ECON 1101-002

Economics of Social Issues

Fall 2021

Instructor: Kevin Crimmins
E-Mail: kcrimmi1@uncc.edu
Office Hours: MW: 1:00pm – 3:00pm; also virtual by appointment during the same time period.

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).

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:
Read → Attend Class → Homework → Attend Class → Quiz → Review in/out of Class

Course Policies

Contacting Instructor: To contact me directly, please email me at kcrimmi1@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.

**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 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](https://sass.uncc.edu/services/absence-verification) Make-up tests must be completed within one week of the scheduled test.

**Attendance:** Attendance will be taken each day in class. Attendance counts for 5% of your final grade. Each unexcused absence after 2 will reduce your attendance grade. The 3rd unexcused absence will reduce your overall attendance grade by 20%, and your 4th and 5th unexcused absence will reduce your overall attendance grade by 40% each. This means after 5 unexcused absences, you will receive a 0% on your overall attendance grade.

Students are expected to arrive on time and stay the entire class period. 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.

When attending, it is expected that you will conduct yourself in a professional manner during class by being attentive. You do not need to notify me when you will be missing class. To have an absence excused, you must submit documentation to the Dean of Students Office’s absence verification program. [https://sass.uncc.edu/services/absence-verification](https://sass.uncc.edu/services/absence-verification) Only absences that can be verified by the university’s absence verification program will be excused.
University policy for absences related to COVID-19, please adhere to the following:

- **Complete your [Niner Health Check](#) each morning.**
- **Do not come to class if you are sick.** Please protect your health and the health of others by staying home. Contact your healthcare provider if you believe you are ill.
- **If you are sick:** If you test positive or are evaluated by a healthcare provider for [symptoms of COVID-19](#), indicate so on your [Niner Health Check](#) to alert the University. Submit a copy of your Niner Health Check notification email to your instructors. Upon learning that you have tested positive or have been diagnosed for symptoms of COVID-19, either from your reporting or from Student health Center testing or diagnosis, representatives from Emergency Management and/or the Student Health Center will follow up with you, and your instructors will be notified of the need for accommodations, as necessary.
- **If you have been exposed** to COVID-19 positive individuals and/or have been notified to self-quarantine due to exposure, indicate so on your [Niner Health Check](#) to alert the University. Representatives from Emergency Management and/or the Student Health Center will follow up with you as necessary. Submit a copy of your Niner Health Check notification email to your instructors. If you need any additional support verifying your absence after you have communicated with your professors, contact [Student Assistance and Support Services](#).

To return to class after being absent due to a period of self-quarantine, students should submit a copy of their Niner Health Check clearance email to their instructor(s). To return to class after being absent due to a COVID-19 diagnosis, students should submit an [online request form](#) to Student Assistance and Support Services (SASS). Supporting documentation can be attached directly to the request form and should be from a student's health care provider or the Student Health Center, clearly indicating the dates of absences and the date the student is able to return to class. Instructors will be notified of such absences.

If you are absent from class as a result of a COVID-19 diagnosis or quarantine, I will excuse your absence and our class sessions will be available online for you to watch.

**Face Coverings:** It is the current policy of UNC Charlotte that as a condition of on-campus enrollment, all students are required to engage in safe behaviors to avoid the spread of COVID-19 in the 49er community. Such behaviors specifically include the requirement that all students properly wear CDC-compliant face coverings [in all indoor spaces on campus](#), including classrooms and labs, **regardless of vaccination status**. Failure to comply with this policy in the classroom or lab may result in dismissal from the current class session. If the student refuses to leave the classroom or lab after being dismissed, the student may be referred to the Office of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity for charges under the [Code of Student Responsibility](#).

**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:

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://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.

Netiquette: In order to facilitate organic learning and dissemination of information, we will use the "Q & A" forum on Canvas for our outside of class discussions. I expect that you will practice good netiquette in 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.
  o Use proper grammar, spelling, syntax, and word choice in your posts.
  o 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.
  o 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
  o Use examples and explanations to justify your opinion. Make an assertion, and then support it with evidence.
o 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 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.”
  o 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.
  o Respect diversity of cultural background, ethnicity, religion, race, and gender.
  o 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.
  o 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:
  o Wear headphones or earbuds, and/or mute your audio when you are not speaking, to avoid feedback or ambient noise.
  o Attend your meetings in as quiet a space as possible, to avoid distractions
  o For your video, make sure you have lighting in front of you, and avoid bright light behind you.
  o 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 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. 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 a calculator. Personal calculators and 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.

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

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<tr>
<td>8/23 – 8/27</td>
<td>Chapter 1: Fundamental Concepts in Economics</td>
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<tr>
<td>8/30 – 9/3</td>
<td>Chapter 2: Cost-Benefit Analysis and the Value of a Life</td>
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<td>9/6 – 9/10</td>
<td>Chapter 4: Basic Game Theory: Games between Two Players</td>
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<td>Friday, September 17th</td>
<td><strong>TEST 1 (Chapters 1, 2, 4, and 5)</strong></td>
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<td>9/27 – 10/1</td>
<td>Chapter 7: The Nature of Pollution Problems</td>
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<td>10/4 – 10/8</td>
<td>Chapter 8: Government Policies to Regulate Pollution</td>
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<td>Wednesday, October 13th</td>
<td><strong>TEST 2 (Chapters 6 - 8)</strong></td>
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<td>10/13 – 10/20</td>
<td>Chapter 9: Resource Depletion and Sustainability</td>
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<td>10/27 – 11/3</td>
<td>Chapter 12: The Volunteer’s Dilemma: A Collective Inaction Problem</td>
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<td>Friday, November 12th</td>
<td><strong>TEST 3 (Chapters 9, 10, 12, and 13)</strong></td>
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<td>11/15 – 11/19</td>
<td>Chapter 14: The Economics of Health Insurance and Health Care</td>
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<td>11/22 – 12/1</td>
<td>Chapter 16: GDP and Wealth of Nations</td>
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<td>12/1 – 12/8</td>
<td>Chapter 21: Income Inequality and the Redistribution of Income</td>
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<td>Final Exam</td>
<td><strong>TEST 4 (Chapters 14, 16, and 21)</strong></td>
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