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OFFICE HOURS: M, W: 1:30pm-4:30pm; T: 2:30pm-6:00pm; and by appointment. I'm often in my office for much of the workweek beyond the times listed here (although I am often at my Arlington campus office on Thursdays and Fridays). I'm always happy to meet with you during non-office hours if my schedule permits. Please feel free to drop by at any time. If you drop by during non-office hours and if I'm then involved in other tasks, I'll ask you to come back later. But if I have nothing pressing going on at the moment, I'll be delighted to discuss the class and economics with you.

DESCRIPTION OF COURSE: We'll use basic economic theory - "the economic way of thinking" - as a guide to thinking about how to choose between different governance structures (chiefly, markets versus politics), as well as to explore in some depth relevant public-policy issues.

TOPICS TO BE COVERED (more or less in order of coverage):

- The conditions of modernity
- Law and legislation
- Spontaneous order (or, emergent order)
- The Power of Supply and Demand
- Competition and monopoly
- International trade and finance
- Externalities, public goods, and the economics of the environment
- Immigration
- Public finance
- Public Choice (the economics of politics)
- Economic inequality
- Macroeconomic issues

GRADING: Your course grade will be determined by the weighted sum of your performance on two exams and a paper. The first exam is worth 30 percent of your course grade; the final exam is worth 45 percent of your course grade; the paper is worth 25 percent of your course grade. Both exams will be in the form of short answers and essays. The date for the midterm is November 6th; the date for the final exam is, as according to the University schedule, Monday, December 18th, starting sharply at 7:30pm.

GRADING SCALE: I use a ten-point scale. 99-100, A+; 92-97, A; 90-91, A-; 88-89, B+; 82-87, B; 80-81, B-; 78-79, C+; 72-77, C; 70-71, C-; 60-69, D. Below 60 is an F. These numbers are firm. If the weighted average of your three exam grades is 89, you will have earned a B+ for the course – not an A-. Please do not ask me to raise your grade. I never grant such requests. I am not in the business of giving grades: I merely report the grade that you earn. (Yes, I do round. For example, if your final weighted-average grade is 69.5, you've earned a C- for the course, but if

your final weighted-average grade is 69.49, you've earned a D, and that's the grade that I will report.)

Again, I emphasize, never ask me to change your grade. Under no circumstances will I do so. I will report the grade that you earn.

CHALLENGING EXAM GRADING: If I committed an arithmetical error in calculating your exam grade, please notify me as soon as you discover the error. I will correct the mistake immediately. Otherwise, any objections you have to the way I grade your exams must be expressed to me in writing. Submit to me a typed paragraph or two explaining why you believe that your answer deserves more credit than I gave it.

PAPER: I will give to you three public-policy questions. You will choose one of these questions to address in your paper. You must use the economic way of thinking to address the question. There is no one 'right' answer. What I will look for is your ability to think creatively, to reason critically, and to make proposals that are economically realistic. Shoot for a length of about 2,500 words. I also reserve the right to grade you in part on your writing skills.

The paper is due Monday, November 27th, 7:20pm (but feel free to get it to me earlier).

READINGS: The only text required is my 2008 book, *Globalization*. But there will be other readings. I will send links to these readings to you by e-mail, so please be sure that your GMU e-mail account is active and that you check that account daily.

CLASS ATTENDANCE: I do not take roll. You're an adult. I strongly urge you to attend each and every class, from beginning to end. If you miss a class, however, I recommend that you get class notes from a reliable friend who did attend the class or classes that you missed. While I am always willing – indeed, happy – outside of class to elaborate on any materials covered during the lectures, please do not expect me to repeat, or even to summarize, any lectures that you missed.

Also, please feel free to audio tape my lectures. I recommend that if you know that you'll miss a class that you, in addition to getting class notes from a reliable classmate, that you also arrange for a classmate to audio tape the class you miss.

COMMUNICATION: Again, please ensure that your GMU e-mail address is activated and that you check it regularly, for that is the main channel through which I will communicate with you outside of class and office visits. I do not use Blackboard. Your final grades will be posted on Patriot Web.

HONOR CODE: George Mason University has a rigorous honor code. Please consult the student handbook to learn the expectations established by the honor code, as well as the procedures for its compliance and enforcement. Obviously, absolutely no cheating – of any kind – will be tolerated. Nothing excuses violations of the honor code.

SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS: Students requiring special accommodations – because of documented disabilities – should see me as soon as possible to arrange these accommodations.

ENJOY THE CLASS!