

Fall 2021 Syllabus
ECON 100 (Online)
Economics for the Citizen

Sarah Moore
smoore33@gmu.edu
Office Hours: Tues. 1-3PM; by appointment

Introduction

Before I go into details for the class, let me first welcome you to ECON 100! This course is both *online* and *asynchronous*. While this is an introductory class, online courses can be difficult to navigate and require discipline on a student's part to ensure that they remain on track with class assignments.

I've chosen to make this class asynchronous so that you can fit this class into your schedule as it best fits *you*. However, there are deadlines that need to be met and it is your responsibility to ensure that you meet them.

ECON 100 is a course that is designed to introduce you to the very basic concepts of economics, both from micro and macroeconomic perspectives. It is also intended to be tailored to individuals that do not intend, as of yet, to pursue an economics degree. I have designed this course so as to keep these constraints in mind while also being mindful that I, as your teacher this semester, have a duty to give you the best set of tools I can to understand introductory concepts of economics.

I believe in transparency; this is my first time teaching a class, let alone online. Like you, I am also a student. I am committed to learning from you all this semester as well as providing you the best education I can in economics. I hope you find this course engaging, informative, and that you walk away feeling as though you have a better understanding of yourself in relation to the economy.

Textbooks and Readings

For the semester, I have assigned two texts:

Basic Economics by Thomas Sowell
Economics in One Lesson by Henry Hazlitt

These texts are **required**; you can acquire them at the GMU bookstore, on Amazon, or (if you're viewing this syllabus early enough) on sites like Thriftbooks. Given that I have no edition requirements, you are welcome to purchase these copies used.

I reserve the right to assign videos and additional readings throughout the semester as I deem them necessary/relevant to course materials.

In order to keep this course engaging, especially since it is asynchronous, I have divided things into more tasks than an ordinary class might require. That being said, these assignments are smaller and should not take too much of your time each week. Occasionally, assignments will include bonus point opportunities. I *do not* curve assignments, save under extraordinary circumstances. I find that bonus point opportunities are much less stressful both to the student and the teacher for making the grading process straightforward and more immediate in getting you feedback.

Grading Scale

The class assignments are broken up as follows:

Weekly Quizzes (11 in total – drop 1)	30% (3% each)
Discussion Post Responses	15%
Problem Sets (4 in total)	20% (5% each)
Midterm Exam	15%
Final Exam	20%

Assignment Details

I will post/adjust weekly reading assignments throughout the semester as I see fit based on how the class is going given its structure. You will have your reading assignments well in advance of when they are due (ideally I will keep it to where things are posted 3 weeks ahead so that you can work ahead if you wish to). All assignments are due by 11:59PM on the Saturday of each week.

The date(s) for the midterm exam will be the week of September 20 – 25th. I am giving you a week to turn in this exam since (1) it will be open note and (2) to be respectful of the asynchronous nature of the course. You may consult your textbooks and notes; I cannot moderate that you will or won't look at online sources, either. Note that you are not to use sites like Chegg, CourseHero, Quizlet, etc. to share or review any material I assign (see Academic Integrity guidelines). You can look things up, but cite where you get them from appropriately (MLA, APA, or Chicago are all accepted forms of citation). I do not mind if you collaborate with other students, but your exam must be submitted *on Blackboard* and *in your own words* by 11:59 PM on September 25th.

The final exam is tentatively scheduled for December 11, 2021 with a makeup day on December 12, 2021; I will let you all know as soon as possible when it will be administered in terms of exact time by the middle of the semester or if those dates change. It will be a 1 attempt, closed-note exam. Your total allotted time will be 2 hours. You must download and utilize Respondus Lockdown Browser in order to take it. If you fail to use the lockdown browser, I will record your grade as **0**. You must turn in your final exam on either of the days that it is due. Alternative arrangements will not be made, barring extreme circumstances.

Problem Set Dates are TBD; they will not be long and will be a basic review of any concepts we have covered up to the point at which I assign them. Think of them as assigned study guides that will help you on the midterms later.

Discussion Posts will not happen *every* week, but they will happen often. I expect that you will make your own post of about 3-5 sentences responding to a specific prompt and that you will respond to **2** other posts by 11:59 PM on the Saturday following the day they are assigned, unless otherwise specified. They will be related to your weekly readings and, in some cases, an additional video or small article as I see fit for opening up discussion.

Your weekly quizzes will correspond to weekly readings, video lectures I assign, and will only cover that week's reading material. Occasionally, I will put bonus point opportunities into the quiz so you have a chance to answer questions from previous weeks and earn points back toward your end-of-semester quiz average. I will allow you to drop your lowest quiz grade.

