**Course Syllabus:**

Issues in Today’s Economy

ECON 191, Section 1

Room #109 Grubbs Hall

T-TH 2:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m., Fall 2018

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**Instructor:** Dr. Paul W. Grimes, Professor of Economics and Dean

**Office:** 101-C Kelce Hall

**Hours:** 3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. TTH, and by appointment

**Phone:** 235-4591 (Assistant), 235-4590 (Direct) **E-mail:** Via Canvas

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# Textbook

*Economics of Social Issues*, 21st Edition by Register and Grimes is the required text for this course. An On-Line Learning Center is available to assist your study and to help prepare you for exams. This web-based portal includes practice quizzes, graphing reviews, and links to other resources. Access is provided through the Canvas learning management system.

# Catalog Course Description

An issues-oriented practical guide to introductory economics. Through examination of contemporary social issues and problems, a framework of economic analysis is developed. Topics such as world poverty and development, discrimination, pollution, monopoly power, unemployment, international trade, taxes, global competition, and social security are covered. Upon completion of the course, students will be able to view current events with an economic understanding of the issues involved. Designed for non-business students: not open to students with credit or concurrent enrollment in ECON 200 Principles of Microeconomics or above.

# Prerequisites

This is an introductory survey course with no prerequisites. ECON 191 counts as one course toward the General Education “Producing and Consuming” requirement. Several majors and minors require economics courses beyond ECON 191 – be sure to check with your advisor and the degree audit in GUS to ensure that this course meets your plan of study needs.

# Course Objectives / Learning Outcomes

Issues in Today’s Economy provides students with a basic level of economic literacy necessary for effective citizenship in today’s world. From studying important issues confronting our society, students will learn economic concepts and theories that help explain the sources of the problems and provide potential solutions. The course will include, but will not be limited to, the following broad lines of inquiry:

* Introduction to economics (scarcity, opportunity cost)
* How market systems work
* Comparison of economic systems and the allocation of economic resources
* The allocation of income and measures of economic growth
* How social, political, environmental, legal, technological events effect economic outcomes

The course will include both domestic and international examples and applications. The goals are to (1) enable students to understand and appreciate the application of economic analysis to critical social issues in the modern world, and (2) motivate students to continue to acquire and use economic knowledge throughout their lives.

# General Education Goals

This course, as a part of the university’s General Education program, is designed to help you become a better rounded person. It is designed to meet the following general education goals and objectives.

Goal 1: Students should be able to function responsibly in their natural, social, political, technological, and economic environment.

Objective 1: Students will demonstrate an understanding of fundamental economic ideas and principles.

Objective 2: Students will explain how economic ideas and principles apply to our daily decision-making as producers and consumers.

Goal 2: Students should be able to think critically, to reason and to analyze.

Objective 1: Student will demonstrate the ability to distinguish between relevant and irrelevant information when asked to solve a problem.

Objective 2**:** Students will apply generalizations, principles, theories or rules to new situations and/or the real world.

Objective 3: Students will demonstrate the ability to analyze and synthesize.

# Course Outline

Approximately one textbook chapter a week will be covered in class. It is extremely important that you stay current with reading the textbook and other materials assigned by the instructor. Modification in the structure and order of the material presented may be made during the length of the semester, depending on time available and other constraints. Exams will be given after approximately five or six chapters of study are completed. The following is a rough schedule of study:

 Chapter 1 Human Misery Chapter 8 Big Business and Monopoly

 Chapter 2 Economic Systems Chapter 9 Professional Sports

 Chapter 3 Price Controls Chapter 10 International Trade

 Chapter 4 Pollution Chapter 11 Economic Growth

Chapter 5 Crime and Prevention Chapter 12 Money and the Financial System

 Chapter 6 Education Chapter 13 Unemployment and Inflation

 Chapter 7 Poverty and Discrimination Chapter 14 Government Spending and Taxation

 Chapter 15 Social Security and Medicare

# Teaching Methods

The primary methods of instruction are lecture and interactive classroom discussion. Problem solving exercises and outside reading may be assigned throughout the semester. Everyone is expected to stay current with course assignments through the Canvas leaning management system and to use the system for class communications.

# Canvas

Students are expected to check the Canvas learning management system for announcements and communications from the instructor prior to each class meeting. Canvas should be used as the primary means of communicating with the instructor and TA. Do not expect messages sent after normal working hours to be answered promptly.

