messaging, discussion feeds, and chatrooms. I expect that you will practice good netiquette in these online spaces. Here are a few tips:

For Asynchronous Communication (DMs, Discussions in Class feed, and Chatrooms)

- 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 on Zoom:

- 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.

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.

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.

Attendance: Attendance will be taken for the Friday online session. Live attendance to YOUR class section's Friday session is required. When attending an online session, students are expected to conduct themselves in a professional manner. If you miss a live session, you can view the recorded session in Cloud Recordings in the Zoom link located on the left side navigation bar to our Canvas website. The password to the recording will be posted on Campuswire after each session.

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 Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office 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.uncc.edu/services/absence-verification> Make-up tests must be completed within one week of the scheduled test.

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.

<https://www.respondus.com/products/lockdown-browser/student-movie.shtml>

Download Instructions

Download and install LockDown Browser from this link:

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

Once Installed

- Start LockDown Browser
- Log in to Canvas
- Navigate to the quiz

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.

LockDown Browser + Webcam Guidelines

When taking an online test, follow these guidelines:

- Ensure you're in a location where you won't be interrupted.
- Turn off all other devices (e.g. tablets, phones, second computers) and place them outside of your reach.
- Before starting the test, know how much time is available for it, and also that you've allotted sufficient time to complete it.
- Clear your desk or workspace of all external materials not permitted - books, papers, other devices.
- Remain at your computer for the duration of the test.
- If the computer, Wi-Fi, or location is different than what was used previously with the "Webcam Check" and "System & Network Check" in LockDown Browser, run the checks again prior to the exam.
- To produce a good webcam video, do the following:
 - Avoid wearing baseball caps or hats with brims.

- Ensure your computer or device is on a firm surface (a desk or table). Do NOT have the computer on your lap, a bed, or other surface where the device (or you) are likely to move.
- 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).
- Remember that 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.

Getting Help for LockDown Browser + Webcam

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. If an exam requires you to use a webcam, also run the "Webcam Check" from this area.
- Contact the IT Help Desk at <https://itservices.uncc.edu/help> 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.

Grading

Attendance: Attendance accounts for 5% of the final grade. Live attendance to our Friday online sessions is required. Students can miss one (1) Friday online session and still receive the full 5% of the final grade. For additional absences the scoring is as follows: 2 absences: 4%, 3 absences 2%, 4 absences, 1%, and 5 absences or more, 0%.

Extra Credit: Extra credit is determined by a student's Campuswire reputation point's relative position in the class's reputation point distribution. Students whose reputation points on Campuswire are at the 90th percentile and above of the class's reputation point distribution will receive 1 percentage point extra credit to their overall grade, and those at the 80th percentile to the 90th percentile will receive 1/2 of a percentage point extra credit to their overall grade.

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 try and cram in the assignment without actually learning anything. Also, just click 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 studying virtually with your classmates. **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. Your lowest homework grade will be dropped.

Quizzes: Quizzes constitute 10% 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. Quizzes are intended to be completed in one sitting. **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 using Respondus LockDown Browser and Monitor. This means that a webcam will be mandatory for this course. Students will only be allowed a blank sheet of paper and a pencil. You must show both sides of the blank sheet of paper during the environment check in order to use any paper. The LockDown Browser will provide the calculator.

Students will be given an adequate time period to take the test, typically a 12-hour period. A student who begins a test close to the deadline will not be given extra time at the end of the regular exam period.

TEST SCHEDULE (Test dates are firm)

Test 1 – Wednesday, February 24th

Test 2 – Wednesday, March 24th

Test 3 – Wednesday, April 14th

Test 4 – Friday, May 7th

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

$$\text{GRADE} = (\text{Exam Avg}) \times 60\% + (\text{Homework Avg}) \times 25\% + (\text{Quiz Avg}) \times 10\% + \text{Attendance Grade} \times 5\%$$

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

Date	Content
1/20 - 1/27	Chapter 1: Fundamental Concepts in Economics
1/28 - 2/3	Chapter 2: Cost-Benefit Analysis and the Value of a Life
2/4 - 2/17	Chapter 4: Basic Game Theory: Games between Two Players
2/18 - 2/24	Chapter 5: Free Exchange: Individual and International Trade
Wednesday, February 24th	TEST 1 (Chapters 1, 2, 4, and 5)
2/25 - 3/3	Chapter 6: The Market System: Functions, Structure, and Institutions
3/4 - 3/10	Chapter 7: The Nature of Pollution Problems
3/11 - 3/17	Chapter 8: Government Policies to Regulate Pollution
3/18 - 3/24	Chapter 9: Resource Depletion and Sustainability
Wednesday, March 24th	TEST 2 (Chapters 6 - 9)
3/25 - 3/31	Chapter 10: Public Goods and the Role of Government
4/1 - 4/7	Chapter 12: The Volunteer's Dilemma: A Collective Inaction Problem
4/8 - 4/14	Chapter 13: Voting: You Can't Always Get What You Want
Wednesday, April 14th	TEST 3 (Chapters 10, 12, and 13)
4/15 - 4/21	Chapter 14: The Economics of Health Insurance and Health Care
4/22 - 4/28	Chapter 16: GDP and Wealth of Nations
4/29 - 5/5	Chapter 21: Income Inequality and the Redistribution of Income
Friday, May 7th	TEST 4 (Chapters 14, 16, and 21)