Course: Economics – E150: Introduction to Economics
Summer Study Away - 2015

Meeting Info: This is a dual-credit course which will be held both online, and during a Study Away trip to New York City.
Instructor: Aaron Lane Morris
Office Location: Louisville, Kentucky
Office Hours: Tuesday, 8pm-10pm CST, 9pm-10pm EDT, on a Google + Hangout video chat
Contact Info: 502-641-7810 (cell); aaronlane@gmail.com

Econ 150 Texts:
- Various readings will be assigned throughout the semester
- The following blogs will be used for common reference in class:
  - Marginal Revolution http://marginalrevolution.com/
  - Greg Mankiw’s Blog http://gregmankiw.blogspot.com/
  - Freakonomics http://www.freakonomics.com/
  - The Sports Economist http://thesportseconomist.com/
  - First Trust Economics http://www.ftportfolios.com/retail/blogs/economics/
- It is highly recommended you use an RSS reader such as netvibes, feedly, or digg to subscribe to them.

Students with Disabilities:
Students with disabilities who require accommodations (academic adjustments and/or auxiliary aids or services) for this course must contact the Office for Student Disability Services, Room A200, Downing Student Union. The OFSDS telephone number is (270) 745-5004. Per university policy, please NO NOT request accommodations directly from the professor without a letter of accommodation from the Office for Student Disability Services.

On a personal note, I myself am considerably hard of hearing, and wear instruments to compensate. Typically this causes no disruptions. If you have a hearing loss or a necessary accommodation you would like to discuss with me, please feel free to do so. In this course I will use videos in addition to video and audio chats. If any of these present a problem for you, I encourage you to discuss it first with the OFSDS then with myself.

Econ 150 Outcome-Based Goals and Objectives:
This course fulfills the General Education Requirements for General Education Category C – Social and Behavioral Sciences. It is designed to provide general information to economic concepts, ideas, institutions and methods of analysis with emphasis on the description of economic processes and the functioning of institutions in a market economy. Upon completion of this course, students will have learned how to apply economic concepts to contemporary issues and understand how economics impacts their own world.

Econ 150 Assignments & Grading

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation in Study Away Events, discussions and assignments</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homework Assignments &amp; Quizzes</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing Assignment(s)</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>1000</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Weekly Quizzes: Each week, a list of required and optional (but recommended) readings will be posted to the Blackboard course website. There will also be quizzes, and video lectures to help in understanding that week’s materials.
Syllabus

The quizzes will consist of 20+ questions, and are completely open book, where any resources at your disposal may be used. The quizzes may be taken as many times as you like, and your highest score will count toward your grade.

You may NOT collaborate with any other persons on assignments or quizzes. All work is expected to be your own.

This is intentional, as the design of the materials, grading, and assignments in this course are intended to maximize your learning, not your ability to take tests or memorize lecture notes.

There is no mid-term, and no final exam in this course.

*Homework assignments* - May consist of problems from the book, handouts, writing assignments, graphical analysis, or even field work or data collection.

*Class Participation* – The bulk of our class participation will obviously consist of the Study Away trip. During this trip we will hold discussion groups, lectures, informal discussions and group conferences. I anticipate assigning writings on several of our visits, and readings beforehand so you understand the nature of what we are seeing.

Class participation will also consist of your attendance in at least ONE “Virtual office hours” session. Every Tuesday night during the course, I will host a Google+ hangout from 8pm-10pm CST (Bowling Green time.) This will consist of myself on audio and video link similar to Skype or FaceTime. I will use this opportunity to answer questions, clarify points from the video lectures, and to generally interact with students. (Times are subject to change.)

Audio and video is not required on your part, but is encouraged as you can also interact with fellow students during this time. **You are encouraged to attend these sessions weekly, but your class participation points will be based on your attendance of at least one session. If no one is on the session as of 8:15 pm, I reserve the right to assume no one is attending and cancel that week’s session.**

*Writing Assignment* - The writing assignment for this course will consist of one paper on a topic of public policy related to economics, or one of our locations we visit in New York. You will summarize, present an economic analysis and provide an informed opinion about the current policy or the proposed change. You will also be expected to make your own policy recommendations. You may feel free to select your own topic and have it approved by me. The writing assignment will be due near the end of November.
Syllabus

Your points earned during the semester will be converted to the corresponding letter grade:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Points Range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>900.0 – 1000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>880.0 – 899.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>700.0 – 799.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>600.0 – 699.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>699.99 and below</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Assurance of Learning:

School of Business graduates are knowledgeable professionals who are capable decision-makers, effective communicators, and technologically adept.

The School of Business at Western Kentucky University is accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AASCB). Less than 5% of the world's business schools have achieved this elite distinction. To maintain this accreditation and to seek continuous improvement, we assess our program through an assurance of learning plan. As a part of this plan, undergraduate students are evaluated in the following five areas: knowledge of business, decision making, communication, technology and professionalism.

Intellectual Property Notice:

Plagiarism – Plagiarism is defined as presenting someone else’s work, including the work of other students, as one’s own. Any ideas or materials taken from another source for either written or oral use must be fully acknowledged, unless the info is common knowledge. What is considered “common knowledge” may differ course to course.

1. A student must not adopt or reproduce ideas, opinions, theories, formulas, graphics, or pictures of another person without acknowledgement.
2. A student must give credit to the originality of others and acknowledge indebtedness whenever:
   a. Directly quoting another person’s actual words, whether oral or written;
   b. Using another person’s ideas, opinions, or theories;
   c. Paraphrasing the words, ideas, opinions, or theories of others, whether oral or written;
   d. Borrowing facts, statistics, or illustrative material; or
   e. Offering materials assembled or collected by others in the form of projects or collections without acknowledgment.

All students are expected to read and abide by the academic honesty guidelines states in the WKU student handbook (wee.wku.edu/StuAffairs/StuLife/handbook/toc.htm). Violations of the code of conduct include but are not limited to cheating (collaborating or consulting with another person in an academic activity without authorization) and plagiarism (representing as the student’s own work all or any portion of the work of another.) Academic misconduct will result in an automatic F for the course. Student work may be checked using plagiarism detection software.

Incompletes and Late Withdrawals:

Incompletes and late withdrawals will NOT be given just because a student is doing poorly in a course.
Missed Assignments, quizzes, and deadlines:

No makeup assignments or quizzes will be provided, since students have an entire week to complete assignments. Any serious emergency will be dealt with on a case by case basis and reasonable common sense will be applied.