# Attendance Policy

Class attendance is EXPECTED!! Any material covered during class time is eligible to be included on future exams. In order to be prepared, you are strongly encouraged to attend ALL class meetings. Attendance will be recorded on a random basis by the Teaching Assistant (TA). Noted excessive absence will be reflected in your final course grade. Classroom participation in discussions is most strongly recommended and encouraged.

Deadlines for dropping and adding courses are provided in the current Syllabus Supplement. The instructor will NOT drop students from this class. Any student who discontinues class attendance without officially dropping will be awarded an F grade for the semester.

# Classroom Conduct

Everyone is EXPECTED to arrive on time for all scheduled class meetings. Due to the size of this section, it is important not to interrupt the class by arriving late or leaving early. All cell phones MUST be silenced during class. Electronic devices such as tablets and laptops may be used in class ONLY for taking notes or other activity as directed by the instructor. Any student found using electronic devices during class time for entertainment or personal communications will be asked to leave. Be considerate of others and always behave in a courteous manner.

# Academic Integrity

All Pitt State students are bound by the academic integrity policies of the university as described and outlined in the current Syllabus Supplement. Please familiarize yourself with these rules and guidelines. In addition, as a course offered through the Kelce College of Business, students in this class are obligated to adhere to the college’s Student Code of Ethics as outlined below. Students pledge to:

* Arrive on time, remain until dismissed at all class sessions, and notify instructors in advance of anticipated absences, late arrivals, or early departures whenever possible.

* Turn off cell phones or other electronic devices while in class, unless permission to use them has been granted.

* Refrain from class disturbances.

* Refrain from use of profane or vulgar language in a threatening or disruptive manner.

* Treat fellow students, staff, faculty, administrators, and property with respect.

* Refrain from giving or receiving inappropriate assistance.

* Prepare assignment and exams honestly, refraining from such unacceptable conduct as plagiarism or unacknowledged appropriation of another’s work in any academic work.

* Obey the policies, regulations, and laws of the United States of America, the State of Kansas, the Kansas Board of Regents, Pittsburg State University, and the Gladys A. Kelce College of Business.

If a student observes someone committing dishonesty in connection with academic work, the student is encouraged to report that dishonesty to the appropriate individual (ex, faculty member, or administrator).

# Students with Disabilities

Please inform the instructor if you have a learning or physical disability that interferes with course requirements. Assistance and/or appropriate accommodations may be available through the contacts listed on the current Syllabus Supplement.

# Security Statement

In this class, students may be asked to participate in activities, such as engaging in group work, using the board, testing without personal properties in close proximity, or other collaborative exercises. These activities may require students to either be separated from their bags or be prepared to keep their bags with them at all times during such activities. Students are encouraged to read the weapons policy online ([http://pittstate.edu/dotAsset/ca5f2c95-67c7-426d-8da9-b42f5d00a936.pdf)](http://pittstate.edu/dotAsset/ca5f2c95-67c7-426d-8da9-b42f5d00a936.pdf) to ensure they understand the requirements related to concealed carry.

# Course Evaluation Methods

Throughout the semester two tests worth 100 points each will be given in-class. Each of these exams will cover the previous section of study. Also, a final exam will be given worth 150 points. The final will be comprehensive but emphasis will be placed on the last section of study and any untested material covered in class. All exams will be announced at least one week in advance of the test date. Total points available on exams equal 350.

In addition to the exams, students will complete five additional assignments weighted at 20 points each. These assignments will consist of in-class quizzes, homework problems, essays and other practical work. Total points available for these assignments equal 100.

Make-up exams and assignments will NOT be given as a general rule. However, if you are forced to miss class due to unavoidable circumstances, a written request to reschedule will be considered. Any written request must be submitted in-person at the earliest possible time. All decisions made by the instructor whether to allow a make-up are final.

All final course grades will be based on scores from the regular exams, assignments, and the comprehensive final exam. Total performance points available during the semester equal 450. In addition, one bonus point for each recorded attendance will be added to each student’s performance score. The following grading scale will be guaranteed:

 90 - 100% -- 405 - 450 points = A 80 - 89% -- 360 - 404 points = B

 70 - 79% -- 315 - 359 points = C

 60 - 69% -- 270 - 314 points = D Below 60% -- 0 - 269 points = F

In determining the final course grade, classroom participation will be given consideration in borderline cases.

# Note

The instructor reserves the right to amend and to reorganize this syllabus at any time.