

AGEC 217 –ECONOMICS
21700-Y01 (57258) Online/Distance
Spring 2016
Evening exam for on-campus students:
Thursday March 3, 8-9:30pm, Lilly 1105

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Welcome. Welcome to the on-line/distance education version of AGECE 217 Economics for the Spring semester 2016. It's a course about how to use economics to understand the issues and policy choices facing our world. Be prepared to understand what's going on out there!

One thing that's always true about online courses: problems will occur. Don't panic! Any glitches will be fixed. No one will lose out because of campus software or hardware problems. *Let me know how things are working—and especially how things aren't working.* That's usually the only way I'll know.

Keeping Up. The *most important* thing to do is to keep up with the course schedule. ***This is NOT a course that you can do on your own schedule.*** There are due dates and deadlines! The next page of this syllabus shows assignment due dates, and the last page shows the course schedule. Do the readings, view the lectures and videos, do the assignments and quizzes on time. Lectures are live-streamed, and recordings and notes will be posted soon after the face-to-face version of the course. You should view them within a day or two. Guided study and assignments will be available on the class website in Blackboard Learn. Start them when they appear, because they will shut down after the due date.

Evidence from past semesters shows that, on average, on-line students earn lower final grades than face-to-face students. This is NOT because they do worse on assignments, but because they don't submit all the assignments. ***On-Line courses take more self-discipline than face-to-face courses!***

Online On-Campus vs. Distance Ed. Most people taking the online course are on campus. Some are not. ***If you are off-campus, send me an email*** so we can establish a connection and start the process of finding a proctor for the exams. My class roster does *not* tell me who is off-campus, so you must let me know.

Course Goal. Here's what we're aiming at:

After taking AGECE 217, you will be able to use knowledge of economic measurement, the economic model and the history of U.S. economic policy to understand and analyze economic events, both personal and global, which occur during the rest of your life.

It's an ambitious goal, but if we both work at it, it can happen!

Office Hours. Online students who are on-campus, and distance ed students (should you come to campus) are welcome at office hours. I'll be holding office hours on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 10 a.m. to 12 noon, in my office, Krannert 618. Our TA, Tanner McCarty, will hold office hours Wednesdays and Fridays, 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. He's also in the Krannert Building, room 645. If these times don't work for you, contact either of us through email, phone or in person, and we'll find a different time. Sometimes our schedules change, so watch the Announcements page on the website each week.

Class Website. Announcements, resources, assignments and quizzes are available on the class website on Blackboard Learn. The Blackboard Learn log-in address is www.itap.purdue.edu/tlt/blackboard. There's also a link to Blackboard at the bottom-left of the Purdue homepage (in tiny little letters), at www.purdue.edu. Everyone registered for the course should see a link to AGEC 217 on their "My Blackboard" page. This website serves both the online and face-to-face sections, and the face-to-face section has some in-class activities and exams that differ from the online section. Use this syllabus and the website as a guide for what online students should be doing.

Announcements. The class webpage on Blackboard has an Announcements section. You should check it frequently for information about due dates, upcoming exams, and other course information. I'll identify announcements that apply only to online or face-to-face students.

Textbook. Larry DeBoer, *MacroPolicy: Learning Macroeconomics with Policy History*; 8th edition, 2015. It's available at the bookstores on campus. You can also order it directly from Pearson Custom Press, with a credit card at 800-922-0579. Note that the 8th edition has about 75 fewer pages than the 6th and 7th editions, and the chapters have been rearranged. You should get the 8th edition. Editions earlier than the 6th wouldn't work at all.

Modules. The course is organized into four modules. Each module has a Guided Study for Credit, a Gradient project, a Spreadsheet Assignment, a Project Quiz and an Extra Credit opportunity. Here's a handy table showing the due dates and grading points for each assignment. Keep track of due dates! Remember, these are deadlines. *Don't leave the work to the last day!*

Due Dates and Grading Points: AGEC 217 OnLine, Spring 2016									
Assignment	Module 1	Pts	Module 2	Pts	Module 3	Pts	Module 4	Pts	Total Pts.
Guided Study for Credit	Jan. 25	25	Feb. 17	25	Mar. 23	25	Apr. 18	25	100
Gradient Essay	Jan. 25	3	Feb. 17	9	Mar. 23	9	Apr. 18	9	30
Gradient Grading	Feb. 1	7	Feb. 24	21	Mar. 30	21	Apr. 25	21	70
Spreadsheet Assignment	Feb. 1	30	Feb. 24	30	Mar. 30	30	Apr. 25	30	120
Project Quiz	Feb. 1	45	Feb. 24	45	Mar. 30	45	Apr. 25	45	180
Module Total Points		110		130		130		130	500
Exams (comprehensive)			Mar. 3	200			Final TBA	300	500
Course Total									1000
Extra Credit	Jan. 18	5	Feb. 24	5	Mar. 30	5	Apr. 25	20	35

Grades. You can see your assignment grades on the My Grades page of the class website. Total grades are added up at the end of each module. By the end of the semester grades are based on 1,000 points. You'll need 967 or more for an A+, 934-966 for an A, 895-933 for an A-, 867-894 for a B+, 834-866 for a B, and so forth.

