

Syllabus - Summer 2026

Course and Instructor Information

Course Title: Contemporary Problems in Economics

Credits: 3

Format: online

Prerequisites: ECON 2201 and 2202 (one of which may be taken concurrently); ENGL 1010 or 1011 or 2011.

Professor: Metin Coşgel

Email: Metin.Cosgel@UConn.edu

Web: www.cosgel.uconn.edu

Office Hours/Availability: Office hours by appointment. I will respond to your emails in a timely manner, usually within 24 hours.

Course Web page: [HuskyCT](#)

Course Materials

Students are required to subscribe to the Connect online resource and testing system, which includes an e-text version of our textbook: [Issues in Economics Today](#) (McGrawHill, 10th edition, 2024) by Robert C. Guell.

For instructions on how to purchase an access card to Connect, please visit the HuskyCT site for this course and go to the "Course Orientation" tab.

Course Description

Current issues of government economic policy, primarily microeconomic: energy, income maintenance, labor markets for minorities and women, government regulation, health care, and others. Because this is a W course, a significant emphasis will be placed on the development of writing skills and their application in economic analysis. In order to pass the course, you must pass the writing component.

Course Objectives

By the end of the semester, students should be able to apply economic theory to today's important issues and to assess the effectiveness of current economic policies. More specifically, they will be able to:

1. Learn the economic approach to pollution, health care, crime, monopoly, discrimination inequality, minimum wage, education, poverty, social security, sports, and financial crises.
2. Determine the social cost and importance of economic issues.
3. Investigate the relative advantages and disadvantages of command-based and incentive-based solutions to important social problems.
4. Assess the effectiveness of proposed solutions to specific issues.
5. Identify the best solutions to current economic issues and the circumstances that would make them work better than others.

Course Requirements and Grading

The following is a brief description of course requirements and grading. See HuskyCT for the course schedule, further guidelines, grading rubrics, and deadlines.

Summary of Course Grading:

Course Components	Weight
Research Paper, First Draft and Peer Feedback	20
Research Paper, Final Draft	20
Homeworks	20
Quizzes	20
Discussion	20

Research Paper, First Draft and Peer Feedback

The research paper is key to your reflection process in this course. You will be asked to choose a problem for research and submit successive drafts of an essay that examines the importance of the problem and analyzes the effectiveness of alternative solutions.

Feedback and revision are important parts of the writing process. In Week 3, you will have an opportunity to submit an early draft of your research paper for feedback from the instructor and anonymously from your colleagues. You will likewise have the opportunity to give anonymous feedback to your colleagues on their own research projects. You will be graded for your submission and feedback separately.

Research Paper, Final Draft

You will be asked to submit the final draft of your research paper at the end of the session. This draft is expected to incorporate all of the comments and suggestions received from the instructor and your colleagues via the peer feedback assignment.

Discussion

Discussions are an opportunity to put your ideas in writing and to communicate and learn from fellow students in your discussion section. In weeks 1, 2, and 4, you will be assigned a specific question regarding one of the economic issues covered that week and be asked to post an entry (by 11:59 pm, Wednesday) and to comment on one of your peers' entries (by 11:59, Sunday) in the week's Discussion Forum.

Homework

Each module/week will include 2 (untimed) homework assignments administered via *Connect Plus*. You will receive immediate grading and feedback. Note that *Connect Plus* also can and should be used to first learn the material through its "Start with Reading" option at the beginning of a homework assignment. All homework will be due at 11:59 p.m. on the homework's due date.

Quizzes

Each module/week will include a timed quiz administered via *Connect Plus*. These will test your mastery of the week's course content in a more "test like" condition. You will be allowed to use your textbook, notes, and other study aids; but you may not get assistance from anyone else. For each quiz, you will be allowed two attempts, and the highest score will count towards your grade. Late quizzes are subject to a twenty percent per day late submission penalty. The lowest quiz score (including no-takes) will be dropped, and the remaining 4 will count towards your grade.

