

San Jose State University

Wealth of Nations

Course and Contact Information

Instructor: Dr. Kristina Mitchell
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Office Hours: Tuesdays from 12pm – 1:30pm

Course and GE Learning Objectives (CLOs and GELOs):

Upon successful completion of this GE course, students will be able to:

1. Understand and explain the basic assumptions underlying economic models.
2. Understand and explain how the market works.
3. Understand and explain the linkages between the domestic and the international economy.
4. Understand and discuss the effect of government policies on the economy.

Textbook

International Political Economy 6th Edition – Thomas Oatley – ISBN ISBN 9781138490741

Principles of Macroeconomics - UMN Open Source - <https://open.lib.umn.edu/macroeconomics/>

Summary of Class Requirements

Course Assignments

Weekly Assignments

You will complete a weekly assignment each week based on the lecture and the prompt in Canvas. These will be due on Thursdays at midnight.

Social Media Analysis Project

In this assignment, you will explore social media's relationship with economics/international political economics as a field. Specifically, you'll be looking for correct and incorrect takes on economic theory and policy. The goal is to highlight how "common knowledge" in the form of non-expert social media posting can be wildly different than what we as economists & political scientists "know." But, it can still have value, or even be convincing!

You will find a minimum of three (but as many as you like) social media posts that are related to economics, economic theory, political economy, or economic policy. NOTE: they must be related to concepts either that we have discussed in class or that are in your textbook. Acceptable social media sites are Facebook, Twitter, TikTok, and Instagram. If you have a different platform you'd like to use, let me know.

For this project, you will first compose a 500-700 word essay. You will briefly describe the posts you reviewed. You will explain the context and how the authors of the posts probably came to those conclusions, or how they fit into a broader narrative on social media. Then, you will use your knowledge of economics from this class to either confirm the content or refute it.

You will also create a presentation. The first three slides will just be the posts you found (either a screen shot or a video link for us to watch in class), followed by 3-4 slides that cover the content of your essay. There should be no more than 25 words on each slide (remember, slides are just to help you present! We don't need to read your whole presentation!) You will present in class for approximately 5-7 minutes during the last week.

Exams

There will be two midterm and one final exam. The exams will be online in Canvas. They are open note, open book, but you must cite sources (do not engage in plagiarism). They are individual assignments, and should not be worked on with other students. On exam days, you will not attend class. The exam will be due by the end of the class period on the day of the exam, but you have the 24 hours prior to that time to work on the exam. The top three exam scores count (even if one is a zero). Thus, the final exam is optional if you are happy with your scores on the first two exams.

Grade Distribution

The grading breakdown for the course assignments is as follows:

- Weekly Assignments: 30%
- Social Media Analysis : 15%
- Social Media Analysis Presentation: 10%
- Exams: 45% (15% each)

You can use this grade distribution to calculate what is possible for you based on your grades on assignments. Please note the weighting of each assignment and keep it in mind as you complete your work.

Final Grade Determination

97 & above: A plus

92-96: A

90-91: A minus

87-89: B plus

82-86: B

80-81: B minus

77-79: C plus

72-76: C

70-71: C minus

67-69: D plus

62-66: D

60-61: D minus
59.99 & below: F

Classroom Protocol

Course Rules

1. Always maintain professional and respectful language, in class, in emails and in your coursework.
2. Any disruptive or disrespectful behavior will result in a loss of credit for the assignment and possibly a referral to the Office of Student Conduct. Racism, sexism, homophobia, or any other forms of bigotry are not acceptable in this class.
3. You are responsible for all information and announcements made in the course. Prepare to log onto Canvas every day to check for updates, changes, or new information. Read the course home page thoroughly and check announcements daily. Course rules, schedule, and day-to-day are subject to change, please pay close attention to course announcements.
4. Late work will not be accepted for any reason. To be clear, late work will not be accepted for any reason whatsoever.
5. Students may not print, save, photograph, or make any record of graded content in this course.

Professionalism

Here is a quick-start on professionalism in your communication with your professors:

- Don't ask a question that you could have answered yourself. Read all information and instructions in Canvas before you send an email.
 - Use an appropriate Subject Line that identifies yourself and your concern (don't just say, "HELP")
 - Address the recipient by his or her professional title, such as Professor, Dr., Mr., or Ms. (NOT Mrs. or Miss unless instructed otherwise)
 - Your first sentence should introduce yourself and include your course and section number. • Be specific about what your request is. Demonstrate that you have read and understood course information and instructions.
 - Use proper grammar and spelling. Punctuate and capitalize. Proofread.
 - Allow 24 hours for a response to your email during the week. Do not expect email responses on weekends. Do not send multiple emails on the same topic within a 24 hour period without waiting for a response.
- If you send an email that does not follow these guidelines, don't be surprised if you get a response that states, "Please revisit the Professionalism section of your course home page and email again."

Course Schedule

Day 1 – January 27th
Course Introduction

Week 1 – Feb 1st and 3rd
Introduction – What is “Rational”?
UMN Chapter 1

Week 2 – Feb 8th and 10th

The Basics of Economic Theory

Week 3 – Feb 15th and 17th

Supply, Demand, & Equilibrium

UMN Chapter 3

Week 4 – Feb 22nd and 24th

Market Failures: Externalities, Elasticity, & Public Goods

UMN Chapter 4

Week 5 – March 1st and 3rd

Fiscal Policy & Keynesian Economics

UMN Chapter 12

Week 6 – March 8th and 10th

Monetary Policy

UMN Chapter 9 & 11

Week 7 - March 15th and 17th

Exam Review

Exam 1 March 17th

Week 8 – March 22nd and 24th

International Trade Basics

Oatley Chapters 1-2

No Class March 29th and 31st

Week 8 – April 5th and 7th

Trade and Politics

Oatley Ch 3-5

Week 9 – April 12th and 14th

Multinational Corporations

Oatley Ch 8-9

Norberg Documentary

Week 10 – April 19th and 21st

Exam Review

Exam 2 April 21st

The International Monetary System

Oatley Ch 10

Week 11 – April 26th and 28th

The International Monetary System

Oatley Ch 10

Week 12 – May 3rd and 5th

International Finance/Development
Oatley Ch 14 & 15

Week 13 – May 10th and 12th
Presentations

Week 14 – May 17th
Exam Review

Final Exam Due May 20th (online)