



Course title and number      Contemporary Economic Issues 465 Section 500  
Term                              Fall 2017  
Meeting times and location    TR 2:40 - 3.55 PM (ALLN 1004)

### Instructor Information

Name                              Nataliya Pakhotina  
Telephone number              845-6929  
Email address                  [pakhotina@tamu.edu](mailto:pakhotina@tamu.edu)  
Office hours                      Tu, Th 4:00 pm – 5:00 pm or by appointment.  
3064 ALLN                        Th 1:30 pm – 2:30 pm or by appointment

### Prerequisites

ECON 323 and 410.

### Learning Objectives

By the end of the course students will get knowledgeable about contemporary economy issues and will get familiar with different points of view on these problems. The course encourages student to develop critical thinking by analyzing major economic policies, discussing it in the class, and writing a research paper.

### Textbook and/or Resource Material

Taking Sides: Clashing Views on Economic Issues, 16th Edition, McGraw Hill, 2014.  
ISBN-13: 978-125-917-0997.

### Course Description

This course teaches student to apply microeconomic and macroeconomic analyses to evaluate contemporary economic issues. One of the course requirements is to write a paper regarding a current economic issue.

### Grading Policies

Your final grade in this course will be determined by your performance on:

- Exam (35%)
- Attendance and participation in discussions (20%)
- Written assignment (5% + 5% + 35% = 45%)

There is no extra credit.

#### Grading scale:

A      89.50 and above  
B      79.50 to 89.49  
C      69.50 to 79.49  
D      59.50 to 69.49  
F      59.50 and below

Exam (35%): there will be only final cumulative exam on **Thursday, November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2017** during regular class time. The exam will be essay and cover all materials from class and any assigned readings.

### Reading assignments and attendance (20%).

There will be mandatory reading assignments posted at eCampus. Students are required to read assigned paper before the class and to participate in discussion of the paper in class. Attendance is required and will be counted based on the students' participation in class discussions.

Attendance and participation in class discussions together will constitute 20% of the final grade. Each student is allowed to miss 3 classes without it affecting the final grade.

### Written Assignments (45%)

By the end of the semester you are required to prepare a writing assignment (paper) related to major current economic issue of your choice. I recommend you to come to the office hours to discuss your topic choice. There are resources available to assist you in developing your writing skills. During the course we may have some presentations or workshops organized by the [University Writing Center](#), which also has a lot of useful materials which are posted at their website and offers various services for students. We also will devote some time in class to discuss writing strategies and will spend time during one class session after rough drafts are returned to peer-edit another student's paper using a rubric I will provide.

### **Written assignment important deadlines and requirements:**

**Topic:** your opinion or analysis related to major current economic issue of your choice.

**Written proposal** (5% of the final grade) – must include the topic and brief outline of your paper. This assignment must be submitted to me in Microsoft Word via email no later than Tuesday, **11:59PM on October 3, 2017.**

**2000-2200 words written full rough draft** (5% of the final grade). I will provide written feedback on your draft. This assignment must be submitted to me through Turnitin at eCampus no later than Tuesday **11:59PM October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2017.**

**2000-2200 words final version of the paper** (35% of the final grade). I expect that you will integrate my feedback on the rough draft into this final work. This assignment must be submitted to me through Turnitin at eCampus no later than Tuesday **11:59PM November 28<sup>th</sup>, 2017.**

Submitting papers to Turnitin in the very last minute may not work because of the technical issues, so I recommend you to submit it at least one hour before the deadline. If you submit your work after the deadline you would receive a score of zero for this part of assignment.

### **A failing paper means a failing course grade.**

I encourage you to talk to me during office hours about your paper during the semester.

Note that paper is graded taking spelling and grammar in mind. You will submit it to Turnitin on eCampus. It must be original, plagiarism will mean meeting with the University Disciplinary Committee. As commonly defined, plagiarism is presenting as one's own ideas, work, paper, etc. that belongs to someone else.

