

Winthrop University
College of Business Administration
Economics 103-001
Introduction to Political Economy
Spring 2018

2:00 – 3:15 Tuesday/Thursday
Thurmond 308
3.0 Credit Hours

Instructor: Dr. Laura Dawson Ullrich
Office: 112 Thurmond Hall
Office Hours: Monday 9:30 – 11:15 am
Tuesday 10:00 – 11:00 am
Wednesday 1:00 – 3:15 pm
Thursday 10:00 – 11:00 am
(and by appointment)
E-mail: ullrichl@winthrop.edu

Catalog Description

Designed for non-business majors, the course uses basic economic concepts to explore a variety of current issues. Topics such as unemployment, inflation, education, healthcare and pollution might be discussed along with the constitutional foundation of the US economy.

Introduction

Welcome to Economics 103, Introduction to Political Economy. This course is designed cover the basic ideas and theories of economics for non-business majors. Topics such as demand and supply interaction, market failure, elasticity, GDP, unemployment, and inflation will be covered. In addition, current topics such as environmental economics, health care, education and crime will be discussed.

There is A LOT of information for us to cover in this short period of time. Make sure that you stay on top of the information that we cover each day, and come to see me if you need additional help.

General Education Course Goals:

Winthrop graduates communicate effectively: Students are expected to analyze and summarize a total of 8 Federalist Papers throughout the semester. Students must communicate regularly via in class quizzes, short-answer exams and general class discussion.

Winthrop graduates think critically and solve problems: Students will be expected to critically analyze a wide variety of public and private policy initiatives.

Winthrop graduates are personally and socially responsible: Social and cultural conflict often originates with the disparate goals of consumers and producers, of competing producers, and of competing interest groups. Students will learn to appreciate how an efficient economic system can resolve these conflicts in a way that maximizes overall social value.

Winthrop graduates understand the interconnected nature of the world and the time in which they live: The course covers such critical current issues as unemployment, inflation, economic growth, poverty, health care, pollution, education and crime. The course also discusses issues in both developed nation and developing countries.

Student Conduct

As noted in the Student Conduct Code: “Responsibility for good conduct rests with students as adult individuals.” The policy on student academic misconduct is outlined in the Student Conduct Code Academic Misconduct Policy in the Student Handbook, which can be found online at <http://www3.winthrop.edu/studentaffairs/handbook/StudentHandbook.pdf>

Academic Dishonesty

Academic dishonesty is a serious offense because it diminishes the quality of scholarship and the learning experience for everyone on campus. An act of academic dishonesty may lead to such penalties as reduction of grade, probation, suspension, or expulsion from the University. I reserve the right to assign a grade of zero for actions involving violations of Winthrop’s Student Academic Misconduct Policy. In addition, I will report ALL incidences of academic dishonesty to Bethany Marlowe, Dean of Students.

Students with Disabilities/Need of Accommodations for Access

Winthrop University is committed to providing access to education. If you have a condition which may adversely impact your ability to access academics and/or campus life, and you require specific accommodations to complete this course, contact the Office of Accessibility (OA) at 803-323-3290, or, accessibility@winthrop.edu. Please inform me as early as possible, once you have your official notice of accommodations from the Office of Accessibility.

Technology Policy

Cell phones or related devices are not allowed at any time during class. Students are permitted to use a calculator during tests when needed, but it must be a basic calculator without storage functions (e.g. a dollar store calculator). No sharing of calculators is allowed. Any student who is caught using an electronic device such as a cell phone, iPad, iPod, etc. during an exam will be subject to academic dishonesty prosecution. Graphing calculators are also strictly prohibited.

TEXTING IS NOT ALLOWED IN CLASS...**EVER**. If a student is caught texting (or using a cell phone in any other unapproved way) during class, they will be asked to put the phone away AND WILL LOSE 2 POINTS OFF OF THEIR FINAL GRADE. Points will be deducted each class period the student is observed using their cell phone or other technological device. Texting during class is extremely disruptive and rude and will not be tolerated.

Students are discouraged from using laptops, iPads, etc. during class because of the graphical nature of the course. Laptops and/or tablets are allowed in class as long as the student is seated IN THE FRONT ROW of the classroom. Failing to do so will result in the same 2 point deduction from the final grade mentioned in the paragraph above.

