SPRING 2018
EC 4983: Economics as Social Science
Section 900 MW 4:30 – 5:45pm
Gaylord Hall Room 2020

Professor: Gary A. Hoover
Office: 170 Cate Center Drive 1
Office hours: Wednesday 1:00 – 2:00 pm and by appointment.
Economics Department Office Phone: 325- 2863
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Class Format:
This seminar will deal with numerous policy questions that are currently being debated at the state, regional, and nation level. Through persuasive arguments, built on sound economic reasoning, we will seek to help add to these policy debates in some meaningful fashion.

Prerequisite:
A grade of C or better in ECON 2843, 3113 and 3133

Learning Objective:
By the end of this class you will be better equipped to write and discuss economic issues using sources available to the public and economists.

Attendance, Grading, and Class Protocol:
This class will be in a discussion format with a heavy emphasis placed on class participation, reading, and persuasive writing. It will therefore be imperative that you not miss class and that you have thoroughly analyzed the required reading.

Your grade will be determined as follows:
Class participation 10%
Attendance 5%
Reading synopsis 15%
Quizzes 20%
Group peer evaluation 15%
Group presentation 15%
Group paper 20%

Class Participation:

The size of this class is not optimal for normal classroom discussion. As such, some students might be inclined to not participate in the daily discussion of assigned topics. To avoid this, students will be assigned numbers which will correspond to seats. Comments that add to the discussion will be rewarded. Those who choose not to participate can do so but at the cost of class points.

Attendance:

Every third missed class will result in the deduction of 1 percentage point.

Reading synopsis:

On the days that there is an assigned reading you are required to turn in a 300-word synopsis of the topic. It must be in Canvas by 4pm on the day the reading will be discussed.

Quizzes:

There will be two short quizzes given during the course of the class. Both will consist of 20 multiple choice questions from principles of Microeconomics and Macroeconomics. This class is supposed to be comprised of juniors and seniors who are mostly economics majors.

Group Peer Evaluation:

Once groups are assigned, there will be no opportunity for members to switch. As such, to account for "free riders" each member of a group will rate his/her group members on a scale of 1 to 15. The corresponding average of other group members will be the metric used here.

Group Presentations:

During the last 2 or 3 weeks of class, each group will present the results of their semester-long research project. The presentations will last 20 minutes with 5 to 10 minutes for questions. Each member of the group must present and be able to answer questions asked.

Group Paper:

Immediately following the group presentation, a 15 page term paper is due. This paper will have a cover page that lists the title and the authors names. In addition, it will have a detailed bibliography with standard margins and must be double spaced. The bibliography and cover page do not count in the 15 page total.

NOTE: The use of internet sources must be limited unless they are online versions of hard copy periodicals, such as the Wall Street Journal Online, New York Times Online, etc. Wikipedia and similar sites are not a valid research references.

Required Texts:
The Economics of Macro Issues 8th edition by R. Miller & D. Benjamin
The Economics of Public Issues 20th edition by R. Miller, D. Benjamin, and D. North
Annual Editions: Economics 38th edition by D. Cole

Americans With Disabilities Act:
If a student requires an accommodation based on disability, the student should meet with the instructor in his/her office during the first week of the semester. Student responsibility primarily rests with informing faculty at the beginning of the semester and in providing authorized documentation through designated administrative channels. The Disability Resource Center is located in Goddard Hall (405-325-3852)

Drop Dates:
The last day to drop the course is **March 30, 2018**. If you are planning to drop, it would be best to do it early so that you can have plenty of time to find a suitable class replacement.

<u>Academic Misconduct Policy</u>: The academic misconduct policy is as stated in the University of Oklahoma honor code. There will be multiple versions of all exams and each exam will be closely monitored. Cheating on an exam is a very serious violation of the misconduct code and will be treated as such. If you sign the class roll for someone else, or have someone sign the class roll for you, this is considered academic fraud.

Plagiarism and Other Academic Dishonesty

Student Handbook Definition:

- Plagiarism: representing the words, data, works, ideas, computer programs or output, or anything not generated in an authorized fashion, as one's own
- Cheating: using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information, study aids, or computer-related information
- Fabrication: presenting as genuine any invented or falsified citation or material
- Misrepresentation: falsifying, altering, or misstating the contents of documents or other materials related to academic matters, including schedules, prerequisites, and transcripts.

2. This is an extremely serious academic offense which can lead to your removal from the university and will definitely result in you failing this course.

3. Don't do it.

Tentative Schedule (Subject to change):

Wednesday January 17: Introduction/Assignments

Monday January 22: Career Services/Library resource training

Wednesday January 24: Quiz 1/ Why Colorado and Washington were wise to legalize pot (AE)

Monday January 29: Poverty, capitalism, and growth (macro)

Wednesday January 31: The effect of immigrants on US Employment and Productivity (AE)

Monday February 5: The case of the missing workers (macro)

Wednesday February 7: Panic over US tapering, China growth overdone, insists IIF (AE)

Monday February 12: The eurozone and Brexit (macro)

Wednesday February 14: Class film

Monday February 19: Cryptocurrencies (macro)

Wednesday February 21: Immigration reform could boost US economy (AE)

Monday February 26: The death of recycling (public)

Wednesday February 28: No Class.

Monday March 5: Coffee, tea, or tuition-free (public)

Wednesday March 7: Bitcoin only worth people think it is worth (AE)

Monday March 12: The fed feeding frenzy (macro)

Wednesday March 14: Class film

Monday March 26: Health insurance for all (public)

Wednesday March 28: The long term economic effects of the BP oil spill (AE)

Monday April 2: Inflation and the debt bomb (macro)

Wednesday April 4: Can Medicare costs be tamed? (AE)

Monday April 9: The mystery of wealth (public)

Wednesday April 11: Flex day

Monday April 16: Quiz 2/Group Presentation

Wednesday April 18: Group Presentations

Monday April 23:	Group Presentations
Wednesday April 25:	Group Presentations
Monday April 30:	Group Presentations
Wednesday May 2:	Group Presentations