

AGEC 217 –ECONOMICS
21700-Y01 (57258) Online/Distance
Spring 2018
Purdue University
Evening exam for on-campus students:
Tuesday, February 27, 8-9:30 pm, FRNY G140

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Welcome. Welcome to the on-line/distance education version of AGECE 217 Economics for the Spring semester 2018. 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!

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

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

The key words are ***apply and analyze***. We'll be *doing* economics in this class, which means learning how to use economic tools. That means practice. The assignments and exercises in this class are opportunities to practice applying the tools to analyze economic events and issues. Applying economic tools to analyze events and issues is what we mean by "critical thinking" in this class.

Online Problems. One thing that's always true about online courses: problems can 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 if 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. Lecture recordings and notes will be posted soon after they are done for 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.

Since you won't be attending class, you'll have to remember due dates and motivate yourself to meet them. ***On-Line courses take more self-discipline than face-to-face courses!***

Off-Campus 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 course exams. See the website "Course Information" page 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. 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.

Textbook. Larry DeBoer, *MacroPolicy: Learning Macroeconomics with Policy History*; 9th edition, 2017. 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 9th edition has one *less* chapter than the 8th edition. You should get the 9th edition. Editions earlier than the 7th wouldn't work at all.

Office Hours. Prof. DeBoer and our TA Jose Nuno will hold office hours each week. Online students who are on-campus are welcome at office hours. So are distance ed students, should you come to campus. Check the announcement page on the Blackboard website for office hours times each week. Sometimes our schedules change, so be sure to check. If the scheduled times don't work for you, contact either of us through email or in person, and we'll find a time that works.

Supplemental Instruction. There are Supplemental Instruction (SI) study sessions available for this course. Online students are welcome to attend. These informal, peer-led study groups are open to anyone enrolled in this course who would like to stay current with the course material and understand it better. *Attendance is entirely voluntary.* Times and locations can be found here: www.purdue.edu/si or at the app: www.purdue.edu/boilerguide. Our SI leader is Jakob Hayes. Students will be working with peers to compare notes, demonstrate and discuss pertinent problems and concepts, and share study and test-taking strategies. Students are asked to arrive with their student ID card, lecture notes and questions.

Class Website. Announcements, resources, assignments and quizzes are available on the class website on Blackboard Learn. The Blackboard Learn log-in address is mycourses.purdue.edu. There's also a link to Blackboard on the Purdue homepage, 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.

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 2018									
Assignment	Module 1	Pts	Module 2	Pts	Module 3	Pts	Module 4	Pts	Total Pts.
Guided Study for Credit	Jan. 22	25	Feb. 14	25	Mar. 21	25	Apr. 16	25	100
Gradient Essay	Jan. 22	3	Feb. 14	9	Mar. 21	9	Apr. 16	9	30
Gradient Grading	Jan. 29	7	Feb. 21	21	Mar. 28	21	Apr. 23	21	70
Spreadsheet Assignment	Jan. 29	30	Feb. 21	30	Mar. 28	30	Apr. 23	30	120
Project Quiz	Jan. 29	45	Feb. 21	45	Mar. 28	45	Apr. 23	45	180
Module Total Points		110		130		130		130	500
Exams (comprehensive)			Feb. 27	200			Final TBA	300	500
Course Total									1000
Extra Credit	Jan. 14	5	Feb. 21	5	Mar. 28	5	Apr. 23	20	35

Grades. You can see your assignment grades on the My Grades page of the class website. Total points show the points you've earned so far. Percent grade are your total points as a percentage of possible points so far. 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 **Tuesday, February 27, 8:00 pm to 9:30 pm, in Forney Hall (FRNY) G140**. The Final Exam will also be on campus, but the date has not yet been set. The midterm exam covers Modules 1 and 2. The final exam is *comprehensive*, covering all 4 modules. *Distance ed students more than 50 miles from campus should contact Prof. DeBoer about finding a proctor for the exams.*

Boilercast Recordings. Boilercast is a system for broadcasting and recording lectures and the powerpoint slides that go with them. These are lectures given during the semester to the earlier face-to-face class, which takes place at 1:30 to 2:45 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays. The recordings are 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 5 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 or document, analyzing the issues with economic ideas. Then you will grade three sample essays written by 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. Call it an "elevator speech." 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 2017 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 midterm 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. 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	9-Jan		Lecture: Intro	
MODULE 1: MACROECONOMIC MEASUREMENT; DEMAND AND SUPPLY				
Th	11-Jan	1-1	Lecture: Ch 1	Textbook Reading: Chapters 1-2, Jan. 22
Tue	16-Jan	1-2	Lecture: Ch 2	Extra Credit: Jan. 14
Th	18-Jan	1-3	Lecture: Ch 2	Gradient Essay: Jan. 22
Tue	23-Jan	1-4	Lecture	Guided Study for Credit: Jan. 22
Th	25-Jan	1-5	None	Project Quiz: Jan. 29
Tue	30-Jan	1-6	Recap/Extras	Gradient Grading: Jan. 29
Th	1-Feb	1-7	None	Spreadsheet Assignment: Jan. 29
MODULE 2: THE GOODS AND MONEY MARKETS IN THE MACROECONOMIC MODEL				
Tue	6-Feb	2-1	Lecture: Ch 3	Textbook Reading: Chapters 3-4, Feb. 14
Th	8-Feb	2-2	Lecture: Ch 4	Gradient Essay: Feb. 14
Tue	13-Feb	2-3	Lecture: Ch 4	Guided Study for Credit: Feb. 14
Th	15-Feb	2-4	Lecture	Project Quiz: Feb. 21
Tue	20-Feb	2-5	None	Gradient Grading: Feb. 21
Th	22-Feb	2-6	Recap/Extras	Spreadsheet Assignment: Feb. 21
Tue	27-Feb	2-7	None (Exam)	Extra Credit: Feb. 21
Exam: Tue., Feb. 27, 8-9:30 Forney G140				
MODULE 3: FISCAL AND MONETARY POLICY; THE GREAT DEPRESSION				
Th	1-Mar	3-1	Lecture: Ch 5	Textbook Reading: Chapters 5-7, Mar. 21
Tue	6-Mar	3-2	Lecture: Ch 6	Gradient Essay: Mar. 21
Th	8-Mar		None	Guided Study for Credit: Mar. 21
Tue	13-Mar		Spring	Project Quiz: Mar. 28
Th	15-Mar		Break	Gradient Grading: Mar. 28
Tue	20-Mar	3-3	Lecture: Ch 7	Spreadsheet Assignment: Mar. 28
Th	22-Mar	3-4	Lecture	Extra Credit: Mar. 28
Tue	27-Mar	3-5	None	
Th	29-Mar	3-6	Recap/Extras	
Tue	3-Apr	3-7	None	
MODULE 4: THE EXCHANGE MARKET; THE ECONOMY SINCE THE 1960'S				
Th	5-Apr	4-1	Lecture: Ch 8	Textbook Reading: Chapters 8-11, Apr. 16
Tue	10-Apr	4-2	Lecture: Ch 9	Gradient Essay: Apr. 16
Th	12-Apr	4-3	Lecture: Ch 10	Guided Study for Credit: Apr. 16
Tue	17-Apr	4-4	Lecture	Project Quiz: Apr. 23
Th	19-Apr	4-5	None	Gradient Grading: Apr. 23
Tue	24-Apr	4-6	Lecture: Ch 11	Spreadsheet Assignment: Apr. 23
Th	26-Apr	4-7	Recap/Extras	Extra Credit: Apr. 23
April 30-May 5			FINAL EXAM (date & time to be announced)	