

ECON 2367.02 - 101 Current Economic Issues in the United States

Ramseyer Hall 009

Spring 2022

Jan 10, 2022 – Apr 25, 2022

Tu/Tr 8:00AM - 9:20AM

Instructor: Matt D'Urso

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Office hours: On zoom, by appointment. Access posted to Carmen.

PREAMBLE:

Prereq: 2001.01, 2001.02 (200), or 2001.03H (200H), and 2002.01, 2002.02 (201), or 2002.03H (201H), or equiv, and English 1110 (110). Not open to students with credit for 367.02.

Textbook: There is no textbook for this class. Reading will come from assigned readings.

Lectures: Slides and readings will be posted on Carmen for reference. Topics will be picked by class vote. If not enough suggestions are made, I will select readings for the remaining classes.

Technology and Skills Required for the Course:

- Access to your university email and Carmen/canvas. This is where you will find our outside-of-class communication and course materials. Adjust your notifications settings accordingly.
- Access to research materials. Your OSU sign in gets you access to most papers behind paywalls on Google Scholar.
- Access to Zoom for office hours
- Internet access for all posted links

GRADING:

Attendance/Participation (10%): There are two options here:

- 1) Come to class and actively participate in the discussion. Attending, but not participating, will not get you full credit. Attendance will be taken electronically on Carmen.

OR

- 2) Write 5 separate responses to any articles that are covered in class. Due by the last day of class.

I understand students are usually hesitant to participate in class. This doesn't mean you need to have something to say every single day. I am not at all concerned with if you have a "bad" question or give a "not-too-thought-out" response. I am concerned with all of us learning and facilitating discussion. Remember, there is a difference between playing devil's advocate and being rude. Please keep that in mind going forward. It may help some of you to know that I will stutter and make more mistakes than the rest of you combined, so don't overthink things. Last, never underestimate how valuable of a skill speaking up in a crowded room is. I hope you see this class as an opportunity to practice that.

Responses must be at least 1 page long, Times New Roman font, size 12, and 2x spaced with 1-inch margins. These will be submitted on Carmen and reviewed by Turnitin. Since attendance is 10% of your total grade, you will get a max of 2% per response submitted. (In other words, each response gives you 20/100 for your participation grade). Academic journals are the preferred source material, but the occasional news article is fine too.

What will NOT count towards the final page number:

- Bibliography, which is mandatory.
- Title page, which is optional.
- Any figures, graphs, tables, etc. If you have any, they must go at the end of your writing.

Yes, if you feel like you missed too many classes, you can write 1-2 response papers to make up for it. Participation grades will be posted right after our last lecture.

Midterm Paper (30%): In this paper you will critique an existing policy, or lack thereof, and propose a new policy. Everything that applies to the responses will apply to the midterm paper, with the following exceptions:

- It must be **at least 4 pages**.
- You must present a good faith counter argument or alternative policy to what you are writing about. There is a tradeoff for everything!!!
- You may work in groups of no more than 3 people (upload 1 file with all names on it).
- Due on March 10th at 7:59am, right before class starts

Presentation (20%): The last few class sessions will be devoted to presentations. Everyone will give presentation on a topic of their choice. This can be their midterm/final topic, or a new one. Presentations will be a maximum of 20 minutes. There is no set minimum. Most likely anything less than 5 minutes will be too short. Slides are not required, but are very, very helpful. Consider this the verbal version of your paper(s). I am grading you on the content of your presentation, not how you present. Please sign up for a time slot on Carmen as soon as you can.

Final Paper (40%): The final paper has the same rules and format as the midterm paper, but it must be **at least 8 pages**. It may be a continuation of your midterm paper, or it may be a new topic entirely. The midterm, final, and presentation can all be the same topic, they can all be different, or any combination in between. As of the first day of class, our “final exam” time slot is April 27th, so the paper is due by that day at 11:59pm.

Extra Credit (1%): The only extra credit allowed will be from completing the SEI's. If 80% of students complete them, everyone will get +1 to their final average.

Central to everything you submit will be the concept of tradeoffs. Nothing is perfect and there will be a tradeoff to any policy. Your goal is to explain your position and any tradeoffs in good faith. Then after weighing the balance of evidence, explain which side you fall on.

