



COURSE SYLLABUS

Course: **Econ 3053 Economics for Elementary Teachers**

Prerequisite: Students must have completed at least 60 hours of coursework.

Course Description:

For students who plan to become teachers in elementary schools. Acquaints students with basic concepts and functioning of the American economic system. *Not open to students majoring in Economics or Business Administration.*

Course Rationale and Purpose:

This course is designed to:

- teach economic concepts;
- demonstrate effective techniques for teaching these concepts to your future students;
- familiarize you with national economics standards and Arkansas social studies frameworks; and
- teach you to locate, evaluate, and select appropriate economics activities given local and state curricular needs.

By increasing your understanding of economics, you will be able to make better personal and societal decisions. You will also be able to transfer these skills to the students you teach. Class activities will familiarize you with activity-based materials and methods for teaching these understandings to your students. As a requirement for the class, you will teach economics to middle school or elementary children.

Course Objectives:

Participation in this course will lead you to:

1. Understand basic economic concepts and their application to your daily life and to the elementary school curriculum.
2. Become familiar with methods and materials for teaching economic concepts to elementary students.
3. Develop teaching ideas appropriate for integrating economics into the elementary and middle school curriculum.
4. Appreciate the role of economic education in preparing young people to live in our modern world.

Course Requirements:

1. Regular attendance and participation in all class activities. There is a strong positive correlation between attendance and good grades.
2. Completion of three to four examinations over economic content. Daily quizzes will prepare you for the exam content if you attend class, read the text and complete assignments.

3. Successful completion of an economics teaching activity in an elementary or middle school classroom and an oral or written presentation reporting the results of the experience.
4. Completion of homework assignments and readings.
5. Completion of notebook of class materials.

Texts and Other Materials:

The texts and materials for the class are:

- *Contemporary's Economics* – by Matthew T. Downey
- **Voluntary National Content Standards in Economics**, Council for Economic Education, 1140 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10036. This publication can be located on the Internet at > <http://councilforeconed.org/ea/standards> at no charge to you.

Students will become familiar with economic education materials by reviewing curricula and media in the **Bessie Moore Center for Economic Education library in RCED 217**. You will also become familiar with lessons on the Internet. Some of these curricula will be introduced in class. Others will be discovered through assignments.

Class Procedures:

Lectures & Discussion: About a third of the class will be devoted to lectures and discussions. The purpose of the lectures is to introduce major economic concepts; to supplement, clarify, and expand the reading assignments; and to connect the new learning to the elementary classroom and to your daily lives. To gain the greatest benefit from the lectures and the class activities, you must complete the reading assignments immediately after the class session except when otherwise specified. Class attendance and participation is very important since lectures and activities will emphasize and reinforce the most important concepts. Test questions and H-ITT quiz questions will come from class material and the text.

Activities:

The remainder of our class time will be filled with activities that teach and reinforce the economic concepts being learned and model strategies for teaching economics to your future students. These activities will help to give you a more in-depth understanding of economics and how to teach it. Discussion of a wide array of curricula for teaching economics will be incorporated on a daily basis. Guest speakers will be invited to connect content specific information to the real world of work or to share experiences teaching economics. Students in the class will teach some mini-lessons so you can learn what is important for selecting good lessons on economics.

Missed Classes and Make-up work:

Get contact information from at least two students the first day of class. Contact him/her about missed class activities and assignments. All quiz grades and in-class activity grades will be forfeited if class is missed – no exceptions. Assignments must be submitted by the beginning of class (or when called for by instructor) for full points. *Ten points will be deducted for each day an assignment is late. Ten points will be deducted if not submitted in class.* Make-up assignments are only allowed for pre-approved absences for students who attend regularly. **Most class activities and assignments will be posted on Blackboard.** Please check Blackboard or call a friend to find out what you missed. If you submit an assignment via email, it is your responsibility to watch Blackboard for grade posting. You have two days to let me know if your grade is not posted once the grade column appears.

Class Components:

The following components will be used to determine your grade. Point values are listed on the Point Summary document and are subject to change throughout the semester. This will serve as a general guideline.

