**ONLINE**

**Course Description**
This course focuses on theoretical economic concepts and their planning and policy applications, and it is structured as an introductory-level survey of economics. This course covers foundations of microeconomics including supply & demand, elasticity, market efficiency, externalities, and public goods. We then expand to key concepts in environmental economics, urban economics, and macroeconomics, and will discuss recent challenges to neoclassical economic theory, such as behavioral economics. Importantly, the connection to policy implementation and practical societal challenges will be heavily stressed. Fall semester, 3 credits, A,B,C,F.

**Learning Objectives:**
1.) Demonstrate proficiency in **basic foundational concepts of economics**
2.) Demonstrate an understanding of **how economic concepts connect to policy challenges and solutions**
3.) Demonstrate skill in communicating about **economic theory, concepts, and applications**

**Mode of Instruction:** ONLINE
1- **Faculty-student interaction:** Asynchronous, pre-recorded Zoom meetings/lectures, live Zoom meetings, Black Board discussions, and email.
2- **Academic integrity:** Black Board discussions, SafeAssign
3- **Minimum technology needs:** Computer and internet access to all Stony Brook University active remote systems.
4- **Course delivery mode & structure:** Asynchronous

**Class Readings:**

Additional readings will be posted on Blackboard and drawn from academic journals, research papers, national and international news sources, and other materials.

**Course Structure:**
The course will be conducted online; all assignments and course interactions will utilize internet technologies (see “Technical Requirements” section for more information). This will entail pre-recorded Zoom lectures, Black Board discussion boards, and computer distance learning techniques as deemed appropriate for the course material. New lectures will be released each week on Monday in the form of a Zoom video and powerpoint slides. Students may download and view them at their convenience. I will also hold live Zoom sessions on some weeks during office hours to review lecture material and answer questions. These will be announced in advance throughout the semester.

**Communication:**
Course-related questions should be posted in the General Questions Forum in the course Discussion board. For other
issues, please contact me via my Stony Brook email listed above. I respond to emails quickly, but please allow between 24-48 hours for a reply. Your Stony Brook University email must be used for all communications, and all Blackboard messages will be sent to your SBU email, so you must have an active SBU account and access to the Internet. Please plan on checking your SBU email account regularly for course related messages.

Office hours will be held every Thursday 10am-1pm, and appointments are available in 15-minute slots. If you would like to schedule time, please use this link to select an appointment slot for the Thursday of the day/week you choose. We will meet either by Zoom or in person in my office, depending on schedules, preference, and current university conditions/restrictions.

Technical Requirements:
This course uses Blackboard for the facilitation of communications between faculty and students, submission of assignments, and posting of grades. You are responsible for having a reliable computer and Internet connection throughout the session. Caution! You will be at a disadvantage if you attempt to complete all coursework on a smartphone or tablet. It may not be possible to submit the files required for your homework assignments. If you need to discuss specific computer hardware or software requirements, please contact me for more details.

Grading: ||
2) Final Paper: 40% (10% for outline and preliminary bibliography due 9/25/21 & 30% for paper due 12/11/21)
3) Discussion Forum participation: 20% – due weekly on Saturdays by 11:59pm unless otherwise specified
4) Discussion Forum leadership: 10% - due on Wednesdays by 11:59pm during the two weeks you are leading the discussion. Two weeks of discussion leadership per student. Sign-up sheet will be provided.

Basis of Grade Determination
A (93-100), A- (90-92), B+ (87-89), B (83-86), B- (80-82), C+ (77-79), C (73-76), C- (70-72), F (69 and below)

Midterm (30%): There will be one open-book midterm exam during Week 9 of the semester. It will be administered through Blackboard as a downloadable document. You must return the document (as a Word or PDF file) with your answers one week later. The test will open on Blackboard on Sunday, 10/17/21, at 9am and must be completed and uploaded by Saturday, 10/23/2021 at 11:59pm. We will review for the exam during the week prior (Fall Break for the University), when there will be no new lecture or readings. Details and materials to be provided.

Final Paper (40%): Students are required to complete one final paper, due on the Saturday after class ends. All students should select a policy area of interest to them and prepare a paper that discusses the policy issue, current economic conditions surrounding this area, data and/or metrics to support the student’s research, policy mechanisms in place or proposed, and the student’s own economic analysis of the current state of the topic drawing from class material and concepts. Topic suggestions will be provided, but students are encouraged to suggest other topics that interest them as well. Final papers should be graduate-level research work with at least 15-20 sources (drawing from a range of source types: academic journals, government data and reports, current news publications, etc) and proper formatting of citations both in-text and at the end of the document using either APA or IEEE format. The final paper grade consists of the following:

1) An initial outline (1 page) and preliminary bibliography (1 page), due in Week 5 on Saturday 9/25/21 by 11:59pm (10% of grade)
2) The final paper, due on the Saturday after the last day of classes on 12/11/2021 by 11:59pm (30% of grade).

