

ECON 4983_002: Economics as Social Science – Fall 2023

M&W 3:00 – 4:15 pm, Rm 237 Cate Center 1

Instructor: Prof. C.L. Rogers

E-mail/contact: please use Canvas link

Office Hours: Tuesdays: 1-3 pm in person or zoom (let me know) and by appointment

Class Format:

This course uses an interactive discussion style approach. We will discuss selected advanced topics as well as contemporary policy issues. We will build persuasive arguments using sound economic reasoning to learn how to inform policy debates in a 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, present, and discuss economic issues using sources available to the public and economists.

Grading and Class Protocol:

This class will be in a discussion format with a *heavy* emphasis placed on participation, written synopsis of readings, and execution of an original research project. Accordingly, it is imperative that you attend class and thoroughly analyze the required readings.

Grades will be determined with 90% for A, 80% for B, 70% for C, 60% for D, based on the following weighted categories:

Engagement/synopses	20%	daily
Midterm Quiz (on readings/discussions)	20%	October 4
Project: Oral poster-style presentations	10%	Nov 27-Dec 2
Project: Final draft	30%	Dec 6, 11:59 pm
Final Quiz (readings, presentations)	20%	Thurs. Dec 14 th , 4:30 – 6:30 pm

Engagement/reading synopses. Students are expected to participate in the daily discussions. Each class a student will be selected to share their synopsis and lead the discussion of the readings for the day. Each student should expect to be selected once during the course of the semester. If you have an unexcused absence on the day you are selected, you will get a zero. (5 points each). Students will submit (via canvas) 150-200 word *Synopsis* of assigned readings by noon of the due date. Be SURE TO USE YOUR OWN words and indicate quotes as needed. These will be useful for reviewing and taking the midterm exam. I will grade at least 10 of these (1 point for attempt, 2 points for thoughtful answer) and 10 will count toward the overall grade. These won't be graded after the due date but if you complete them you can use them for the exams. Students will be given a participation score (0-5) at the end of the semester (5-almost daily engagement, 4-weekly engagement, etc.)

Quizzes. There will be a midterm quiz and final quiz on the readings and topics (including student presentations) discussed in class. (2 @ 20%)

Projects: Written Paper (30%)

Each student will complete an original analysis of a policy issue or economic problem. Detailed instructions and examples will be provided on Canvas. The basic structure is as follows:

- I. Title Page: Title and with name(s) of author(s)

- II. Introduction: What is the topic? Why is it important? How will it be analyzed in the paper? (1-2 pages, 10 points)
- III. Background and literature review: Provide background on the topic. This might include current policy discussion, economic research related to the topic, discussion of current and proposed policies. (2-4 pages, 20 points)
- IV. Original Analysis: Collect data, create charts, graphs or do basic empirical analysis related to the topic. Present a theoretical model if relevant. Explain the basic economic concepts? (6-8 pages; 40 points)
- V. Original conclusion and recommendations (1-2 pages; 20 points)
- VI. Bibliography with complete information about sources used. (10 points)

Project Presentations: During the last 2 weeks of class, each student/group will complete a presentation of the results of their semester-long research project. This will be done in a poster-style format with concurrent presentations. Students will present at least twice. The presentations will last 10 minutes with a few minutes for questions and feedback. If students work in pairs, then each member of the group must present and be able to answer questions asked. (10%)

Required Texts: None. We will use a variety of articles, Tedtalks, etc.

Topics: We will the following topics plus those of interest to students as time allows

- Efficiency as a Benchmark for assessing market outcomes
- Common Access Goods and Tragedy of the Commons
- Thinking, Fast and Slow by Daniel Kahneman
- Market design: New Economics and Matching Markets (Al Roth)
- Growth as Measures of Wellbeing
- Covid impacts on Inequality and the economy
- Correlation vs. Causality

Makeup and absences: You will have opportunity to make up or be excused from university approved absences, with proper documentation. If you miss the midterm quiz, the makeup will be given during the final exam period. You will have advance notice of assignment due dates, so that you can try to avoid last minute issues that might arise.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES:

Americans with Disabilities Act:

If you require an accommodation based on an issue that may prevent you from fully demonstrating your abilities, please contact me personally as soon as possible. Students are responsible for informing instructors of accommodations and for registering with the Accessibility and Disability Resource Center www.ou.edu/adrc.html (405-325-3852). The DRC does not schedule exams after 4 pm, so please consult with me to arrange for exam accommodations.

Academic Misconduct Policy:

The academic misconduct policy is stated in the University of Oklahoma honor code. Drr student guide at <https://www.ou.edu/integrity/students>. Misconduct includes:

- (1) Misrepresentation: falsifying, altering, or misstating the contents of documents or other materials related to academic matters, including schedules, prerequisites, and transcripts

- (2) Cheating: using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information, study aids, or computer-related information
- (3) Fabrication: presenting as genuine any invented or falsified citation or material
- (4) Plagiarism: representing the words, data, works, ideas, computer programs or output, or anything not generated in an authorized fashion, as one's own. This includes failure to indicate direct quotes, inappropriate paraphrasing, use of AI technology, and failure to cite source of material.

Violations of the integrity code will be taken seriously and can lead to your removal from the university and will result in failing this course. The university treats academic misconduct by upper level students (who are near to graduation) very seriously.

