

# ECO 1110 Current Economic Problems

## Course Introduction

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## Course Details

- Course Mode : Online synchronous
- Email : [adesai@gradcenter.cuny.edu](mailto:adesai@gradcenter.cuny.edu)
- Office Hours : By appointment
- Recommended Text : Principles of Macroeconomics, N. Gregory Mankiw, 8th Edition (previous editions are also fine)
- The course is going to be fairly self sufficient. You will not need to buy the book.

# Structure of the Course

- There will be four quizzes throughout the semester. The quizzes will be held as per the schedule provided in the following slides.
- I will also ask for your opinions on articles from the three news outlets that are mentioned in the resources section. This will help you cultivate the habit of forming your opinions using the tools you will learn in the class. The articles and due dates to submit your opinions will be announced on blackboard as the semester progresses.

# Structure of the Course



# Grading

## Opinions on Articles

- Your opinions will count 20% towards your final grade. I will give you articles to review from the resources mentioned in the following slides. You may agree or disagree with the article, but you must use an **economic argument** to make your case. **The points will be awarded not based on your position but based on arguments used to defend the position. You should write your opinion in no more than 500 words.** I will not reward the opinions which are vague and do not have clear reasoning for the position you take. Bear in mind, this course is about economics and not politics. The purpose is to prepare you to think critically and form your own informed opinions.

# Grading

The points in the quizzes will count 40% towards your final grade.

## Schedule for Quizzes

Quiz	Topics/Slides	Points	Date
Quiz 1	Chapters 1,2	20	22 <sup>nd</sup> September
Quiz 2	Chapters 3,4,5	20	27 <sup>th</sup> October
Quiz 3	Chapters 6,7	20	17 <sup>th</sup> November
Quiz 4	Chapters 8,9,10	20	13 <sup>th</sup> December

## Grading

All the quizzes will be available on Blackboard during the class time. i.e., the quiz will be made available at 9:05 AM and will disappear at 10:20 AM. If you miss the quiz for any reason, you will get zero points. Please feel free to reach out to me in advance if you cannot take the quiz on the scheduled day due to personal emergencies. **You must make me aware of the situation in advance.**

# Grading

## A book review or an essay

- That leaves us with a book review or an essay. It will count 40% towards your final grade. Whatever you choose, it will be due at **11:59 PM on 20th December, 2021.**
- You will have to choose between writing an essay or a book review. The topics and guidelines to write your essay or book review are uploaded on Blackboard in separate pdfs. (Keep an eye on announcements!) The essay can be written on the topics given or on a documentary of your choice from the list given in the corresponding pdf. Kindly let me know topic of your choice for an essay by **10th September, 2021.**
- If you choose to write a book review **I will be more lenient while grading your work(5 extra points added)** than if you choose an essay to write.



# Resources For You

- Free Subscriptions
  - The Wall Street Journal
  - The New York Times
  - The Financial Times
- The CORE Project
  - The CORE team has developed a resource covering wide ranging topics for introductory economics and role of the field in recent policy issues. Students can access a free online textbook titled *The Economy: Economics for a changing world*. I strongly recommend this useful resource to know more about economic principles and how you can use them to have an informed discussion on relevant policy issues.

# Resources For You

- Economics for Everyone
  - My advisor Dr. Miles Corak also has a nice course on introductory economics which you are well advised to have a look at. His lecture videos can be found on YouTube. You are welcome to read his blogs and research if you are interested.
  - World renowned psychologist Dr. Jordan Peterson has written a *document* on writing essays.

## Final Word

The purpose of this course is to prepare you to think critically on your own using economic tools explained in the course material. Do not worry much about the grades and rather focus on learning. **If you attempt all the quizzes, write opinions and finish your essay or a book report you will not fail.** In other words, be a committed and a dedicated student and you will pass the course without any issues. Feel free to reach out to me for any feedback, issues or doubts you have to understand the course material. My purpose is to be as supportive of students as I could be.