COURSE NUMBER AND TITLE: BC 361 PA, Current Economic Problems

CLASS MEETING TIME: MW, 1:00 - 2:20 pm, CH 415

PREREQUISITES: BC 103 and 104 and junior standing. Students must complete all prerequisites before registering for BC 361. Failure to complete prerequisites will result in the student being dropped from the class.

INSTRUCTOR: Dipak Ghosh

OFFICE: Cremer Hall 403

OFFICE HOURS: 2:30 pm - 4:30 pm Monday, Wednesday, 10:00 am - 12:00 noon Tuesday, Thursday. If this is not convenient for you then please set up an appointment in advance for some other mutually convenient time.

TELEPHONE NUMBER(S): 341-5891 (Office)
341-6346 (Fax)

E-MAIL ADDRESS: dghosh@emporia.edu

I will communicate with you via your ESU student email account ONLY. I will NOT send email to non-ESU email accounts. You should only send me email from your ESU student email account. Any email sent from a non-ESU account will be deleted.

All emails sent to me MUST have BC 361 PA (BC “space” 361 “space” PA) in the subject line. This is to identify your class. Without this I have no indication which class your email refers to. You must also sign every email. I will not reply to emails that are not signed.


RECOMMENDED TEXT: Study Guide which accompanies the above textbook.

SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS: I have set up a web-site for this course on Blackboard where all lecture notes and handouts will be available. If you have used Blackboard before, your userid and password will be the same as before. If you have not used Blackboard before, please contact the TCS Helpdesk at 1-877-341-5555, 1-620-341-5555, helpdesk@emporia.edu.

In addition to this textbook, selected materials from other publications will be used. These will be put on reserve at the library, or will be made available through the class web-site.
POLICY ON ELECTRONIC DEVICES
No personal electronic devices (like cell phones, pagers, or anything else) may be used in class. Violation of this requirement will be considered disruptive behavior and may result in you being dropped from the class.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
This course is designed to aid students in understanding economic principles in relation to current economic problems and forces within the framework of a free enterprise economy. Students are introduced to the economic literature that is relevant to current problems and controversies.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:
The objective of this course is to develop some of the basic analytical techniques of modern economics and to use these to gain insight into contemporary economic issues. This is not a course about economic theory (which you should have covered in your principles of economics classes). Rather, this course deals with the application of the theory to some of the important economic issues the United States and other countries currently face. An analysis of these issues will provide the foundation for your use of economics as a problem solving approach to understanding further national and international economic issues.

This course is not intended to provide you with the answers to the various complex issues we will be discussing, it is supposed to teach you how to analyze these issues and formulate your own opinions and answers.

COURSE EVALUATION PROCESS:
Course grades are based on two examinations, a final examination, and homework assignments, short reports, and exercises.

Basis for Course Grade
Two examinations 40 percent of the final grade
Final examination (comprehensive) 25 percent of the final grade
Homework assignments, short reports, and exercises 35 percent of the final grade
Term Paper 20 percent of the final grade

Grading Scale:
90-100% A
80-89% B
70-79% C
60-69% D
Below 60% F

I will not give a letter grade for each individual exam or assignments, I will compute the letter grades only at the end of the semester. In certain exceptional situations, I may change the grading scale given above. However, I will make that decision only at the end of the semester.
Term Papers
Each student will have to write a term paper on a topic related to something discussed in class. Some suggested topics are NAFTA, WTO, European Monetary Union, Asian Financial Crisis, Outsourcing and trade policy, etc. You must discuss the topic with me and get my approval before you start working on the paper. By January 27 each student must submit a one page outline of the topic he/she would like to work on, and get it approved by me (the sooner you do this the better). You should turn in a preliminary version of the paper by April 4 and discuss it with me to ensure that the paper is developing in the right direction. If you do not do this, I will not make any comments on your paper before it is submitted to me for grading. The paper is due on Monday, April 23. Guidelines for the paper will be handed out separately.

DATES OF THE EXAMS

<table>
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<tr>
<th>First Exam</th>
<th>Wednesday, February 22</th>
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<tr>
<td>Second Exam</td>
<td>Wednesday, April 11</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam (comprehensive)</td>
<td>Tuesday, May 8, 1:00 pm -2:50 pm</td>
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POLICY FOR MAKING UP MISSED ASSIGNMENTS AND EXAMS:

Homework assignments, short reports and exercises are due on the announced date. Points will be deducted for any work that is turned in late. If you are unable to attend class, you still have to turn in the assignment on time (absence from class is not an excuse for not turning in an assignment, or for turning it in late). I will not accept any assignments after I return them in class. If you cannot be in class on the due date, either turn in the assignment in advance, or send it with someone else.

For examinations, you will be given a makeup exam only if you are absent for medical reason. In that case you will have to produce a note from your doctor, or some other documentation, before I agree to give you a makeup. You must let me know in advance or as soon after the date of the exam as possible in order to schedule a makeup. If you are absent for any other reasons, you must let me know in advance, or as soon after the date of the exam as possible. At that time I may require you to produce some documentation regarding your reason for being absent. The decision regarding whether you will be given a makeup exam will be made on a case by case basis. You must not assume that you will be automatically given a make up exam if you are absent. You have to discuss your situation with me before a makeup exam is scheduled (whatever your reasons for being absent; medical, family emergency or otherwise). Too long a delay in contacting me regarding your absence from an exam will result in your being denied a make up exam.

