



**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY  
BLDG 607 CULLUM ROAD  
WEST POINT NY 10996**

MADN-SOC

06 January, 2023

MEMORANDUM OF INSTRUCTION

SUBJECT: Syllabus and Classroom Policies for SS201 – Principles of Economics

1. Economics will change the way you view the world and improve the decisions you make. This is why in 1920, General Douglas MacArthur mandated that economics become a core course taught to all cadets. You must do more than seek to “complete” this course, but rather work to understand and integrate the frameworks, thinking, and insight that economics provides into your lives. Thinking like an economist is a rare skill that is rewarded both in the Army, the job market, and is a skill that allows you to make great impacts. As such, my number one goal in this class is to get you to THINK – before you speak and before you act. This is fundamental in achieving EXCELLENCE in everything you do.

Keys to success in SS201 are:

2. Come to class prepared. Show up each day as if you are a Platoon Leader reporting to your first Company Commander. You are constantly building the reputation that will follow you through the Army and through your life. Act in a way that you would want your future boss, peer, or subordinate to perceive you. Practice the professionalism now that you are going to display as a commissioned officer.

**Mental preparation:** Read Mankiw not to complete the task, but with the goal of understanding what you have read. It is okay to read a paragraph a few times or take notes on a particularly challenging section to help you grasp the reading. Just saying you read each word on the page is not learning. Spend half your study time reviewing your notes and material from the last class. Spend the rest of the time preparing for the next.

**Physical preparation:** Arrive on time, looking sharp and with the required class materials. These normally are your textbook, a notebook, and pen or pencil. Stay awake (do not stand up) and do not exit the classroom before the end of the period (go to the bathroom before class) – it is disruptive and discourteous.

3. Participate actively in class. This is a risk-free environment, but that does not excuse you from sloppy thinking. Take any position you want within the realm of common courtesy, but always support it with credible evidence. Have thick skin. Your classmates and I are here to challenge you; and you us. If you are lost at any point in the class, ask -- but be prepared to demonstrate to me that you have done your best to prepare and follow along.

4. The best way to reach me is via email. It is best to email or call me before stopping by my office. If you are requesting a meeting, please email me at least three time frames that would work for you. My office is LH 203, and my phone number is 509-528-8669. If you have a question about the material, reach out before you reach up. You should exhaust the resources you have available to you (class notes, text, peer, internet) before contacting me for AI – and come prepared to work once it is scheduled.

5. Submit all assignments on time when due. You will not get credit for assignments once I have handed out the solution. I will deduct 10% per day late up until I hand back the solution. I will not give partial credit or extend due dates for the Cengage Pre-Class Assignments. Document all assistance that you receive for graded assignments in accordance with the principles described in Documentation of Written Work. Note that academic integrity is not just a West Point phenomenon.

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6. I do not tolerate sloppy work. Take pride in what you produce, it is part of your reputation. Assemble homework neatly, format digital documents correctly, write like someone who you want to impress is reading it. I will take points off for sloppy submissions.

## Course Requirements

7. Graded requirements are listed below:

Requirements		Max Pts	% of Course	% of Course	Type
<b>Pre-Class Assignments</b>	27 Total Pre-Class Assignments at 5 pts each. Average score.	100	10.0%	30.0%	Effort
<b>Problem Sets</b>	Micro Problem Set 1	25	2.5%		
	Micro Problem Set 2	25	2.5%		
	Micro Problem Set 3	25	2.5%		
	Micro Problem Set 4	25	2.5%		
	Macro Problem Set 1	25	2.5%		
	Macro Problem Set 2	25	2.5%		
<b>Instructor Grade</b>	Class participation, bearing, attitude. Includes extra credit.	50	5.0%		
<b>Paper</b>	Issue Analysis Essay	70	7.0%	7.0%	Written Deliverables
<b>Written Partial Review (WPR)</b>	WPR #1: Lesson 11 (Micro Modeling)	135	13.5%	63.0%	Graded Learning
	WPR #2: Lesson 19 (Micro Modeling)	135	13.5%		
	WPR #3: Lesson 29 (Macro)	135	13.5%		Assessment
<b>Term End Exam (TEE)</b>	Comprehensive Exam (Lessons 1-30)	225	22.5%		
<b>Course Total</b>		<b>1000</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	

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### 8. Letter Grade Scale

Grade Earned	Points Earned	Percentage Earned	Quality Points	Subjective Interpretation
A+	970 - 1000	97.0 - 100.0	4.33	<i>Mastery of concepts. Can apply concepts to new situations.</i>
A	930 - 969	93.0 - 96.9	4.00	
A-	900 - 929	90.0 - 92.9	3.67	
B+	870 - 899	87.0 - 89.9	3.33	<i>Solid understanding of concepts. Strong foundation for future work.</i>
B	830 - 869	83.0 - 86.9	3.00	
B-	800 - 829	80.0 - 82.9	2.67	
C+	770 - 799	77.0 - 79.9	2.33	<i>Acceptable understanding. Questionable foundation for future work.</i>
C	730 - 769	73.0 - 76.9	2.00	
C -	700 - 729	70.0 - 72.9	1.77	<i>Doubtful understanding. Weak foundation for future work.</i>
D	670 - 699	67.0 - 69.9	1.00	
F	0 - 670	< 67.0	0.00	<i>Definitely failed to demonstrate understanding.</i>

### Classroom Policies

7. Laptops and cell phones are not authorized during class time. Cadets may use tablets with a digital writing pen if in airplane mode prior to the start of class.

8. I welcome feedback on the course at anytime and remain flexible to alternative forms of teaching. If we are moving too fast, let me know.

CARSON K. HOMME  
MAJ, IN  
Assistant Professor