Exams. If you are on the West Lafayette campus, or within 50 miles of the West Lafayette campus, you will need to take the evening exam on **Thursday, March 3, 8:00 pm to 9:30 pm, in Lilly Hall 1105**. The Final Exam will also be on campus, but the date has not yet been set. The midterm exams covers Modules 1 and 2. The final exam is *comprehensive*, covering all 4 modules.

Distance Ed Students take note:

If you are a *Distance Ed* student, which means that you are located more than 50 miles from campus, you will need to find an exam proctor and file a proctor form to take the exams. See the website for a copy of the proctor form. **PLEASE CONTACT ME IF YOU ARE AN OFF-CAMPUS STUDENT**, at ldeboer@purdue.edu. My class list does not tell me who you are—I won't know unless you notify me. Our TA, Tanner McCarty, will be handling the administrative details for off-campus students. Off-campus students will have a few days around the exam date to take the exams and have their proctor submit it. The email to your proctor will give the exam dates.

Boilercast Recordings. Boilercast is a system for broadcasting and recording lectures and the powerpoint slides that go with them. These are lectures for the face-to-face class, which take place at 3:00 to 4:15 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays. The lectures should be live-streamed, so you can watch and listen as they happen, if you like. The recordings should be posted shortly after the class ends. You should try to view the lectures as soon as you can after they are recorded. You can find a link to Boilercast on the class website. There's a schedule of Boilercast recordings on the last page of this syllabus.

Guided Study for Credit. Some learning takes place in lectures. Most learning takes place through reading and study and practice. In this class you'll get credit for that effort. Guided Study for Credit is a series of 5 quizzes in each Module, available on the class website. Each quiz has five questions worth one point each, so there are up to 25 quiz points available in each Module. Do the readings, view the Boilercast lectures, watch the posted videos, and you'll be able to answer these questions. *Each Guided Study quiz can be taken as many times as you like, and your grade will be your highest quiz score.* Each quiz will be different each time you take it. Quizzes are not timed, so you can read the questions and search for the answers.

Gradient Essays. Real life issues are messy collections of information and opinions about events and policies. The economic models, data and history we'll study in this course will help you think critically about all this messy information. Gradient asks you to write a short essay about an economic news article, analyzing the issues with economic ideas. Then you will grade three sample essays written by me (Prof. DeBoer), three of your classmates' essays, and finally your own essay. You'll practice writing about economic issues, and (even more) doing critical evaluations of economic writing by other people.

In Module 1 the Gradient essay will be 40 to 60 words, with the essay and all the grading worth only 10 points. That way we can see how it all works. In Modules 2, 3 and 4 the essay will be 150 to 225 words, with the essay and grading worth 30 points.

Spreadsheet Assignments. Economics is not an experimental science. The world of actual events is our only laboratory. We record these events with economic measurements, such as gross domestic product, the consumer price index, and the unemployment rate. The spreadsheet assignments ask you to "get your hands dirty" with this data. You'll find a spreadsheet data file with economic measures from 1960 to 2015 on the class website. The instructions will tell you what calculations to make. You'll use the results of the calculations to answer questions about the economy, in a quiz on the class website. Each Module has a spreadsheet assignment, and each is worth 30 points. *The spreadsheet assignments can be taken and submitted only once.*

Project Quiz. Once the class is over the economic issues you'll see won't be in a textbook or a lecture. They'll be in data releases, news articles, media reports, campaign events, public discussions and so forth. You should be able to apply what you learn in this course to these real world issues. In each Module you will see a project quiz that asks you to look at data, read news articles or watch videos about economic issues. Then you'll apply economic ideas and tools to the issue in a quiz. The project quiz is worth 45 points in each Module. *The project quizzes can be taken and submitted only once.*

Makeup and Late Policy. If you are on-campus and cannot attend the semester or final exams, contact me *before* to schedule an alternate time. It is important to do this as soon as possible, because I post the answers to the exams on the website after the exam dates. On-line quizzes and assignments are submitted through Blackboard Learn, and submission is cut off just before midnight on the due dates. Late submissions aren't possible, so don't be late!

