

BUTTE COLLEGE

COURSE OUTLINE

I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION

ECON 25 - Introduction to Economics

3 Unit(s)

Prerequisite(s): NONE

Recommended Prep: Reading Level IV; English Level IV; Math Level IV

Transfer Status: CSU

51 hours Lecture

This course is a survey of basic economic concepts. Topics covered include supply and demand, firms' price and output decision making, government regulation, monetary and fiscal policy, current economic issues and factors related to international trade and economic growth. This course is intended for students not majoring in Business Administration.

II. OBJECTIVES

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- A. Explain the concept of opportunity cost using the standard economic statement, "There is no such thing as a free lunch."
- B. Draw a production possibilities curve and use it to explain the concepts of scarcity and opportunity cost.
- C. Use the concepts of supply and demand to explain pricing and output levels for a variety of goods and services.
- D. Evaluate the role of the entrepreneur in free market capitalism and explain the role of capital.
- E. Explain the differences between capitalism and communism.
- F. Contrast the advantages and disadvantages of the three legal forms of businesses in America.
- G. Calculate the unemployment rate, inflation rate and growth rate given government economic data.
- H. Describe how the Federal Reserve, through monetary policy, affects economic growth and inflation.
- I. Describe how the Federal Government, through fiscal policy, effects economic growth and inflation.

III. COURSE CONTENT

A. Unit Titles/Suggested Time Schedule

Lecture	
<u>Topics</u>	<u>Hours</u>
1. Limits, Alternatives, and Choices	2.00
2. Key Principles of Economics	3.00
3. Demand, Supply, and Market Equilibrium	3.00
4. Elasticity: A Measure of Responsiveness	3.00
5. Production and Cost	3.00
6. Perfect Competition: Short Run and Long Run	3.00
7. Monopoly	3.00
8. Monopolistic Competition, Oligopoly, and Antitrust	3.00
9. Market Failure: Imperfect Information, Pollution, and Public Goods	3.00
10. The Labor Market	3.00

11. Unemployment and Inflation	3.00
12. Economic Growth	2.00
13. Aggregate Demand and Supply	3.00
14. Fiscal Policy	2.00
15. Money and the Banking System	2.00
16. Monetary Policy and Inflation	3.00
17. International Trade and Finance	2.00
18. Examinations	5.00
Total Hours	51.00

IV. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION

- A. Lecture
- B. Group Discussions
- C. Class Activities
- D. Homework: Students are required to complete two hours of outside-of-class homework for each hour of lecture
- E. Discussion
- F. Reading Assignments
- G. Multimedia Presentations

V. METHODS OF EVALUATION

- A. Exams/Tests
- B. Quizzes
- C. Papers
- D. Homework
- E. Class participation
- F. Written Assignments
- G. Written Examinations
- H. Examinations
- I. Class Discussion
- J. Essays

VI. EXAMPLES OF ASSIGNMENTS

- A. Reading Assignments
 1. Read the textbook chapter and supplemental articles on Economics and the World Around You. Be able to explain how specialization and opportunity costs are related; why specialization occurs and what some of the benefits of trade are.
 2. Read the textbook chapter and supplemental articles on Applications of Supply and Demand. Be able to explain how market systems work and how equilibrium wage differential exists when the equilibrium wage in two different labor markets is different.
- B. Writing Assignments
 1. Complete the assigned reading from the text and assigned articles and compose a 2-3 page college level essay that addresses the following issues of Macroeconomic Equilibrium: What determines the equilibrium price level of and real GDP? Also explain how during the Great Depression the U.S. economy experienced a falling price level.
 2. Complete the assigned reading from the text and assigned articles and compose a 2-3 page college level essay that addresses the following issues of Business Cycles and economic growth; Also illustrate the difference between the short-run Phillips curve and the long-run Phillips Curve.

C. Out-of-Class Assignments

1. Read the assigned chapter from the text, supplemental articles and review the lecture notes. Upon completion of the reading and review of the lecture notes access the online learning system for Markets and the Market Process and complete the online quiz of twenty multiple choice questions to demonstrate mastery of the content.
2. Read the assigned chapter from the text, supplemental articles and review the lecture notes. Upon completion of the reading and review of the lecture notes access the online learning system for Issues in International Trade and Finance and complete the online quiz of twenty multiple choice questions to demonstrate mastery of the content.

VII. **RECOMMENDED MATERIALS OF INSTRUCTION**

Textbooks:

- A. Boyes, W. and Melvin, M. Fundamentals of Economics. 6th Edition. Houghton Mifflin Company, 2012.

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