The Final examination will be held on Tuesday, May 8. It will be a cumulative exam. Since the date for the final exam is determined by the university, you may take this exam only on the scheduled date. I will not change the date of the final exam. Please do not make any plans to leave for the holidays before the date of the final exam. I will not give any makeup exams for the final.
ATTENDANCE POLICY:

Class attendance and active participation in the class discussions are very important. Since we will be discussing applications of theory you have discussed in other classes, active participation in discussions is the best way of becoming familiar with the various issues. If you are absent for any reason, you are responsible for anything which was discussed in class, i.e., you have to get the notes from someone, and be sure that you have read the material that you missed and that you understand it. You are, of course, welcome to come to my office and discuss anything that you don’t understand. You are also responsible for finding out what (if any) announcements were made in any class that you are absent from.

I do not approve of students coming to class late or leaving class early without prior permission from me. I consider this disruptive behavior, and if it occurs repeatedly, I will ask the registrar to remove you from the class.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:

Academic dishonesty, a basis for disciplinary action, includes but is not limited to activities such as cheating and plagiarism (presenting as one's own the intellectual or creative accomplishments of another without giving credit to the source or sources.

The faculty member in whose course or under whose tutelage an act of academic dishonesty occurs has the option of failing the student for the academic hours in question, or for any components or requirements for that course. Departments, schools, and colleges may have provisions for more severe penalties. Emporia State University may impose penalties for academic dishonesty up to and including expulsion from the University.

In addition, the faculty member shall notify his/her department chair of the infraction. The department chair shall forward a report of the infraction to the Vice President for Academic Affairs. The Vice President for Academic Affairs shall act as the record keeper for student academic infractions. The Vice President for Academic Affairs will notify the student in writing that an infraction has been reported, and notify the student, the department chair, and the faculty member that initiated the proceedings, of any additional action taken. Should a single infraction be so egregious, or should a student have a record of multiple infractions, the Vice President for Academic Affairs may impose additional penalties, including expulsion of the student from the University.

The student has the right to appeal the charge of academic dishonesty. The department chair shall inform the student in writing, of this right to appeal, and of the appropriate appeals procedures (see University Policy Manual: Academic Appeals Policy).
Prior to the beginning of the next academic year, the office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs shall send the Chair of the Academic Affairs Committee of the Faculty Senate a list containing nonspecific student identifiers, such as Student 1, Student 2, etc., their specific academic infraction(s) reported to the Vice President's office, the total number of infractions that have been reported for each student, and any actions taken by the Vice President for Academic Affairs.

Faculty Senate Bill 05002, Passed by Faculty Senate 1/17/06, Approved by President 2/7/06

**COURSE TOPICS:**

1. Economic Growth: An Introduction to Scarcity and Choice
   Chapter 1

2. An Introduction to Economic Systems and the Workings of the Price System
   Chapter 2

3. Efficiency in Resource Allocation:
   How Much Do We Have? How Much Do We Want
   Chapter 4

4. Market Power: Does it Help or Hurt the Economy
   Chapter 5

5. Economic and Financial Crisis (2007 – present)

6. Health Care: How Much? For Whom?
   Chapter 7

7. Poverty: Old and New Approaches to a Persistent Problem
   Chapter 11

8. Unemployment
   Chapter 13

9. Sustained Budget Deficits
   Chapter 15

10. Social Security: Where Are We? Where Are We Going
    Chapter 16

11. International Trade: Beneficial but Controversial
    Chapter 17

12. Inflation: A Monetary Phenomenon
    Chapter 14

13. Air Pollution: Balancing Benefits and Costs
    Chapter 6

**Note:** You will be responsible for all material covered in class. Some of the material covered will not be from the textbook. You will be responsible for this material too. I may make changes in the syllabus. You will be informed about these changes as and when required.
WITHDRAWAL POLICY:
The option of the instructor to initiate student withdrawal for excessive student absences does not apply to this course. Students who wish to drop this class will have to initiate the withdrawal process themselves.

I will initiate withdrawal of a student for disruptive behavior. Example of disruptive behavior include, but are not limited to, coming to class late or walking out of class early, talking in class, using personal electronic devices like cell phones in class with permission of the instructor, etc.

The last day to drop a class with no transcript entry is Wednesday, January 25.
The last day to drop a class with an automatic “W” on transcript is Wednesday, March 28.
Students will not be allowed to drop the class after this date.

DISABILITY SERVICES:
Emporia State University will make reasonable accommodations for persons with documented disabilities. Students need to contact the Director of Disability Services and the professor as early in the semester as possible to ensure that classroom and academic accommodations are implemented in a timely fashion. All communication between students, the Office of Disability Services, and the professor will be strictly confidential. The Office of Disability Services may be contacted at SE Morse Room 211, 620-341-6637 Voice, 620-341-6646 TTY, or via e-mail disabser@emporia.edu.