

Las Positas College
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Course Outline for ECON 10

GENERAL ECONOMICS

Effective: Fall 2011

I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

ECON 10 — GENERAL ECONOMICS — 3.00 units

Survey of the economic system of the United States, covering such macroeconomic and microeconomic topics as supply and demand, firms' output and pricing decisions, international trade, comparative economic systems, economic growth, business cycles, fiscal and monetary policy, labor, and money and banking. 3 hours lecture.

3.00 Units Lecture

Grading Methods:

Letter or P/NP

Discipline:

| | <u>MIN</u> |
|-----------------------|------------|
| Lecture Hours: | 54.00 |
| Total Hours: | 54.00 |

II. NUMBER OF TIMES COURSE MAY BE TAKEN FOR CREDIT: 1

III. PREREQUISITE AND/OR ADVISORY SKILLS:

IV. MEASURABLE OBJECTIVES:

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

1. define scarcity and explain how it relates to choices of individuals in the economy
2. define comparative advantage and show how it facilitates gains from trade
3. define market and explain how market forces of supply and demand lead to efficient allocation of goods, services, and factors of production
4. explain the theory of the firm's behavior
5. use microeconomic models to show how prices and output are determined in various market structures
6. describe and analyze the economy using a variety of quantitative measures
7. identify and analyze factors that contribute to economic growth around the world
8. describe the monetary system and explain the role of money, credit and the Federal Reserve
9. use macroeconomic models to explain short-run economic fluctuations
10. demonstrate an ability to apply basic economic concepts to business, social and personal issues

V. CONTENT:

- A. Principles of Economics
 1. How people make decisions
 2. How people interact
 3. How the Economy as a whole works
- B. Thinking like an Economist
 1. The Economist as scientist
 2. The Economist as policy advisor
- C. Interdependence and the Gains from Trade
 1. Comparative advantage: the driving force of specialization
 2. Applications of comparative advantage
- D. The Market Forces of Supply and Demand
 1. Markets and competition
 2. Demand
 3. Supply
 4. Supply and demand together
 5. How prices allocate resources
- E. Firms in Competitive Markets
 1. Competitive market
 2. Profit maximization
 3. Supply curve in a competitive market
- F. Monopoly
 1. Causes of monopolies
 2. Monopoly productions and pricing decisions
 3. Price discrimination
- G. Measuring a Nation's Income

1. The measurement of Gross Domestic Product
2. The components of GDP
3. Real versus Nominal GDP
- H. Measuring the Cost of Living
 1. The Consumer Price Index
 2. Correcting economic variables for the effects of inflation
- I. Unemployment
 1. Identifying unemployment
 2. Causes and types of unemployment
- J. Production and Growth
 1. Economic growth around the world
 2. Productivity: its role and determinants
 3. Economic growth and public policy
- K. Saving, Investment and the Financial System
 1. Financial institutions in the U.S. economy
 2. Saving and investment in the National Income Accounts
 3. The market for loanable funds
- L. The Monetary System
 1. Types and functions of money
 2. The Federal Reserve System
 3. Banks and the money supply

VI. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:

- A. **Lecture** -
- B. **Discussion** -
- C. **Lecture** -
- D. **Audio-visual Activity** - News videos and other audio-visual aids
- E. Student participation

VII. TYPICAL ASSIGNMENTS:

A. Students are expected to read assigned sections of the textbook before each class. 1. Answer questions regarding each week's reading material(s) 2. Ask questions that clear up any gaps in the student's understanding of the assigned reading material(s) 3. Participate intelligently in answering other student's and the instructor's in-class questions B. Students are to complete a research project on an economic topic chosen from an extensive list provided by an instructor 1. Using print and online resources effectively, conduct a search by subject for relevant articles 2. Note relevant information from acquired materials, analyze the information using basic microeconomic concepts, and organize it in a logical order 3. Present the information in form of a 15-18 slide long Power Point presentation

VIII. EVALUATION:

- A. **Methods**
 1. Exams/Tests
 2. Group Projects
 3. Class Participation
- B. **Frequency**
 1. Two tests spaced evenly through the term
 2. Group project delivered in class at the end of the term
 3. Final examination at the end of the term

IX. TYPICAL TEXTS:

1. Mankiw N. Gregory *Principles of Economics*. 5th ed., Thomson South-Western, 2009.
2. O'Sullivan Arthur, Sheffrin M. Steve, Perez J. Stephen *Economics: Principles, Applications, and Tools*. 6th ed., Prentice Hall, 2010.
3. Cowen Tyler, Tabarrok Alex *Modern Principles: Economics*. 1st ed., Worth Publishers, 2010.

X. OTHER MATERIALS REQUIRED OF STUDENTS:

- A. #2 pencil for tests
- B. Scantron forms for tests