

Survey of Economics



Above: A canal side market scene from the Bayon Temple in Angkor, Cambodia, capital city of the Khmer Empire that dominated Southeast Asia a thousand years ago. What's going on here? People are carrying goods, and displaying them for sale or exchange. There seems to be plenty of socializing, too, perhaps haggling and gossip. Market activity like this Khmer scene is nothing unusual; certainly, human beings have been producing, trading, and consuming for thousands of years, and in nearly every cultural context. What does this tell us? What can we discover about the human impulse and need to engage in "economic" activity? And what might our discoveries tell us about how we wish to work and live together, "economically," in our own time?

Best contact: email tfarnold@bsu.edu at any time with any questions or concerns.

Office: Elliott basement 008F

Office hours: MWF 3-4 pm and TR 10-12 noon + 2-3 pm. Be aware that office hour times may change, sometimes at short notice. If Dr. Arnold is not in his office during office hours, check the door for a note regarding amended times, and you can always send an email. Students do not have to make an appointment for office hours – just drop by with any question or concern. If these times don't work for your schedule, alternate times are available by appointment.

Course description:

An exploratory introduction to economics, emphasizing independent thinking and critical perspectives.

Canvas:

The course Canvas site is the essential organizing hub for this class. Almost all course readings and other discussion source materials will be posted to the course Canvas site, and there will be a continuously updated calendar with a

full schedule of upcoming class activities and expectations. Audio recordings of class sessions will also be posted (and these may be particularly helpful for students who miss a given in-person class meeting). Students should regularly and routinely check the course Canvas site, at least in preparation for every scheduled class meeting.

General policies and class time expectations:

Attendance will be taken for all in-person sessions according to stated Indiana Academy policies, including as explained in the Student Handbook. Please promptly contact the instructor with any questions regarding the application of those policies.

Students are expected to be able to access the course Canvas site using a computer device, either their own or one of the Academy public computer work stations.

However, unless otherwise directed for a specific classroom exercise, students are not allowed to use or access a laptop, tablet, or smart phone during class time. All such devices should be put away and out of sight for the duration of class. Computers are necessary and powerful tools for twenty-first century life, including school, but they are also too often a powerful distraction.

All non-class related books, materials, papers, etc. should be put away during class sessions.

Students are expected to be alert and attentive during all class sessions, and are expected to take notes.

Students are not expected to eat or drink during class. If an exception may be warranted for medical or other reasons, please communicate those circumstances to the instructor.

Students are not expected to ask to leave the room to use the bathroom during a class session. While it is a courtesy to excuse a person who politely asks to leave the room, it is equally courteous – and an expectation of professional life – that a person uses the bathroom before a scheduled meeting, if there is any anticipated need.

Of course, in case of need, a student should always be comfortable in politely asking to leave the room, and in case of an emergency any student will of course be excused and assisted as warranted.

Students are not expected to receive a phone call or similar interruption during class time. If an emergency interruption by phone call might be expected, please inform the instructor before class.

Students are expected to carefully read and otherwise consider all indicated sources in preparation for discussion class sessions, and are expected to actively participate in the classroom conversation. Students are expected to take notes on assigned source material as part of their preparation for class.

Students are always encouraged to seek help in office hours for any and all questions or concerns, whether those are regarding class policies, lecture content, textbook information, assigned readings and other source materials, participation in discussion, preparation for examinations, the evaluation of examinations, etc. Also, office hours are open for any additional conversation regarding the historical topics and questions considered – just drop by.

Grades will be posted to PowerSchool following a reasonable time for evaluation. Bi-weekly discussion grades will normally be posted within a few days of the last class session of that period. Examinations will normally be evaluated and the grades posted within ten working days of taking the test. Students will be informed in circumstances of delay. Students should regularly and routinely check their grades on PowerSchool, share those grades with parents or guardians, and promptly contact the instructor with any questions or concerns.

