

Economics of Contemporary Social Issues

SYLLABUS

Syeda Jahirin Aktari
Office: 4126 Faner Hall
Phone : 443-333-7975
Email: syedajahirin.aktari@siu.edu
Office Hours: Tuesday, Thursday (10:30am - 12:30pm)

Read Carefully:

There will be NO time extensions on homework assignments, quizzes, and exams unless you provide a doctor's note that you were sick or a note for any other family emergency. You are given exact dates and times of the homework assignments, quizzes and exams, so please plan your time accordingly.

Course Objectives

The objective of this course is to examine major contemporary social issues from an economics perspective. Students are introduced to basic economic concepts that will then be used to analyze a variety of social problems. Once the causes of social problems have been analyzed, then specific policies effective in solving or dealing with the social problem will be discussed.

Course Materials Required

Issues in Economics Today (in **Connect**), 10th Edition, By Robert Guell, McGraw-Hill

ISBN10: 1266368108; ISBN13: 9781266368103

You must have access to McGraw-Hill **Connect**. **Connect** includes the e-book, adaptive learning materials, homework assignments, and tests. (**Do not** purchase the e-book separately.) To access and register for Connect, follow the link and instructions in the **Get Started** folder on the course webpage in your SIU MyCourses (D2L) account. **All tests and homework assignments must be completed in Connect.**

You will need to purchase an access code for Connect. You can purchase the access code online during the registration process. See **Guide to Connect Registration** in the **Get Started** folder for detailed instruction.

Course Outline

Chapter 1. Economics: The Study of Opportunity Cost

Chapter 2. Supply and Demand

Chapter 3. The Concept of Elasticity and Consumer and Producer Surplus

Chapter 6. Every Macroeconomic Word You Ever Heard: Gross Domestic Product, Inflation, Unemployment, Recession, Depression

Chapter 7. Money, Interest Rates, and Present Value

Chapter 8. Aggregate Demand and Aggregate Supply

Chapter 9. Fiscal Policy

Chapter 10. Monetary Policy

Chapter 11. Federal Spending

Chapter 13. The Great Recession

Chapter 17. International Trade: Does it Jeopardize American Jobs?

Chapter 28. Health Care

Chapter 31 Economics of K-12 Education

Chapter 33: The Economics of Race and Sex Discrimination

Chapter 36: Minimum Wage

Chapter 34: Income and Wealth Inequality

Chapter 38: Poverty and Welfare

Chapter 22: The Economics of Terrorism

Grading

Point Distribution	
Homework	28%
Quizzes	18%
Midterm I	18%
Midterm II	18%
Midterm III	18%
Final Exam -- Comprehensive	18%

Grading Scale	
85-100%	A
75-84%	B
65-74%	C
55-64 %	D
54% or less	F

Your grades will be posted in your SIU MyCourses (D2L) account and will be updated weekly.

Exams

Exams	Chapters	Exam Dates	
		Starts	Ends
Midterm I	1-3, and 6	Noon, Wednesday, 2/12/25	11:59PM, Thursday, 2/13/25
Midterm II	7-11, 13 and 17	Noon, Wednesday, 3/26/25	11:59PM, Thursday, 3/27/25
Midterm III	22, 24, 30, 31, 33, 36, and 38	Noon, Wednesday, 4/30/25	11:59PM, Thursday, 5/1/25
Final Exam	Comprehensive	Noon, Wednesday, 5/7/25	11:59PM, Thursday, 5/8/25

Each midterm exam will have 34 multiple-choice questions and 32 will be counted for grading. There will be two bonus questions on each midterm exam. In the Final Exam, which is comprehensive, there will be 48 questions and 45 will be graded, i.e., there will be three bonus questions.

If you take all three midterm exams and are happy with your grade, you do not need to take the Final Exam. If you want to improve your grade and take the Final Exam, which is comprehensive, it will not hurt your grade, since only the three best exams will be counted for your grade.

Missing Exams:

If you miss an exam, in order to take a make-up exam, you will need to provide the reasons for missing the exam including relevant documents, if needed, to the satisfaction of the instructor.

Quizzes

Quizzes	Chapters	Quiz Dates	
		Starts	Ends
Quiz I	1 – 3	Noon, Wednesday, 2/5/25	11:59PM, Thursday, 2/6/25
Quiz II	7 – 11 and 13	Noon, Wednesday, 3/19/25	11:59PM, Thursday, 3/20/25
Quiz III	24, 30, 31, 33, 36 and 38	Noon, Wednesday, 4/23/25	11:59PM, Thursday, 4/24/25

Out of the three quizzes, your grade will be based on the two best quizzes. Each quiz will have 16 multiple-choice questions and 15 will be counted for grading. There will be one bonus question.

Missing Quizzes:

If you miss a quiz, that quiz will be automatically dropped, and there will not be any make-up quiz. However, if you miss a second quiz, then in order to take a make-up quiz, you will need to provide the reasons for missing the quiz including relevant documents, if needed, to the satisfaction of the instructor.

Homework

There will be homework assignments for each chapter. The homework assignments have three parts. The Video assignment covers the most challenging topics; the Smart Book assignment is interactive and helps you master the materials; the Quiz Yourself assignment checks your knowledge and prepares you for the tests.

See **Weekly Assignment Schedule** for detailed homework schedule.

Syllabus Attachment

Spring 2025

MISSION STATEMENT FOR SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY CARBONDALE

SIU embraces a unique tradition of access and opportunity, inclusive excellence, innovation in research and creativity, and outstanding teaching focused on nurturing student success. As a nationally ranked public research university and regional economic catalyst, we create and exchange knowledge to shape future leaders, improve our communities, and transform lives.