Academic Integrity. That means, "don't cheat." Purdue has a guide for students on integrity at www.purdue.edu/purdue/about/integrity_statement.html. You may work in groups on any of the on-line assignments, but you must submit your answers through Blackboard yourself. We'll be proctoring the exams to prevent cheating.

Campus Emergencies. If there is a major campus emergency, course requirements, deadlines and grading percentages may be changed—even for the online course. Information about any changes will be posted on the Announcements page of the class website.

We take these emergencies seriously at Purdue. To report an emergency, call 911. To obtain updates regarding an ongoing emergency, sign up for Purdue Alert text messages, at www.purdue.edu/ea. There are nearly 300 Emergency Telephones outdoors across campus and in parking garages that connect directly to the Purdue police. If you feel threatened or need help, push the button and you will be connected immediately.

Here's a schedule of Boilercast recordings, due dates and readings.

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Boilercast Recording Dates			Assignment Due Dates	
Tue	12-Jan		Lecture: Intro	
MODULE 1: MACROECONOMIC MEASUREMENT; DEMAND AND SUPPLY				
Th	14-Jan	1-1	Lecture: Ch 1	Textbook Reading: Chapters 1-2, Jan. 25
Tue	19-Jan	1-2	Lecture: Ch 2	Extra Credit: Jan. 18
Th	21-Jan	1-3	Lecture: Ch 2	Gradient Essay: Jan. 25
Tue	26-Jan	1-4	Lecture	Guided Study for Credit: Jan. 25
Th	28-Jan	1-5	None	Project Quiz: Feb. 1
Tue	2-Feb	1-6	Recap/Q&A	Gradient Grading: Feb. 1
Th	4-Feb	1-7	None	Spreadsheet Assignment: Feb. 1
MODULE 2: THE GOODS AND MONEY MARKETS IN THE MACROECONOMIC MODEL				
Tue	9-Feb	2-1	Lecture: Ch 3	Textbook Reading: Chapters 3-5, Feb. 17
Th	11-Feb	2-2	Lecture: Ch 4	Gradient Essay: Feb. 17
Tue	16-Feb	2-3	Lecture: Ch 5	Guided Study for Credit: Feb. 17
Th	18-Feb	2-4	Lecture	Project Quiz: Feb. 24
Tue	23-Feb	2-5	None	Gradient Grading: Feb. 24
Th	25-Feb	2-6	Recap/Q&A	Spreadsheet Assignment: Feb. 24
Tue	1-Mar	2-7	None	Extra Credit: Feb. 24
Exam: Thurs., March 3, 8-9:30 pm, Lilly 1105				
MODULE 3: FISCAL AND MONETARY POLICY; THE GREAT DEPRESSION				
Th	3-Mar	3-1	Lecture: Ch 6	Textbook Reading: Chapters 6-8, Mar. 23
Tue	8-Mar	3-2	Lecture: Ch 7	Gradient Essay: Mar. 23
Th	10-Mar		None	Guided Study for Credit: Mar. 23
Tue	15-Mar		Spring	Project Quiz: Mar. 30
Th	17-Mar		Break	Gradient Grading: Mar. 30
Tue	22-Mar	3-3	Lecture: Ch 8	Spreadsheet Assignment: Mar. 30
Th	24-Mar	3-4	Lecture	Extra Credit: Mar. 30
Tue	29-Mar	3-5	None	
Th	31-Mar	3-6	Recap/Q&A	
Tue	5-Apr	3-7	None	
MODULE 4: THE EXCHANGE MARKET; THE ECONOMY SINCE THE 1960'S				
Th	7-Apr	4-1	Lecture: Ch 9	Textbook Reading: Chapters 9-12, Apr. 18
Tue	12-Apr	4-2	Lecture: Ch 10	Gradient Essay: Apr. 18
Th	14-Apr	4-3	Lecture: Ch 11	Guided Study for Credit: Apr. 18
Tue	19-Apr	4-4	Lecture	Project Quiz: Apr. 25
Th	21-Apr	4-5	None	Gradient Grading: Apr. 25
Tue	26-Apr	4-6	Lecture: Ch 12	Spreadsheet Assignment: Apr. 25
Th	28-Apr	4-7	Recap/Q&A	Extra Credit: Apr. 25
May 2 - 7			FINAL EXAM (date & time to be announced)	