Students are encouraged to email Prof. Hewitt at any time to discuss possible topic ideas. All final paper submissions must be uploaded to Blackboard.

Discussion Forum Participation and Policy Leadership (30%): Since this is an online course, participation in any online discussions is absolutely crucial for a successful class and is used in place of the traditional “class participation and attendance” grade in a face-to-face class. Not participating in the discussion forums on a weekly basis as required will count as absenteeism from the class. There are two components to discussion participation:
1) **Discussion Leadership (10%)**: Each week one student will lead a discussion on a topic of their choice (2x per student). To facilitate this, each student will select an area of the economy and its related public policies to monitor and report on to the class. A list of suggested areas or topics will be provided, but students are encouraged to propose any topic that interests them and has sufficient related economic and policy data/news. The topic may be the same as the student’s final paper topic, but this is not required. Each student will lead an online discussion **2 times** during the semester by recording a short (5 minute) Zoom lecture for the class and posting the Zoom lecture on Blackboard in that week’s discussion forum.

***Importantly:*** Each student must provide 2-3 key discussion questions for the class to spark interaction on their chosen topic.*** A shared Google sign-up sheet will be provided at the start of the semester for students to select their presentation week(s). On weeks you present, your Zoom presentation, discussion questions, and any supplemental material(s) must be uploaded by **Wednesday of that week by 11:59pm**. Each of your two Zoom discussion presentations is worth 5pts (10pts/10% total).

2) **Discussion Forum Participation (20%)**: All students who are not leading a discussion on a given week must interact with their classmates’ Zoom posts and discussion questions by posting a comment or question on the discussion forum. If you are not leading a discussion, you must post to/interact with the week’s discussion forum by **Saturday of that week by 11:59pm**. Discussion Forum participation is typically worth 2 points per week over 10 weeks, for 20 points total (20%).

**NOTE:** On the two weeks you present and lead the discussion you will earn **7 points** (5pts for your initial post and discussion leadership and 2pts for interacting with your classmates on your post). This means you must also respond/interact with your classmates to receive the remaining 2pts credit on those two weeks. Please do not just post your topic and discussion questions and then not check back in; take ownership of your week(s) and leadership role, and check back to interact with your classmates who have commented on or asked questions about your material.

**Late Submissions:**
Late submissions will be reduced by 1/2 point for each day late after the due date. Anything submitted more than 5 days after the due date will receive no credit.

**Course & University Policies**

**Incomplete Policy:** Under emergency/special circumstances, students may petition for an incomplete grade. Circumstances must be documented and significant enough to merit an Incomplete. If you need to request an incomplete for this course, contact me for approval as far in advance as possible.

**Student Accessibility Support Center Statement**
If you have a physical, psychological, medical or learning disability that may impact your course work, please contact Student Accessibility Support Center, ECC (Educational Communications Center) Building, Room 128, (631)632-6748. They will determine with you what accommodations, if any, are necessary and appropriate. All information and documentation is confidential. Students who require assistance during emergency evacuation are encouraged to discuss their needs with their professors and Student Accessibility Support Center. For procedures and information go to the following website: [http://www.stonybrook.edu/ehs/fire/disabilities](http://www.stonybrook.edu/ehs/fire/disabilities).

**Academy Integrity Statement**
Each student must pursue his or her academic goals honestly and be personally accountable for all submitted work. Representing another person’s work as your own is always wrong. Faculty is required to report any suspected instances of academic dishonesty to the Academic Judiciary. Faculty in the Health Sciences Center (School of Health Technology & Management, Nursing, Social Welfare, Dental Medicine) and School of Medicine are required to follow their school-specific procedures. For more comprehensive information on academic integrity, including categories of academic dishonesty please refer to the academic judiciary website at [http://www.stonybrook.edu/commcms/academic_integrity/index.html](http://www.stonybrook.edu/commcms/academic_integrity/index.html)

