

University of Kentucky
Independent Study Program
Lexington, KY 40506

Economics 101
Contemporary Economic Issues

20 Assignments
3 Semester Hours

Textbooks

Edgmand, Michael R., Ronald L. Moomaw, and Kent W. Olson, *Economics and Contemporary Issues*, Fourth Edition, Dryden Press, 1998.

Andrews, Kim, *Study Guide to Accompany Economics and Contemporary Issues*, Fourth Edition, Dryden Press, 1998. (Recommended, but not required.)

Introduction

Economics 101 is an introductory course for non-business majors de-signed to give the student an overview of the principles of economics. In addition, this course is designed to provide the student with the tools necessary to make decisions and analyze events and government policies in an economic framework. This course covers both micro-economics (the economics of individuals, households, and firms) and macroeconomics (the economics of national aggregates, international aggregates, and money). The course in this self-study guide is designed to be as close as possible to the course taught on campus. There are no prerequisites for the course, but the students should be able to use some high school mathematics. Finally, a basic skill in graphs is especially helpful.

Course Objectives

This course will provide an overview of contemporary microeconomic and macroeconomic issues. We will consider the basic tools of economic theory used to study individual markets, individual consumer behavior, the behavior of firms, and the market economy as a whole. We will examine how markets work and how supply and demand interact to determine prices and output. We will also study what happens when markets fail and the role of the government in market activity. From a macroeconomic perspective, we will study ways of tracking the economy, unemployment, and inflation. Students successfully completing this course should leave with an understanding of these basic economic principles and their applicability to real world situations.

Economics 101

This course helps to satisfy the Social Sciences requirement of the University Studies Program.

The Course

This course has been designed as a self-study program. For each of the twenty assignments, you are given a reading assignment from the text-book and are given suggested problems from the textbook and the study guide. In the absence of classroom instruction, the suggested problems should be used to ensure that you understand the important concepts in the chapters that may not be completely covered in the assignments.

Of course, you will find your own method of working through this course, but it is recommended that you follow something along these lines:

1. Read the textbook assignment to get a feel for the material.
2. Complete the practice problems from the textbook and the study guide.
3. Check your answers to the study guide problems.
4. Re-read the textbook assignment more carefully, concentrating on the areas that gave you trouble in the practice problems.
5. Complete the assignment.

Some students will undoubtedly feel it is unnecessary to complete all of these steps. However, it is important to note that the written assignments that are turned in cover most of the important material in the chapters, but they do not cover everything. Therefore, completing steps two through four will help you learn the material in the reading assignment that is not in the written assignment. By just copying the answers to the written assignments from the textbook, you may do well on the twenty assignments. However, you will struggle with the final exam, which is 50 percent of your final grade. Thus, it is recommended that you follow the five steps above.

Grading

Your grade in the course depends on your scores on the twenty written assignments and the final exam. The written assignments are worth a maximum of fifteen points. Thus, your maximum score on the assignments is 300 points. The final exam is also worth 300 points. Your final letter grade will be determined as follows:

Total points	Final grade
530 or above	A
468 - 529	B
402 - 467	C
330 - 401	D
Below 330	E

However, if your score on the final exam is less than 150 points (50%), you will automatically receive an E for your letter grade. There is no exception to this rule!

In order to encourage you to work on the problems in the textbook, one of the practice problems from at least half of the assignments will appear on the final exam. It may be that the question will be slightly modified to be a multiple choice question. Or, it will appear on the final exam as an essay question in the same form as it is in the textbook. No matter what form – multiple choice or essay – at least one of the suggested practice problems from ten of the assignments will appear on the final exam.

The final exam has thirty multiple choice questions, worth five points each. The remaining 150 points come from six essay/graph questions.

Your written assignments are organized by chapter. Most chapters only have one assignment but several have two assignments and a third has three assignments. It is important for you to look at the readings for each assignment before the beginning to read the chapter. Some parts of a chapter may not be part of your reading assignment.

You may turn in as many or as few assignments as you wish at one time. Since the chapters tend to build on themselves, it may be useful to wait until you have the assignments returned to you before you send a new set of assignments to be graded. However, this is not required.

Your written assignments will be returned to you as quickly as possible. To make grading easier, it is helpful for the assignments to be typed or at least written legibly. However, you are not required to type the assignments.