Grading Scale:

Grade	Letter Grade	GPA
-------	--------------	-----

93+	A	4.0
90+	A-	3.7
85+	B+	3.3
80+	B	3.0
78+	B-	2.7
75+	C+	2.3
70+	C	2.0
68+	C-	1.7
65+	D+	1.3
60+	D	1.0
55+	D-	0.7
<55	F	0.0

Due Dates and Late Policy

It is important to submit your assignments on time so that you can receive meaningful feedback. Discussion forums in particular require that you submit your posts by the due dates so that you and your peers can participate in a dialogue about the topics we cover. Late submissions of discussion assignments and final draft of research paper will lose a significant portion of the available points past the due date as specified in the grading rubrics (available in HuskyCT).

No late submissions of homeworks or peer-feedback assignments.

All course due dates are identified in HuskyCT. Deadlines are based on Eastern Time; if you are in a different time zone, please adjust your submittal times accordingly. *The instructor reserves the right to change dates accordingly as the semester progresses. All changes will be communicated in an appropriate manner.*

Feedback and Grades

I will make every effort to provide feedback and grades in a timely manner. To keep track of your performance in the course, refer to My Grades in HuskyCT.

Student Responsibilities and Resources

As a member of the University of Connecticut student community, you are held to certain standards and academic policies. In addition, there are numerous resources available to help you succeed in your academic work. Review these important [standards, policies and resources](#), which include:

- The Student Code
 - Academic Integrity
 - Resources on Avoiding Cheating and Plagiarism
- Copyrighted Materials
- Netiquette and Communication
- Adding or Dropping a Course
- Academic Calendar
- Policy Against Discrimination, Harassment and Inappropriate Romantic Relationships
- Sexual Assault Reporting Policy

Students with Disabilities

The University of Connecticut is committed to protecting the rights of individuals with disabilities and assuring that the learning environment is accessible. If you anticipate or experience physical or academic barriers based on disability or pregnancy, please let me know immediately so that we can discuss options. Students who require accommodations should contact the Center for Students with Disabilities, Wilbur Cross Building Room 204, (860) 486-2020 or <http://csd.uconn.edu/>.

Blackboard measures and evaluates accessibility using two sets of standards: the WCAG 2.0 standards issued by the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) and Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act issued in the United States federal government.” (Retrieved March 24, 2013 from [Blackboard's website](#))

Software Requirements

The software/technical requirements for this course include:

- HuskyCT/Blackboard ([HuskyCT/ Blackboard Accessibility Statement](#), [HuskyCT/ Blackboard Privacy Policy](#))
- [Adobe Acrobat Reader](#) ([Adobe Reader Accessibility Statement](#), [Adobe Reader Privacy Policy](#))
- Google Apps ([Google Apps @ UConn Accessibility](#), [Google for Education Privacy Policy](#))
- Microsoft Office (free to UConn students through uconn.onthehub.com) ([Microsoft Accessibility Statement](#), [Microsoft Privacy Statement](#))
- Dedicated access to high-speed internet with a minimum speed of 1.5 Mbps (4 Mbps or higher is recommended).

Help

[Technical and Academic Help](#) provides a guide to technical and academic assistance.

This course is completely facilitated online using the learning management platform, [HuskyCT](#). If you have difficulty accessing HuskyCT, you have access to the in person/live person support options available during regular business hours through [HuskyTech](#). You also have [24x7 Course Support](#) including access to live chat, phone, and support documents.

Minimum Technical Skills

To be successful in this course, you will need the following technical skills:

- Use electronic mail with attachments.
- Save files in commonly used word processing program formats.
- Copy and paste text, graphics or hyperlinks.
- Work within two or more browser windows simultaneously.
- Open and access PDF files.

University students are expected to demonstrate competency in Computer Technology. Explore the [Computer Technology Competencies](#) page for more information.

Evaluation of the Course

Students will be provided an opportunity to evaluate instruction in this course using the University's standard procedures, which are administered by the [Office of Institutional Research and Effectiveness](#) (OIRE).

Additional informal formative surveys may also be administered within the course as an optional evaluation tool.