

Summer 2022 Syllabus
ECON 100 (Online)
Economics for the Citizen

Sarah Moore
smoore33@gmu.edu
Office Hours: 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.

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.

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

Quizzes (8) – 20%
Problem Sets (3) – 30%
Midterm – 25%
Final Exam – 25%

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. All assignments are due by 11:59PM on the Saturday of each week.

The midterm will require **Respondus Lockdown Browser with Proctor enabled**. You must show your student ID to the camera before proceeding, as well. It will take place the week of June 13th and be due by June 20th at 11:59 PM. You will have 2 hours and 40 minutes to take the exam.

Throughout the semester, you will be assigned three problem sets that you will have 2 weeks to do. Instructions will come as they are assigned. 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).

The final exam is tentatively scheduled for August 12, with a makeup day on August 13, 2022; 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 and 40 minutes. 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

Your 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. **You must use Respondus for quizzes. While you do not need the proctor function, they are not open book/open note.**

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 exams 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 appointment. 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.

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

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

Tentative Course Schedule

Begin May 23 || Week 1: Introduction & "I, Pencil" Lecture Video & Supply & Demand Assignment: Syllabus Quiz

Begin May 30 | Week 2: Price Controls Assignment: Quiz 1

Begin June 6 | Week 3: Supply & Demand and Price Controls continued

Assignment: Quiz 2 & Problem Set 1 Due

Begin June 13 | Week 4: Midterm Exam & Comparative Advantage

Assignment: Midterm Exam

Begin June 20 | Week 5: Comparative Advantage & Prisoner's Dilemmas

Assignment: Quiz 3; Problem Set 1 Due

Begin Jul 5 (Ind. Day Observed) | Week 6: International Trade

Assignment: Quiz 4 & Problem Set 2 Assigned

Begin Jul 11 | Week 7: International Trade

Assignment: Quiz 5

Begin Jul 18 | Week 8: Public Choice

Assignment: Quiz 6 Problem Set 2 Due

Begin Jul 25 | Week 9: GDP & Long-run Growth

Assignment: Quiz 7, Problem Set 3 Assigned

Begin Aug 1 | Week 10: Business Cycles & A Very Brief Intro to Econometrics

Assignment: Quiz 8 (Last Quiz)