**Critical Incident Management**
Stony Brook University expects students to respect the rights, privileges, and property of other people. Faculty are required to report to the Office of University Community Standards any disruptive behavior that interrupts their ability to teach, compromises the safety of the learning environment, or inhibits students’ ability to learn. Faculty in the HSC Schools and the School of Medicine are required to follow their school-specific procedures. Further information about most academic matters can be found in the Undergraduate Bulletin, the Undergraduate Class Schedule, and the Faculty-Employee Handbook.
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEEK</th>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>TOPIC</th>
<th>READING(S)/ASSIGNMENTS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>8/23/21</td>
<td>Intro to class policies; Introduction to economics</td>
<td>Mankiw Ch 1 &amp; 2 DISCUSSION FORUM: Introduce yourself to classmates (due Sat 8/28/21 by 11:59pm)</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>8/30/21</td>
<td>Microeconomics: Production, specialization, comparative advantage</td>
<td>Mankiw Ch 3 DISCUSSION FORUM DUE SAT 9/4/21 – 2pts</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>9/6/21</td>
<td>Microeconomics: Market forces, supply &amp; demand</td>
<td>Mankiw Ch 4 DISCUSSION FORUM DUE SAT 9/11/21 – 2pts</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>9/13/21</td>
<td>Microeconomics: Elasticity of supply &amp; demand</td>
<td>Mankiw Ch 5 DISCUSSION FORUM DUE SAT 9/18/21 – 2 pts</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>9/20/21</td>
<td>Microeconomics: Government policies, price controls, taxes</td>
<td>Mankiw Ch 6 (NO DISCUSSION FORUM THIS WEEK)</td>
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<td><strong>Paper outline and bibliography due by 11:59pm on 9/25/2021</strong></td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>9/27/21</td>
<td>Microeconomics: Consumer and producer surplus, deadweight loss in taxation</td>
<td>Mankiw Ch 7 &amp; 8 DISCUSSION FORUM DUE SAT 10/2/21 – 2 pts</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>10/4/21</td>
<td>Microeconomics: Externalities, public goods</td>
<td>Mankiw Ch 10 &amp; 11 DISCUSSION FORUM DUE SAT 10/9/21 – 2 pts</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>10/11/21</td>
<td>FALL BREAK – (no new lecture)</td>
<td>MIDTERM REVIEW (further details coming)</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>10/18/21</td>
<td>MIDTERM (available 10/17/21 at 9am; due 10/23/21 by 11:59pm)</td>
<td><strong>NONE</strong></td>
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<td>DISCUSSION FORUM DUE SAT 11/6/21 – 2 pts</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>11/8/21</td>
<td>Environmental economics</td>
<td>Hardin (1968) Ostrom (2002) – Ch 1 only DISCUSSION FORUM DUE SAT 11/13/21 – 2 pts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>11/22/21</td>
<td>THANKSGIVING BREAK (no new lecture)</td>
<td><strong>NONE</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>11/29/21</td>
<td>Macroeconomics</td>
<td>Intro to Macroeconomics - PDF on Bb DISCUSSION FORUM DUE SAT 12/4/21 – LAST DISCUSSION FORUM – 2 pts</td>
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Online Communication Guidelines and Learning Resources:

**Maintain Professional Conduct Both in the Classroom and Online:** The classroom is a professional environment where academic debate and learning take place. In this environment, you are free to share your opinions, ideas, and beliefs. In return, you are expected to respect the opinions, ideas, and beliefs of other students—both in the face-to-face classroom and online communication. The course follows the standards set in the Student Code of Conduct, and students are subject to disciplinary action for violation of that code. If your behavior does not follow the course etiquette standards stated below, the grade you receive for a posting may suffer. I reserve the right to remove any discussion messages that display inappropriate language or content.

**Online Post Etiquette:**
● Offensive language or rudeness will not be tolerated. Discuss ideas, not the person.
● Avoid cluttering your messages with excessive emphasis (stars, arrows, exclamations).
● If you are responding to a message, include the relevant part of the original message in your reply, or make sure to refer to the original's contents so as to avoid confusion;
● Be specific and clear, especially when asking questions.
● Use standard punctuation and capitalization. Using all UPPERCASE characters gives the appearance of shouting and makes the message less legible;
● Remember that not all readers have English as their native language, so make allowances for possible misunderstandings and unintended discourtesies.

**Online Classes Require Better Communication:** It is important to remember that we will not be in a face-to-face classroom where I can immediately see/hear if there are questions about a lecture concept or course material. Therefore, if you are confused or frustrated, you MUST communicate with me so that I can help. Please remember that you are responsible for reaching out, contacting me, and being sure to communicate if you do not understand something or need help with course material.

**My Role as the Instructor:** As the instructor, I will serve as a “guide” in terms of the Discussion Board. While I will not respond or participate in every discussion or thread, I will read what is posted, and reply when necessary. Expect instructor posts in the following situations:
● To assist when it comes to making connections between discussion, lectures, and textbook material.
● To fill in important things that may have been missed.
● To re-direct discussion when it necessary.
● To point out key points or to identify important posts.