Bonus assignments may pop up throughout the semester and I will specify how much they are worth and to what areas the bonus points will be applied should you complete said assignments satisfactorily.

Weekly quizzes should be graded as soon as you finish; problem sets and discussion grades will be posted ASAP on Blackboard for you to view. Should you disagree with a grade, please email me explaining why you think you earned a grade different from what I determined.

Office Hours & Contacting Me

I will host virtual office hours via Zoom every Tuesday from 1-3PM. I can arrange for private/smaller meetings as well if you email me in advance so that we can find a day that works better should you need.

I'm usually very responsive to my emails; I do not tend to answer after about 7PM EST, so please be patient if I don't answer right away.

I am rarely on campus in person; however, if that is something you would like to set up, please email me to ask should there be any issues.

You *must* use your GMU email to contact me. I will not respond to non-university emails in response to class inquiries.

Tentative Course Schedule

Begin Aug 23 | Week 1: Introduction & "I, Pencil" Lecture Video
Assignment: Discussion Post 1 (Introductions) & Syllabus Quiz

Begin Aug 29 | Week 2: Supply & Demand
Assignment: Quiz 2 & Problem Set 1 Assigned

Begin Sep 5 | Week 3: Price Controls
Assignment: Quiz 3 & Discussion Post 2

Begin Sep 12 | Week 4: What is the “market?”
Assignment: Problem Set 1 Due & Quiz 4

Begin Sep 19 (Exam Live starting Sep 20) | Week 5: Midterm Exam
Assignment: *No Quiz*; Problem Set 2 Assigned

Begin Sep 26 | Week 6: Comparative Advantage
Assignment: Quiz 5 & Discussion Post 3

Begin Oct 3 | Week 7: Prisoner’s Dilemmas
Assignment: Quiz 6 & Problem Set 2 Due; Discussion Post 4

Begin Oct 10 | Week 8: Public Choice
Assignment: Quiz 7, Discussion Post 5 & Problem Set 3 Assigned

Begin Oct 17 | Week 9: International Trade
Assignment: Quiz 8, Discussion Post 6

Begin Oct 24 | Week 10: Positive v. Normative Economics
Assignment: Problem Set 3 Due, Discussion Post 7

Begin Oct 31 | Week 11: A Very Brief Intro to Econometrics
Assignment: Quiz 9, Discussion Post 8, Problem Set 4 Assigned

Begin Nov 7 | (Daylight Saving’s Time) | Week 12: Methodology
Assignment: Quiz 10, Discussion Post 9

Begin Nov 14 | Week 13: Business Cycles
Assignment: Discussion Post 10, Problem Set 4 Due

Begin Nov 21 | Week 14: *Thanksgiving Recess – enjoy your break!*

Begin Nov 28 | Week 15: Economics and Public Policy
Assignment: Last Quiz (Optional if you feel your grade is satisfactory)

Begin Dec 5 (Final Live at end of week – *tentative*) | Week 16: Final Exam
Assignment: Study hard; use discussion board to study with fellow students up until Dec 11.
Study sessions will be scheduled subject to demand.

Academic Integrity

It is expected that students adhere to the George Mason University Honor Code as it relates to integrity regarding coursework and grades. The Honor Code reads as follows: “To promote a

stronger sense of mutual responsibility, respect, trust, and fairness among all members of the George Mason University community and with the desire for greater academic and personal achievement, we, the student members of the University Community have set forth this: Student members of the George Mason University community pledge not to cheat, plagiarize, steal and/or lie in matters related to academic work.” More information about the Honor Code, including definitions of cheating, lying, and plagiarism, can be found at the Office of Academic Integrity website at <http://oai.gmu.edu>

Some kinds of participation in online study sites violate the Mason Honor code: these include accessing exam or quiz questions for this class; accessing exam, quiz, or assignment answers for this class; uploading of any of the instructor's materials or exams; and uploading any of your own answers or finished work. Always consult your syllabus and your professor before using these sites.

Disability Accommodations

Disability Services at George Mason University is committed to upholding the letter and spirit of the laws that ensure equal treatment of people with disabilities. Under the administration of University Life, Disability Services implements and coordinates reasonable accommodations and disability-related services that afford equal access to university programs and activities. Students can begin the registration process with Disability Services at any time during their enrollment at George Mason University. If you are seeking accommodations, please visit <http://ds.gmu.edu/> for detailed information about the Disability Services registration process. Disability Services is located in Student Union Building I (SUB I), Suite 2500. Email: ods@gmu.edu | Phone: (703) 993-2474