Introduction to Economics and Global Capitalism  
ECO 101.06  
Substitute Lecturer Nathaniel Wright  
Fall 2021

Room location: HH 208 Tue/Thurs 9:25AM – 10:40AM  
Email: nwright@jjay.cuny.edu  
Office Hours: Tuesdays, 9:45 AM – 10:45 AM in Office TBA

Course Description:

This course is a guide to economic literacy, capitalism and the global economy in the 21st century. Students will learn and use economic tools of analysis to explore a variety of social phenomena. Real world examples will be used to study microeconomics, macroeconomics and political economy issues from alternative theoretical perspectives.

We will be taking a broader approach than many other introductory economic courses so students can get used to analyzing economic structures and phenomena from multiple perspectives. We will attempt to demystify the economic forces, which to a large extent, determine how our social relationships develop and the nature of those relationships.

Learning Outcomes (LOs)

This course serves as a General Education Requirement in CUNY’s Pathway Flexible Common Core: Individual and Society. All Individual & Society courses share three learning outcomes and each course must deliver on three of five additional learning outcomes.

Learning Outcomes Across all Individual & Society courses:

LO1: “Information”  
Gather, interpret, and assess information from a variety of sources and points of view.  
*Introduction to Economics and Global Capitalism* will enable students achieve this learning outcome by requiring students to analyze current and historical events by gathering, interpreting and assessing newspapers articles, empirical data, and textual evidence.

LO2: “Evaluate”  
Evaluate evidence and arguments critically or analytically.  
*Introduction to Economics and Global Capitalism* will enable students achieve this learning outcome by critically analyzing current and historical events from multiple perspectives.

LO3: “Communicate”  
Produce well-reasoned written or oral arguments using evidence to support conclusions.
Introduction to Economics and Global Capitalism will enable students achieve this learning outcome by assigning written assignments, presentations, and exams that require well-reasoned arguments.

Additional Learning Outcomes for Individual & Society chosen for this course:

LO4 “Methods”
Identify and apply the fundamental concepts and methods of a discipline or interdisciplinary field exploring the relationship between the individual and society, including, but not limited to, anthropology, communications, cultural studies, history, journalism, philosophy, political science, psychology, public affairs, religion, and sociology. 

Introduction to Economics and Global Capitalism will enable students achieve this learning outcome by requiring students to use both neoclassical and alternative economic theories to explain current and historical events.

LO5 “Examine”
Examine how an individual's place in society affects experiences, values, or choices.

Introduction to Economics and Global Capitalism will enable students achieve this learning outcome by examining important events in economics and the impacts of economic growth from the perspective of individuals and social institutions. Attention will be given to the economic factors that mediate the interaction between the individual and society.

LO6 “Engage”
Identify and engage with local, national, or global trends or ideologies, and analyze their impact on individual or collective decision-making.

Introduction to Economics and Global Capitalism will enable students achieve this learning outcome by requiring students to analyze current economic phenomena in the context of contemporary society and their individual lives. Policy debates and social issues will be explored through the lens of economic concepts and methods.

Texts & Other Media

Additional Readings and information sources will be provided through Blackboard.

Grading:

Participation _______________________ 10%
BB Quizzes __________________________ 05% (Semi-Weekly)
Assignments/Response Papers__________ 35% (TBA on BB)
Midterm Exam __________________________ 25% ______________ (10/22/21)
Final Exam _____________________________ 25% ______________ (12/16/21)

The grading scale will be the following* (grades rounded to the nearest whole number):

A 100-93 %  A- 92-90 %  B+ 89-87 %  B 86-83 %
B- 82-80 %  C+ 79-77 %  C 76-73 %  C- 72-70 %
D+ 69-67 %  D 66-63 %  D- 62-60 %  F Less than 60 %

**Participation**

I will be taking attendance at the beginning of each class. Please be considerate of your classmates: arrive to class on time and be respectful and constructive during class discussions. Please do not hesitate to ask questions if you have them. Students are generally far too hesitant to speak, and this can make the class dull and unproductive. All good faith questions, comments, and ideas are welcome. Cell phones and other electronic devices must be turned off before the class begins. I am requiring each student to have a designated notebook for this class. This notebook will be used for your class notes and for low stakes in class assignments.

Please do keep your mask on during class at this time. We can revisit this as new information comes out and safety guidelines change.

**Blackboard Quizzes**

There will be regular short quizzes for you to take on Blackboard. The purpose of these quizzes is just to test understanding of the major concepts. You will be able to take each quiz multiple times, so the only way to do badly on a quiz will be to not take it.

**Exams**

There will be a midterm and a final exam. The exams will consist of a few multiple choice questions, short answer questions, and problems. The dates for the date of the midterm is tentative. The final will be held on Thursday, December 21st from 8:00 AM - 10:00AM.