Economic Content:

Examinations (400 points): There will be three scheduled exams (see schedule for dates) worth ~400 points total. These points will be weighted as double other grades. Each exam covers a specific section of the course and will consist of multiple-choice questions with some short answer, essay, or application activities. The final exam (which is optional) will include comprehensive questions from all of the course content. The approximate date of each exam is indicated on the schedule, but this is subject to change. There will be **no make-up exams**. Only calling me **before** test time validates excuses. Students who missed one of the scheduled exams and have a valid excuse will substitute the grade earned on the comprehensive final. Students who want to improve their grade may take the final to substitute for a lower test score.

Homework:

Homework assignments totaling approximately 700 points will be assigned this semester. Participation bucks may be used to add points to your overall total raw points. Assignments must be turned in during class on the due date.

Daily Quizzes/News:

Each class will include a quiz and news article. The average points per class are 20. Cumulative points are ~500 points.

Economics Lesson:

You will be required to select and teach an economics learning activity for an elementary or middle school class in area schools. Schools, classes, times and dates will be arranged during the semester. You may use a lesson from one of the many materials in the Bessie B. Moore Center for Economic Education curriculum library (RCED 217), from Blackboard or class, or from the Internet. You will be required to make appropriate curriculum alignments with National and State standards. The national standards for economics and the state performance indicators are available on the Internet.

Class Observation (25 points):

Before teaching you will observe the class you have selected. Complete the observation guidelines and submit to Dr. Littrell. It is designed to help you better prepare to teach your lesson.

Lesson Selection (50 points):

You will review many lessons that teach economics to elementary or middle school children and select three: one for each of the following grade levels – K-2, 3-5 & 6-8. For each selected lesson, you will write an evaluation (no more than a page) of the lesson including strengths, weaknesses, and why you selected this particular lesson. You will submit the lesson you plan to teach and tell me why you selected this lesson for your chosen class. You will be provided with a scoring guide to help you know what I expect in the evaluation.

Teacher Evaluation (25 points):

You will be required to give the teacher a lesson evaluation form before your teaching activity. The teacher will complete this and then fax the form to me. The evaluation form describes your presentation skills, activity modification, appearance, timeliness, and preparation. You may

bring the form to class with you after your presentation. This is preferred to the teacher faxing the form.

Teaching Experience Self-evaluation (25 points):

Include a brief description of the economics lesson you taught and any samples of student work, photos, etc. Please take and include photographs of you teaching the lesson and students completing the activity. Upon completion of your teaching activity, several of you will be asked to give a three minute presentation stating your objectives, briefly describing your activity, and evaluating the learning results. A one-page summary including the points named above must accompany your presentation.

Connect & Assess: (25 pts. Per class)

Assignment submitted each class that reflects on the previous class period. Designed to help you assess what we did in class in regards to learning theory and your learning. Helps you to connect what we are learning to the world around you. Includes newspaper articles and children's literature. Each class period will include a quiz over content from last class and the reading from the textbook.

Economic Education Notebook: (100 points)

To be completed throughout the semester for submission at the end of the course. Sections will include:

1. Daily quizzes
2. Investment assignment
3. Personal finance materials
4. In class teaching materials
5. Lesson you teach with photos and sample student work
6. Internet sites for future use
7. Twelve lessons you plan to use as a teacher: from Blackboard, class, Internet, and Moore Center library

Full points will be awarded to notebooks with excellent organization only.

YOUR Choice – Alternative Assessment

Your choice on how you show me you have learned economics. Pick one or create one. (50 points each). Refer to the list provided on Blackboard. It changes throughout the semester. It includes suggestions, but you can create your own!

ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION INCENTIVE:

Class Participation Bucks:

Attendance will be checked daily and points awarded as described below for the borderline attendance policy. However, participation bucks will be awarded for participation in class discussion and learning activities. You will need to be present in order to participate. You may be called upon to share your thoughts and ideas regarding readings, homework assignments, activities or daily life experiences. Please come to class prepared. *You will never be ridiculed or embarrassed.* I encourage all students to participate in class. It is a safe learning environment!