I will use standard university letter grades. I will not curve individual assignment grades, but if necessary, I will curve final grades. I will never curve down.

RUBRIC FOR PAPERS AND PRESENTATION:

Category	Points	Description
Length and Format	5	As described in the syllabus
Properly Cited	5	Cite all things for which you need evidence
Clarity	10	This includes grammar and overall format and flow of the paper
Relevance	15	How well does this relate to the course
Analysis of Costs	25	The costs of policy must be clearly explained and well thought-out
Analysis of Benefits	25	The benefits of policy must be clearly explained and well thought-out
Logic	15	Do not include 10 most common logical fallacies - straw man, slippery slope, false dilemma, etc. See lecture notes

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

Covid-19:

We will follow all university guidelines for Covid-19. They can be found here:

<https://safeandhealthy.osu.edu/>

Accessibility accommodations for students with disabilities:

If you would like to request academic accommodations based on the impact of a disability qualified under the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, please contact the Student Life Disability Services at <https://slds.osu.edu/>, or slds@osu.edu to register for services and/or to coordinate any accommodations you might need in your courses at The Ohio State University. For more information: <https://ada.osu.edu/students>.

Title IX:

Title IX makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender are Civil Rights offenses subject to the same kinds of accountability and the same kinds of support applied to offenses against other protected categories (e.g., race). If you or someone you know has been sexually harassed or assaulted, you may find the appropriate resources at <https://titleix.osu.edu/>.

Taking Care of Yourself:

A recent American College Health Survey found stress, sleep problems, anxiety, depression, interpersonal concerns, death of a significant other, and alcohol use among the top ten health impediments to academic performance. Students experiencing personal problems or situational crises are encouraged to contact the OSU Counseling and Consultation Services (614-292-5766) for assistance, support, and advocacy. Their website can be found at <https://ccs.osu.edu/>. Student Life's CCS provides counseling and consultation to all students enrolled at Ohio State, as well as students' spouses/partners under certain circumstances. CCS offers counseling and therapy to help students address personal, academic and career concerns. Both individual and group counseling are available. Their diverse staff specializes in a number of issues, including (but not limited to) substance abuse, eating disorders, sexual assault,

relationship violence, international student concerns, LGBTQIA+ issues, and multiculturalism. This service is confidential.

Student Health Services:

The Wilce Student Health Center at The Ohio State University is a Joint Commission accredited outpatient facility providing a variety of health care services to the student population. All students enrolled at Ohio state are eligible to use the health service, regardless of health insurance coverage. This service is confidential. (614-292-4321)

Ohio State's academic integrity policy:

Academic integrity is essential to maintaining an environment that fosters excellence in teaching, research, and other educational and scholarly activities. Thus, The Ohio State University and the Committee on Academic Misconduct (COAM) expect that all students have read and understand the University's [Code of Student Conduct](#), and that all students will complete all academic and scholarly assignments with fairness and honesty. Students must recognize that failure to follow the rules and guidelines established in the University's Code of Student Conduct and this syllabus may constitute "Academic Misconduct."

The Ohio State University's Code of Student Conduct (Section 3335-23-04) defines academic misconduct as: "Any activity that tends to compromise the academic integrity of the University, or subvert the educational process." Examples of academic misconduct include (but are not limited to) plagiarism, collusion (unauthorized collaboration), copying the work of another student, and possession of unauthorized materials during an examination. Ignorance of the University's Code of Student Conduct is never considered an "excuse" for academic misconduct, so I recommend that you review the Code of Student Conduct and, specifically, the sections dealing with academic misconduct.

If I suspect that a student has committed academic misconduct in this course, I am obligated by University Rules to report my suspicions to the Committee on Academic Misconduct. If COAM determines that you have violated the University's Code of Student

Conduct (i.e., committed academic misconduct), the sanctions for the misconduct could include a failing grade in this course and suspension or dismissal from the University.

If you have any questions about the above policy or what constitutes academic misconduct in this course, please contact me.

Everything you submit will go through Turn It In. Do not underestimate this software. It will check against online articles/papers, papers submitted to Ohio State by other students in other classes, and papers submitted to other universities as well.

Syllabus subject to change throughout the semester (usually for clarity and spelling). I will always post an announcement and replace older syllabi with the most up-to-date version on Carmen and name the new file accordingly.