**Assignments**

There will be regular assignments for this class, all of which will be posted on bb. Expect an assignment about every two weeks, but as the assignments will vary in length and difficulty, this is only a rough guideline. You will always be given ample time to complete the work. I strongly recommend reading through each assignment carefully right after it’s posted, so you can ask any questions you have about what is being asked or what is being expected. All assignments should be submitted on time. A 10% penalty will be applied to any assignment that is submitted late, and any assignment over a week late will not be accepted unless there are extenuating circumstances.
The longest and most involved assignment will be the “Newspaper Articles Writing Assignment,” which will be due towards the end of the semester and will account for 10% of your final grade. What follows is a detailed description of the assignment.

**Assignment Instructions**
Find two newspaper articles about the same economic subject/topic from two different newspapers. The newspapers should be reputable such as The New York Times, Wall Street Journal, Financial Times, Washington Post, local “papers of record,” etc. Select your articles wisely, good selections score better than bad selections. They should not be super short or really long. Read the rest of the instructions including the grading rubric to help you select articles that lend themselves to the assignment. You must use APA citation for your articles. Your audience for this assignment is yourself.

For information on using APA citation: https://guides.lib.jjay.cuny.edu/c.php?g=288322&p=7472824

Your review will have three paragraphs. In the first paragraph introduce the articles using proper citation and describe the issue using appropriate terminology (hint: use the textbook’s jargon). In your description break the issue into its most basic components. This first paragraph should be more than summary, it should place the subject in context. In other words, what does the reader need to know about the subject/topic that is NOT contained in the articles.

In the second paragraph critically evaluate the articles by asking a series of questions. One purpose of this assignment is encouraging you to “think through writing.” This means you do not need to answer your own questions. You can answer your questions if you want to, but you should not conduct research outside the two newspaper articles. To critically evaluate the issue consider adapting the following questions to the subject/topic of your articles. Or think of other probing questions. What are the motives behind the actions of the economic “actors” (companies, individuals, governments)? What is the right thing for the actors to do? Would other actors respond differently? How is the government involved? Is the government doing the right thing? Who determines the “right thing?”

In the final paragraph discuss how this issue affects your life and your decisions. You may want to discuss how your position in society affects what the subject/topic means to your life circumstances, or you may want to reflect on how your education (in this class and elsewhere) might change how you make decisions about the subject/topic. Hint: this is where it helps to select “good articles” that allow you to reflect on the subject/topic and your life decisions. You may want to identify with one of the articles more than the other.

**Grading Rubric**
Graded Element | Score | Learning Outcome
---|---|---
Presentation | ___/20 | Communicate
Identification | ___/20 | Information
Questions | ___/20 | Evaluate
Effects on your life | ___/20 | Examine
Effects on your decisions | ___/20 | Engage
Total | ___/100 |

Each graded element is given one of the following evaluations with corresponding points:
- Exceeds expectations: 20
- Meets expectations: 18
- Approaches expectations: 15
- Does not approach expectations: 10
- Not addressed: 0

**Expectations**

For “Presentation” the paper is expected to have proper APA citation, use proper syntax, form complete sentences and paragraphs, and communicate your thoughts logically. It is not expected to be grammatically perfect. Better papers communicate compellingly.

For “Identification” the paper is expected to introduce the subject/topic using economic terminology, summarizing the issue, and placing the issue into context. Better papers use terminology compellingly, contain concise and complete summaries and provide relevant context.

For “Questions” the paper is expected to contain several questions about the subject/topic of the articles. Better papers contain questions that display critical thinking.

For “Effects on your life” the paper is expected to relate the subject matter to your life and your place in our society, specifically the economic aspects. Better papers make meaningful connections.

For “Effects on your decisions” the paper is expected to discuss how learning about this subject/topic may affect your life decisions. Better papers use imagination.

**POLICIES**

**Academic Integrity** (copied from the 2020-2021 Undergraduate Bulletin)
Academic dishonesty is prohibited in The City University of New York. Penalties for academic dishonesty include academic sanctions, such as failing or otherwise reduced grades, and/or disciplinary sanctions, including suspension or expulsion.

**Definitions and Examples of Academic Dishonesty**

Cheating is the unauthorized use or attempted use of material, information, notes, study aids, devices or communication during an academic exercise. The following are some examples of cheating, but by no means is it an exhaustive list:

- Copying from another student during an examination or allowing another to copy your work
- Unauthorized collaboration on a take-home assignment or examination
- Using notes during a closed-book examination
- Taking an examination for another student, or asking or allowing another student to take an examination for you
- Changing a graded exam and returning it for more credit
- Submitting substantial portions of the same paper to more than one course without consulting with each instructor
- Preparing answers or writing notes in a blue book (exam booklet) before an examination
- Allowing others to research and write assigned papers or do assigned projects, including use of commercial term paper services
- Giving assistance to acts of academic misconduct/dishonesty
- Fabricating data (all or in part)
- Submitting someone else’s work as your own
- Unauthorized use during an examination of any electronic devices such as cell phones, palm pilots, smart phones, tablet devices, computers or other technologies to retrieve or send information.