IMPORTANT DATES:

Semester Classes Begin:01/13/2025

Last day to add full-term course (without Dean's signature):01/19/2025

Last day to withdraw from the University with a full refund:01/24/2025

Last day to drop a full-term course for a credit/refund:01/26/2025

Last day to drop a full-term course (W grade, no refund):.....03/30/2025

Final examinations:05/05/2025–05/09/2025

Note: Please verify the above dates with the Registrar calendar and find more detailed information on deadlines at <http://registrar.siu.edu/calendars>. For add/drop dates that apply to shorter-than-full-term courses, please look at the Schedule of Classes search results at <http://registrar.siu.edu/schedclass/index.php>

SPRING SEMESTER HOLIDAYS:

Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday 01/20/2025

Spring Break 03/08/25-03/16/25

DIVERSITY: Southern Illinois University Carbondale's goal is to provide a welcoming campus where all of our students, faculty and staff can study and work in a respectful, positive environment free from racism and intimidation. For more information visit: <http://diversity.siu.edu>. Additional [informational flyer](#).

OFFICE FOR ACCESS AND ACCOMMODATIONS: SIU Carbondale is committed to providing an inclusive and accessible experience for all students with disabilities. Office for Access and Accommodations coordinates the implementation of accommodations. If you think you may be eligible for accommodations but have not yet obtained approval please contact OAA immediately at (618) 453-5738 or <https://access.siu.edu>. You may request accommodations at any time, but timely requests help to insure accommodations are in place when needed. Accommodations and services are determined through an interactive process with students and may involve consideration of specific course design and learning objectives in consultation with faculty.

MILITARY COMMUNITY: There are complexities of being a member of the military community and also a student, and military and veteran related developments can complicate academic life. If you are a member of the military community and in need of accommodations please visit Veterans Services at <http://veterans.siu.edu/>.

STUDENT MULTICULTURAL RESOURCE CENTER: The Student Multicultural Resource Center serves as a catalyst for inclusion, diversity and innovation. As the Center continues its work, we are here to ensure that you think, grow and succeed. We encourage you to stop by the Center, located in the Student Services Building Room 140, to see the resources available and discover ways you can get involved on the campus. Visit us at <https://smrc.siu.edu/>.

SALUKI CARES: The purpose of Saluki Cares is to develop, facilitate and coordinate a university-wide program of care and support for students in any type of distress—physical, emotional, financial, or personal. By working closely with faculty, staff, students and their families, SIUC will continue to display a culture of care and demonstrate to our students and their families that they are an important part of the community. For information on Saluki Cares: Call (618) 453-2461, email siucares@siu.edu, or <http://salukicares.siu.edu/>.

SAFETY AWARENESS FACTS AND EDUCATION: Title IX makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender is a Civil Rights offense subject to the same kinds of accountability and the same kinds of support applied to offenses against other protected categories such as race, national origin, etc. If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, you can find the appropriate resources here: <http://safe.siu.edu>.

PREGNANCY: Title IX makes it clear that students who are pregnant or have a related condition may contact the Title IX Coordinator to request accommodations or to report any allegations of discrimination. The Title IX Coordinator may be contacted at: Nick Wortman, Associate Vice Chancellor for Human Resources, Southern Illinois University Carbondale, 0135 Woody Hall, 900 S. Normal Avenue, Mail Code 6520, Carbondale, IL 62901, (618) 453-6667, equity@siu.edu.

SIU COUNSELING AND PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES (CAPS): Mental health counseling services are available by calling [CAPS](#) at (618) 453-5371. CAPS offers confidential same-day services and ongoing counseling. For after hours crisis care, students are encouraged to call 988, 911, or present to their nearest emergency room.

WITHDRAWAL POLICY (Undergraduate Only): Students who officially register for a session must officially withdraw from that registration in a timely manner to avoid being charged as well as receiving a failing grade for those classes. An official withdrawal must be initiated by the student, or on behalf of the student through the academic unit, and be processed by the Registrar's office. For the proper procedures to follow when dropping courses and when withdrawing from SIUC visit: <https://registrar.siu.edu/students/withdraw.php>.

SIUC'S EARLY WARNING INTERVENTION PROGRAM (EWIP): Students enrolled in courses participating in SIUC's Early Warning Intervention Program might be contacted by University staff during a semester. More information can be found at the University Core Curriculum's Overview webpage: <https://corecurriculum.siu.edu/for-faculty/>.

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES: We ask that you become familiar with Emergency Preparedness at SIU. Emergency response information is available on posters in buildings on campus, on the Emergency Preparedness at SIU website, and through text and email alerts. To register for alerts visit: <http://emergency.siu.edu/>.

CATALOGS:

catalog.siu.edu

gradcatalog.siu.edu - Graduate policies often vary from Undergraduate policies. To view the applicable policies for graduate students, please refer to the graduate catalog.

CENTER FOR LEARNING AND SUPPORT SERVICES:

Tutoring: <https://clss.siu.edu/>

Math Labs: <http://math.siu.edu/courses/course-help.php>

WRITING CENTER: <http://write.siu.edu/>

PLAGIARISM: See the Student Conduct Code: <http://srr.siu.edu/student-conduct-code/>

INCOMPLETE POLICY (Undergraduate Only): <http://registrar.siu.edu/grades/incomplete.php>

REPEAT POLICY: <http://registrar.siu.edu/students/repeatclasses.php>

MORRIS LIBRARY HOURS: <https://libcal.lib.siu.edu/hours/>

ADVISEMENT: <http://advisement.siu.edu/>

SIU ONLINE: <https://online.siu.edu/>