Number: ECON G110  TITLE: Contemporary Economic Issues and Problems

ORIGINATOR: Jennifer Bailly  EFF TERM: Fall 2014
FORMERLY KNOWN AS: American Economic Problems
CROSS LISTED COURSE:  

SEMMETER UNITS: 3.0
HRS LEC: 54.0  HRS LAB: 0.0  HRS OTHER: 0.0
CONTACT HRS TOTAL: 54.0
STUDY NON-CONTACT HRS RECOMMENDED: 108.0
CATALOG DESCRIPTION:
Provides an introduction to the basic tools and concepts of economic analysis with an emphasis of applying economic theory to current problems and issues. Topics include scarcity, decision making, supply and demand, and the effects of policy applied to selected issues such as crime, drug control, healthcare, pollution, and poverty.

JUSTIFICATION FOR COURSE:

PREREQUISITES:

COREQUISITES:

ADVISORIES:

ASSIGNED DISCIPLINES:
Economics

MATERIAL FEE: Yes [ ] No [X] Amount: $0.00

CREDIT STATUS: Noncredit [ ] Credit - Degree Applicable [X] Credit - Not Degree Applicable [ ]

GRADING POLICY: Pass/No Pass [X] Standard Letter [X] Not Graded [ ] Satisfactory Progress [ ]

OPEN ENTRY/Open Exit: Yes [ ] No [X]

TRANSFER STATUS: CSU Transferable[ ] UC/CSU Transferable[X] Not Transferable[ ]

BASIC SKILLS STATUS: Yes [ ] No [X] LEVELS BELOW TRANSFER: Not Applicable

CALIFORNIA CLASSIFICATION CODES: Y - Not Applicable

NON CREDIT COURSE CATEGORY: Y - Not applicable, Credit Course

OCCUPATIONAL (SAM) CODE: E

REPEATABLE ACCORDING TO STATE GUIDELINES: No [X] Yes [ ] NUMBER REPEATS:

REQUIRED FOR DEGREE OR CERTIFICATE: No [ ] Yes [X]
Associate in Arts: Liberal Arts: Emphasis in Social Sciences(Ascociate in Arts)
Associate of Arts: Liberal Arts: Emphasis in Business and Technology(Associate in Arts)
Associate of Arts: Liberal Arts: Emphasis in Social and Behavioral Sciences(Associate in Arts)

GE AND TRANSFER REQUIREMENTS MET:
IGETC Area 4: Social and Behavioral Sciences
   4B: Economics
CSU GE Area D: Social, Political, and Economic Institutions
   D2 - Economics

COURSE LEVEL STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOME(S) Supported by this course:
1. Apply the basic framework of supply and demand to analyze markets for private and public goods and interpret the results with an emphasis on creating solutions to economic problems.

2. Assess the effects of fiscal and monetary government policies on social issues including public welfare, unemployment, income inequality, and poverty.

3. Apply the methods of economic analysis to specific contemporary issues describing the role of the economy in allocating resources with an emphasis on solutions to market failures.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

1. Apply supply and demand to analyze markets for private and public goods and create solutions to economic problems.

2. Assess the effects of government policy on social issues.

3. Compare and contrast differing viewpoints on policy and formulate a personal opinion on current economic issues.

4. Describe the role of the economy in allocating resources and identify the source of economic problems.

COURSE CONTENT:

LECTURE CONTENT:

1. Introduction to Economics
   a. Scarcity and opportunity cost
   b. Production possibilities
   c. Supply and demand
   d. Cost-benefit analysis

2. Crime and Drugs
   a. Trends in crime
   b. Legalization

3. Pollution
   a. Externalities
   b. National and international environmental problems and protection
   c. Pollution control policies

4. Education and Health Care
   a. Education funding
   b. Policies to improve quality and access of education
   c. Costs and access in U.S. healthcare
   d. U.S. and global healthcare programs

5. Poverty and income inequality

6. Discrimination and unemployment

7. Taxes and the Government Budget Deficit
   a. Types of taxes
   b. Government deficit and debt

   a. History and features
   b. Long run problems
   c. Proposals to help secure the financial future of these programs

9. International Trade, Outsourcing, and Global Markets
   a. Global trade agreements and policies that restrict trade
b. Benefits and costs of free trade and globalization

METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:

A. Lecture:
B. Online:
C. Independent Study:

INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNIQUES:

Lecture, video, or online lessons to develop course content. In class, out of class, and online opportunities to develop critical thinking and problem solving skills as related to the course material.

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS:

Reading Assignments
Weekly reading of the course textbook. Supplemental reading of current articles and periodicals relating to course content.

Out-of-class Assignments
Assignments demonstrating application of course material including graphing, mathematical computation, and problem solving used to explain and provide solutions to economic applications.

Writing Assignments
Exams with written and short answer analysis involving problem solving using equations and ability to illustrate and interpret concepts graphically.

Written homework assignments, journals, or discussions requiring use of course content.

METHODS OF STUDENT EVALUATION:

Midterm Exam
Final Exam
Short Quizzes
Written Assignments
Essay Examinations
Objective Examinations
Projects (ind/group)
Problem Solving Exercises

Demonstration of Critical Thinking:

Course exams and quizzes providing a combination of multiple choice questions and short answer questions that demonstrate application and analysis of course content.

Discussions that use the basic tools of economic analysis applied to current issues.

Required Writing, Problem Solving, Skills Demonstration:

Use of economic equations and graphing to explain and provide solutions to course concepts demonstrated through written assignments and exams.

TEXTS, READINGS, AND RESOURCES:

TextBooks:

Other:
1. Newspaper and magazine articles as provided.
2. Segments of current bestselling books with an economic perspective to current issues such as Freakonomics, Naked Economics and End This Depression Now.

LIBRARY:

Adequate library resources include: Print Materials
Non-Print Materials
Online Materials

Comments:

Current publications in economics such as the Wall Street Journal and The Economist.

Attachments:

Attached Files