Missed exams: Students who miss an exam may be allowed to take a make-up exam. Makeup exam may differ in both form and content from regularly scheduled exam. If you miss the exam you must satisfy all of the following requirements in order to take a makeup exam:

- You missed the exam due to illness or university-excused absence.
- You must provide a satisfactory documentation explaining the reason for missing test (for example, if you were ill, you must have a written excuse from your physician or from University Health Center).
- You must notify me before exam or within next 48 hours after the exam. The easiest way to notify me is via email at [pakhotina@tamu.edu](mailto:pakhotina@tamu.edu).

Students who miss the exam and do not meet each of the three requirements above will receive a score of zero for the exam.

## **Email Policy**

Please include the course number (ECON 465) in the subject of your email. I reserve the right not to answer emails that do not include information about the course and section number.

Check your TAMU email regularly. I send important announcements to the TAMU emails only.

## **Helpful Websites**

Think tanks publish research papers on both domestic and international economic, political, environmental, and social issues. You can find interesting ideas and sources for your papers there.

1. CATO Institute – [www.cato.org](http://www.cato.org)
2. Hudson Institute – [www.hudson.org](http://www.hudson.org)
3. The Heritage Foundation – [www.heritage.org](http://www.heritage.org)
4. American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research (AEI) – [www.aei.org](http://www.aei.org)
5. Brookings Institution – [www.brookings.edu](http://www.brookings.edu)
6. Hoover Institution – [www.hoover.org](http://www.hoover.org)
7. National Bureau of Economic Research – [www.nber.org](http://www.nber.org)
8. Competitive Enterprise Institute – <http://cei.org>
9. Urban Institute – [www.urban.org](http://www.urban.org)

## **Tentative Outline of Topics**

Great Recession of 2007-2009 and Recovery.  
Federal Budget and Public Debt.  
Healthcare policy.  
Future of Social Security and Medicare.  
Environmental policy and climate change.  
International trade.

All topics are subject to change, we may cover less or more than outlined, or include a different topic.  
**DO NOT USE** this outline as study guide for the exam!

### **Important dates:**

**October 3, 2017 - paper proposal due**

**October 31, 2017 - rough draft due**

**November 28, 2017 - final version of the paper due**

**November 30, 2017 - final exam**

## **Conduct**

As a courtesy to me and your fellow students, be on time, do not depart early, and refrain from disruptive behavior (such as talking to each other or reading the newspaper) during lecture. If you have a question during the lecture do not hesitate to ask me. Turn cell phones off.

## **Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)**

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation (among available accommodations there are test accommodations that may include but are not limited to: extended testing time, reduced distraction environment, large print, etc.), please contact Disability Services, in Cain Hall, Room B118, or call 845-1637. For additional information visit <http://disability.tamu.edu>.

### **Academic Integrity**

*“An Aggie does not lie, cheat, or steal, or tolerate those who do.”*

Upon accepting admission to Texas A&M University, a student immediately assumes a commitment to uphold the Honor Code, to accept responsibility for learning, and to follow the philosophy and rules of the Honor System. Students will be required to state their commitment on examinations, research papers, and other academic work. Ignorance of the rules does not exclude any member of the TAMU community from the requirements or the processes of the Honor System. For additional information please visit: <http://www.tamu.edu>.

### **Student Learning Outcomes**

Texas A&M University has identified student learning outcomes that describe our institutional commitment to your education goals. These include the ability to demonstrate critical thinking, effective communication, and social, cultural, and global competence. Please see [http://provost.tamu.edu/essentials/pdfs/copy\\_of\\_UndergraduateLearningOutcomesFinal.pdf/view](http://provost.tamu.edu/essentials/pdfs/copy_of_UndergraduateLearningOutcomesFinal.pdf/view)

### **Pledge**

On all course work, assignments, or examinations at Texas A&M University, the following Honor Pledge shall be reprinted and signed by the student:

“On my honor, as an Aggie, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid on this academic work.”