Attendance Policy:

Students are urged to attend all classes and daily attendance will be determined based on quizzes. There is no formal penalty for absences, but if the final grade is **borderline**, students with regular attendance will receive the higher grade, while students with excessive absences (**more than 3**) will receive the lower grade. More serious than the borderline policy is the content

missed while absent and the points missed for quizzes, collection of homework, or for in-class activities. It is your responsibility to get missed information from classmates.

Grades:

Course grades will be computed by totaling all possible points the student receives during the semester. Grades are based exclusively on academic achievement, and are not a reflection of need, desire, or even effort (*although students who work hard and regularly attend class tend to make better grades than those who do not*). The meaning of various letter grades is as follows (taken from the University Catalog). Your grade will be determined by dividing the points earned by you by the total number of points available, and will be based upon the following scale.

A	-	90 – 100%	Outstanding achievement: Given to a relatively small number of excellent scholars.
B	-	80 – 89%	Good achievement: Above average performance.
C	-	70 – 79%	Average achievement
D	-	60 – 69%	Poor but passing work
F	-	Below 60%	Unsatisfactory work.

A student who satisfactorily completes all assignments should expect a C grade. ***Grades of B or A are reserved for students with good or exceptional performance.*** Since many assignments are based on mastery type learning and I will tell you specifically what is expected, you can expect an 80% for successful completion. The remaining 20% will be reserved for those students who go above and beyond the expected performance --- of which there are many!

Documentation:

You should keep all graded papers until your final grade for the course has been received. If there is a question about your grade, you will need the documentation. With many students enrolled in the class, assistance from graduate students, and the entire paper shuffle, it is possible that a paper can be overlooked, misplaced, or recorded in the wrong space. Please help to watch for this type of error. I will be happy to correct them. Blackboard makes monitoring for this very easy. Check your grade posting frequently.

Inclement Weather Policy:

Classes will normally be held in all weather, unless the University is officially closed. However, if you are uncertain about a class meeting, you may call 575-2855 or check Blackboard. Any cancellations will be noted on this line OR via a Blackboard announcement. If weather is bad, check your email. If no announcement is made, we are having class.

Academic Honesty:

As a core part of its mission, the University of Arkansas provides students with the opportunity to further their educational goals through programs of study and research in an environment that promotes freedom of inquiry and academic responsibility. Accomplishing this mission is only possible when intellectual honesty and individual integrity prevail.

Each University of Arkansas student is required to be familiar with and abide by the University's 'Academic Integrity Policy' which may be found at <http://provost.uark.edu/> Students with questions about how these policies apply to a particular course or assignment should immediately contact their instructor.

Application of the Academic Honesty Policy, as stated at <http://provost.uark.edu/> will be fully adhered to in this course. Academic dishonesty involves any act, which may subvert or compromise academic integrity or the integrity of the University's 'Academic Integrity Policy'.

Special Needs:

If you are registered with campus access or have other special needs that must be reasonably accommodated under campus policy or law, you must contact me within the first two weeks of class. To be excused from class for religious reasons, you are expected to provide me with a schedule of religious holidays that you intend to observe, in writing, before the completion of the first week of class.

Special Note:

Class begins promptly. It is in your best interest not to be late. This is when roll will be taken. If you consume food or drink during class please do not interfere with the instructional process.

A Personal Note:

Teaching prospective teachers is very important to me. You can expect 100% effort from me each and every day. I expect the same from you. You are learning to be professionals. ***This is a good time to start behaving in a professional manner.***

Disclaimer:

The topical outline that follows is a general guide and may be changed as the course development requires or to meet student learning needs. Changes will be announced in class.

Respect of Property:

Many of the resources we use as students and instructors are owned, collectively, by us as taxpayers. Please be a good citizen and respect the property. Throw away any trash you accumulate and resist the temptation to put your feet in the chairs or to sit on the backs of chairs when we are doing group projects.

Cell Phones:

Please see that electronic devices do not interrupt class. They should be on silence or turned off and should not be viewed during class time. If your phone rings during class you will owe me 5 *participation bucks*. If you choose to text message or use your phone/electronic device for anything during class, you will receive a *10 point penalty*.