Required Text and Materials

Economic Issues and Policy, 6th Edition, Jacqueline Brux
ISBN: 978-1285448770

Quizzes

You will be given a minimum of five pop quizzes throughout the semester. The quizzes will always be over the material covered in the previous class. Quizzes will be given at the very beginning of class. If you arrive late, you will not be able to take the quiz. No makeup quizzes are given. The lowest quiz grade is dropped at the end of the semester.

Tests

There will be three tests given in this class. There will be no comprehensive final exam. The third test will be administered during the final exam period. The tests will consist of true/false and short answer questions, and will be given during the class period. **NO MAKEUP TESTS WILL BE GIVEN.** If a legitimate issue arises and you must miss an exam, you will be allowed to shift that portion of your grade to the final exam only if I am notified of the issue at least one day prior to the test. In other words, if we have a test on Tuesday, I must receive an e-mail from you by 5:00 pm on Monday stating the reason for your absence. Otherwise you will receive a zero for that test. You may only be excused from a test under special circumstances (i.e., death in the family or severe illness). Not being able to get a ride to class or going to the beach for a long weekend are not acceptable excuses.

Tentative Exam Dates: February 8th, March 22nd, April 25th at 11:30am

The following things are not allowed during examinations in this course:

- Use of technological devices (see previous policy)
- Using the restroom. The class is only 75 minutes long, so you shouldn't have any problems. Make sure you go right before class!
- Talking to your classmates

Constitution Assignments

ECON 103 fills the Constitution requirement here at Winthrop. Many of you are taking this course to fill that requirement, while some of you are taking it as a part of your major. In order to fulfill the state requirement, we will cover the basics of both the Constitution and the Federalist Papers during the course.

Four homework assignments related to the Constitution will be given during the semester. In each assignment, two Federalist Papers must be read and analyzed. In addition, you will be assigned questions related to the Constitution itself. Assignments will be due to me **via Blackboard** by 11:59pm on the due date. A grade of zero will be given for late assignments.

NO EXCEPTIONS WILL BE MADE. The assignment will be posted at least one week before the due date.

Constitution Assignments are due on **February 23rd, March 9th and 30th, and April 13th.**

Attendance

Each student can miss **ONE** class period without penalty. After missing one class, the student will lose 10 points off of their attendance grade for each class missed. For example, if you only miss one class, you will receive a 100% for the attendance portion of your grade. If you miss three classes, you will receive an 80%. Think of this as a way to improve on your overall grade.

The following behaviors will result in you being counted absent: not coming to class at all, sleeping in class, arriving more than 5 minutes late to class, a ringing cell phone, or other disruptive behavior.

The Winthrop University attendance policy states that any student missing more than 25% of the class meetings will receive an F in that class. Therefore, if you miss more than 8 class periods during the semester you will receive an automatic F in the class regardless of performance on tests and quizzes.

Grading

Exam 1	20%
Exam 2	20%
Exam 3	20%
Constitution Assignments	20%
Quizzes	10%
Attendance	10%

Grading Scale

90-100	A
80-89.9	B
70-79.9	C
60-69.9	D
<60	F

Important Dates of Note:

Course drop/add deadline:	January 12 th
Course withdrawal and S/U deadline:	March 7 th

Syllabus Change Policy

This syllabus is a contractual policy between the instructor and student. It is presumed that every student has read the syllabus completely, understands his/her individual responsibilities, and accepts full responsibility for meeting all course requirements as set forth therein. Should there be a need to make a change in the posted syllabus, an announcement will be made in class and also via email, well in advance of any change. The final exam date and time and the grading policies will not change.

Anticipated Course Outline

Chapter 1: Introduction
Chapter 2: Crime and Drugs
Chapter 16: Taxes, Borrowing and the National Debt
Chapter 3: The Environment
Chapter 4: Education
EXAM ONE

Chapter 5: Discrimination
Chapter 6: U.S. Policy
Chapter 7: Housing
Chapter 8: Healthcare
Chapter 9: Social Security
EXAM TWO

Chapter 10: World Poverty
Chapter 12: International Trade
Chapter 13: Market Power
Chapter 14: Unemployment and Inflation
Chapter 15: Government Macroeconomic Policy
EXAM THREE