

**COURSE OUTLINE**

**Economics 105  
The American Economy**

**I. Catalog Statement**

Economics 105 provides an introduction to the American economy, a foundation for understanding it and the problems that it faces. The course provides a description of the important institutions of our system and an analytical approach to the understanding of the basic economic problems generally suited for non-business majors.

Units – 3.0

Lecture hours – 3.0

Recommended Preparation: Eligibility for English 120 or ESL 151

**II. Course Entry Expectations**

Skills Level Ranges: Reading: 5; Writing: 4; Listening-speaking: 5; Math: 3

**III. Course Exit Standards**

Upon successful completion of the required course work, the student will be able to:

1. recognize the analytical methodology of economic inquiry and identify competing schools of thought in this inquiry;
2. evaluate economic problems of unemployment, inflation and economic growth;
3. identify the contemporary role of banks, money, and national banks in monetary policy;
4. evaluate historical and contemporary use of fiscal and monetary policy;
5. identify key characteristics of the market mechanism;
6. compare the costs and benefits of the basic market structures and government efforts to regulate economic concentration;
7. describe the role of international trade and currency values in a contemporary economy and identify competing arguments on the role of international trade and currency values.

**IV. Course Content**

- A. Introduction to Economics 4 hours
  1. Nature and scope of economics
  2. Economic methodology
  3. History and characteristics of capitalist and other economic systems
  4. The market mechanism and the role of government
- B. Overview of the U.S. Macroeconomy 10 hours
  1. Measuring economic output
  2. The business cycle

3. Definitions and costs of unemployment and inflation
  4. Fiscal policy options and the business cycle
  5. Economic growth and development
- C. Money, Monetary Policy and Central Banks 10 hours
1. Definition and uses of money
  2. The role of the Federal reserve
  3. Monetary policy options and the business cycle
- D. Overview of Market Economies 10 hours
1. Role of supply and demand
  2. Problems of market economies
  3. Contemporary debates about the role of government
- E. Basic Market Structures 8 hours
1. Theory of competition
  2. Inflation
  3. Oligopoly and other imperfect competition models
  4. Role of antitrust
- F. International Economics 6 hours
1. History and current levels of international trade
  2. Fundamentals of international trade theory
  3. History of currency values
  4. Current debates on the role of trade and international finance

**V. Methods of Presentation**

The following instructional methodologies may be used in the course:

1. lecture and class discussion;
2. small group projects and activities;
3. multi-media presentations;
4. library, computer lab and Internet-based assignments;
5. in-class problem-solving activities.

**VI. Assignments and Methods of Evaluation**

Students will be given:

1. two to four mid-term examinations, at least one third of which will require critical thinking essay or problems;
2. a final examination, at least one third of which will require critical thinking essay or problems;
3. homework, quizzes, term papers, special projects assigned at the discretion of the instructor.

**VII. Textbooks**

Economics Explained, Heilbroner and Thurow, Simon and Schuster

Economics: Theory and Practice, Patrick J. Welch & Larry Welch, The Dryden Press  
Economics USA, Edwin Mansfield and Nariman Behraves, Norton  
Introduction to Economics, Stephen Slavin, Irwin-McGraw Hill  
Macroeconomics for Today, Irvin Tucker, Irwin-McGraw Hill  
Economics Live, Diane Keenan and Mark Maier, Irwin-McGraw Hill  
The First Chapter, Mark Maier and Steve White, Irwin-McGraw Hill

Borello, Taking Sides: Clashing Views on Economics 12<sup>th</sup> edition  
McGraw Hill  
ISBN: 0-0734-38901