Mental Health Support Services

If you are experiencing any mental health issues that are impacting your academic performance, counseling is available at the University Counseling Center (UCC). The Center is located on the second floor of the Goddard Health Center, at 620 Elm Rm. 201, Norman, OK 73019. To schedule an appointment call (405) 325-2911. For more information please visit <http://www.ou.edu/ucc>.

Other University Policies and Acknowledgements (italics are direct quotes from OU Syllabus Template, [edu.edu/cfe/teaching/syllabus-support](http://www.ou.edu/cfe/teaching/syllabus-support))

Land Acknowledgement Statement Provided by OU's Tribal Liaison office:

Long before the University of Oklahoma was established, the land on which the University now resides was the traditional home of the "Hasinai" Caddo Nation and "[Kirikirîs](#)" Wichita & Affiliated Tribes. We acknowledge this territory once also served as a hunting ground, trade exchange point, and migration route for the Apache, Comanche, Kiowa and Osage nations. Today, 39 tribal nations dwell in the state of Oklahoma as a result of settler and colonial policies that were designed to assimilate Native people. The University of Oklahoma recognizes the historical connection our university has with its indigenous community. We acknowledge, honor and respect the diverse Indigenous peoples connected to this land. We fully recognize, support and advocate for the sovereign rights of all of Oklahoma's 39 tribal nations. This acknowledgement is aligned with our university's core value of creating a diverse and inclusive community. It is an institutional responsibility to recognize and acknowledge the people, culture and history that make up our entire OU Community.

Copyright Syllabus Statement for In-Person or Online Courses

Sessions of this course may be recorded or live-streamed. These recordings are the intellectual property of the individual faculty member and may not be shared or reproduced without the explicit, written consent of the faculty member. In addition, privacy rights of others such as students, guest lecturers, and providers of copyrighted material displayed in the recording may be of concern. Students may not share any course recordings with individuals not enrolled in the class or upload them to any other online environment.

Religious Observance

It is the policy of the University to excuse the absences of students that result from religious observances and to reschedule examinations and additional required classwork that may fall on religious holidays, without penalty.

Title IX Resources and Reporting Requirement (required)

For any concerns regarding gender-based discrimination, sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating/ domestic violence, or stalking, the University offers a variety of resources. To learn more or to report an incident, please contact the Sexual Misconduct Office at 405/ 325-2215 (8 to 5, M-F) or smo@ou.edu. Incidents can also be reported confidentially to OU Advocates at 405/615-0013 (phones are answered 24 hours a day, 7 days a

week). Also, please be advised that a professor/GA/TA is required to report instances of sexual harassment, sexual assault, or discrimination to the Sexual Misconduct Office. Inquiries regarding non-discrimination policies can be directed to University Equal Opportunity Officer and Title IX Coordinator at 405/325-3546 or smo@ou.edu. For more information, visit <http://www.ou.edu/eoo.html>.

Adjustments for Pregnancy/Childbirth Related Issues (required)

Should you need modifications or adjustments to your course requirements because of documented pregnancy-related or childbirth-related issues, please contact your professor or the Disability Resource Center at 405/325-3852 as soon as possible. Also, see <http://www.ou.edu/eoo/faqs/pregnancy-faqs.html> for answers to commonly asked questions.

Final Exam Preparation Period

Pre-finals week will be defined as the seven calendar days before the first day of finals. Faculty may cover new course material throughout this week. For specific provisions of the policy please refer to OU's Final Exam Preparation Period policy

Emergency Protocol

During an emergency, there are official university [procedures](#) that will maximize your safety.

Severe Weather: If you receive an OU Alert to seek refuge or hear a tornado siren that signals severe weather

1. LOOK for severe weather refuge location maps located inside most OU buildings near the entrances
2. SEEK refuge inside a building. Do not leave one building to seek shelter in another building that you deem safer. If outside, get into the nearest building.
3. GO to the building's severe weather refuge location. If you do not know where that is, go to the lowest level possible and seek refuge in an innermost room. Avoid outside doors and windows.
4. GET IN, GET DOWN, COVER UP.
5. WAIT for official notice to resume normal activities.

[Link to Severe Weather Refuge Areas](#), [Severe Weather Preparedness - Video](#)

Armed Subject/Campus Intruder: (required)

If you receive an OU Alert to shelter-in-place due to an active shooter or armed intruder situation or you hear what you perceive to be gunshots:

1. GET OUT: If you believe you can get out of the area WITHOUT encountering the armed individual, move quickly towards the nearest building exit, move away from the building, and call 911.
2. HIDE OUT: If you cannot flee, move to an area that can be locked or barricaded, turn off lights, silence devices, spread out, and formulate a plan of attack if the shooter enters the room.
3. TAKE OUT: As a last resort fight to defend yourself.

For more information, visit <http://www.ou.edu/emergencypreparedness.html>

[Shots Fired on Campus Procedure - Video](#)

Fire Alarm/General Emergency: (required)

If you receive an OU Alert that there is danger inside or near the building, or the fire alarm inside the building activates:

1. LEAVE the building. Do not use the elevators.
2. KNOW at least two building exits
3. ASSIST those that may need help
4. PROCEED to the emergency assembly area
5. ONCE safely outside, NOTIFY first responders of anyone that may still be inside building due to mobility issues.
6. WAIT for official notice before attempting to re-enter the building.

[OU Fire Safety on Campus.](#)