Plagiarism is the act of presenting another person’s ideas, research or writings as your own. The following are some examples of plagiarism, but by no means is it an exhaustive list:

- Copying another person’s actual words without the use of quotation marks and footnotes attributing the words to their source
- Presenting another person’s ideas or theories in your own words without acknowledging the source
- Using information that is not common knowledge without acknowledging the sources
- Failing to acknowledge collaborators on homework and laboratory assignments
• Internet plagiarism includes submitting downloaded term papers or parts of term papers, paraphrasing or copying information from the Internet without citing the source, and “cutting and pasting” from various sources without proper attribution.

**Plagiarism is the EASIEST way to FAIL this class.**

Obtaining unfair advantage is any activity that intentionally or unintentionally gives a student an unfair advantage in the student’s academic work over another student. The following are some examples of obtaining an unfair advantage, but by no means is it an exhaustive list:

• Stealing, reproducing, circulating or otherwise gaining advance access to examination materials
• Depriving other students of access to library materials by stealing, destroying, defacing, or concealing them
• Retaining, using or circulating examination materials, which clearly indicate that they should be returned at the end of the exam
• Intentionally obstructing or interfering with another student’s work

Falsification of records and official documents. The following are some examples of falsification, but by no means is it an exhaustive list:

• Forging signatures of authorization
• Falsifying information on an official academic record
• Falsifying information on an official document such as a grade report, letter of permission, drop/add form, I.D. card or other college document

**Attendance** (copied from the 2020-2021 Undergraduate Bulletin)

Students are expected to attend all class meetings as scheduled. Excessive absence may result in a failing grade for the course and may result in the loss of financial aid. The number of absences that constitute excessive absence is determined by the individual instructor, who announces attendance guidelines at the beginning of the semester in the course syllabus. Students who register during the Change of Program period after classes have begun are responsible for the individual course attendance policy, effective from the first day of the semester.

**Extra Work During the Semester** (copied from the 2020-2021 Undergraduate Bulletin)

Instructors are not obligated to offer extra-credit work in any course. Any extra-credit coursework opportunities offered during the semester for a student to improve his or her grade must be made available to all students at the same time. The term "extra credit work" refers to optional work that may be assigned by the instructor to all students in addition to the required work for the course that all students must complete. It is distinguished from substitute assignments or substitute work that may be assigned by the instructor to individual students, such as make-up assignments to accommodate emergencies or to accommodate the special circumstances of individual students.
Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) (copied from the 2020-2021 Undergraduate Bulletin)
A student should make an initial request for accommodation to the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities, and provide appropriate supporting documentation. The Student Disabilities Services Coordinator may consult with appropriate college officials such as the instructor or Provost to determine the appropriateness of the requested accommodation consistent with the program requirements. Such consultation shall be confidential, and limited to those officials whose input is necessary to the decision.
Students may consult with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities or the 504/ADA Compliance Coordinator at any time to discuss and understand their rights under the Rehabilitation Act, the ADA, and state and local legislation, and they are encouraged to do so. Carrie Dehls is the Human Resources Benefits Coordinator. Employees may reach her at cdehls@jjay.cuny.edu or at 212.237.8504.
Malaine Clarke is the Director of Accessibility Services. Students may reach her at maclarke@jjay.cuny.edu or at 212.237.8185.
Sílvia Montalban is the College’s 504/ADA Compliance Coordinator, She can be reached at smontalban@jjay.cuny.edu or at 646.557.4409. Additional information about this CUNY policy can be accessed at: http://www.jjay.cuny.edu/accessibility-services-appeal-process

Tentative Reading Schedule For Understand Capitalism
Week One: Introduction
Thursday, August 26th

I. Basic Concepts and Political Economy
Week Two:
Tuesday, August 30th: Chapter 1
Thursday, September 2nd: Chapter 2

Week Three:
Tuesday, September 7th: No Class
Thursday, September 9th: Chapter 4

Week Four
Tuesday, September 14th: Chapter 5
Thursday, September 16th: No Class

Week Five
Tuesday, September 21st: Chapter 7
Thursday, September 23rd: Chapter 7 Cont.

II. Microeconomics
Week Six
Tuesday, September 28th: Chapter 8
Thursday, September 30th: Chapter 8 Cont.

Week 7
Tuesday, October 5th: Chapter 9
Thursday, October 7th: Chapter 9 Cont.

Week 8
Tuesday, October 12th: Chapter 11
Thursday, October 14th: Chapter 11 Cont.

Week 9
Tuesday, October 19th: Review for the Midterm
Thursday, October 21st: Midterm Exam

Week 10
Tuesday, October 26th: Chapter 12
Thursday, October 28th: Buffer Class

III. Macroeconomics
Week 11
Tuesday, November 2nd: Chapter 14
Thursday, November 4th: Chapter 16

Week 12,
Tuesday, November 9th: Chapter 16
Thursday, November 11th: Chapter 16

Week 13,
Tuesday, November 16th: Chapter 17
Thursday, November 18th: Chapter 17

Week 14,
Tuesday, November 23rd: Chapter 18
Thursday, November 25th: No Class

Week 15
Tuesday, November 30th: Chapter 18
Thursday, December 2nd: Chapter 18
Week 16:
December 7th: Climate and Capitalism
December 9th: Review for the Final Exam