Students will only be excused from scheduled examinations in the case of an excused absence or documented accommodation. In those cases, students are normally expected to schedule and take a makeup or replacement examination within three working days of the originally scheduled test, or within three days of returning to school.

in the case of excused absence. If circumstances warrant, such as an extended absence, additional time may be granted to make up a missed examination. In every case, be in communication with the instructor as promptly as possible.

Students who do not make up any missed examination within three working days of the scheduled test, and absent any extenuating circumstances, will receive a grade of 0% for that test.

Academic dishonesty and plagiarism will not be tolerated. Please review the student handbook for a full discussion of the relevant policies.

There may be provision for extra credit or additional or replacement assignments. Such opportunities, if any, will be announced during the semester.

If circumstances warrant, alternate assignments, extended due dates, and other exceptions to stated policies can be arranged on a case-by-case basis after consultation with the instructor. All reasonable accommodation will be made.

Any student with a disability will be accorded appropriate accommodation, as arranged in advance.

As the semester develops, class policies, topics, source materials, assignments, and the course calendar, etc., may be amended as the instructor sees fit. Therefore, be alert to all announcements and any revisions to the course calendar, including discussion-day reading assignments, examination days and times, etc.

Required syllabi statements:

1. Ball State University Beneficence Pledge:

Ball State University aspires to be a university that attracts and retains outstanding faculty, staff, and students. Ball State is committed to ensuring that all members of the campus community are welcome through our practice of valuing the varied experiences and worldviews of the people whom we serve. We promote a culture of respect and civil discourse as evident in our Beneficence Pledge. As a reflection of Ball State's commitment to respect, civil discourse, and the Beneficence Pledge, inclusiveness at the Indiana Academy emerges as one of the priorities of our living and learning community. We strive to exist together respectfully and compassionately, creating an environment where every member can thrive.

2. Indiana Academy wireless device policy:

Pursuant to Indiana Code 20-26-5-40.7, The Indiana Academy for Science, Mathematics and Humanities prohibits student use of wireless communication devices for non-instructional purposes in the classroom. As such, any and all portable wireless devices, that have the capability to provide voice, messaging, or other data communication between two or more parties, must only be used for academic purposes directly tied to the classroom activity or related educational task. Exceptions to this wireless device policy are eligible through academic accommodations, individualized education programs, or with instructor approval permitting the use of a wireless device for justification related to health, safety, and/or well-being.

The improper use of a wireless device in an active classroom setting is subject to disciplinary action including but not limited to; a verbal warning, temporary seizure of said device by a school official, an unexcused absence for the class in question, written communication to parent/guardian, among other elevated consequences for repeated improper use.

3. Indiana Academy attendance policy:

Attendance is mandatory. Students may receive excused absences at the professional discretion of the school nurse, the associate director of mental health services, the associate director of college counseling and student engagement, the director of academic affairs, and the executive director of the Indiana Academy. Unexcused absences occur when students miss class without prior approval from the aforementioned designated school officials. Continued absences (both excused and unexcused) from Academy classes increase the likelihood of unsuccessful completion.

Alongside steady attendance, students are expected to maintain consistent healthy habits of decorum, respect, and kindness towards their classmates, instructors, and teaching assistants. When students fail to meet these classroom behavioral standards and academic habits, it is the expectation faculty engage appropriately to bring quick and immediate resolution. When students consistently fail to meet these behavioral standards and academic habits in the classroom, an administrative consequence ladder will be adopted, and recorded, in attempt to administratively address, engage, and rectify ongoing challenges.

4. Indiana Academy Humanities Division artificial intelligence (AI) statement:

The Humanities Division recognizes that artificial intelligence (AI) provides some exciting new tools for academic work. However, AI also poses significant dangers for academic integrity. Passing off as your own any research, words, or ideas which you did not create is plagiarism. That is always the case whether the source is print, internet content, or generated by AI. It is vital to read the policies your individual humanities instructors have regarding AI, and ask them any questions you may have about the use of AI in their course.

5. Indiana Academy History Department content statement:

As with many history classes, the lectures, readings, and discussions [in this course] will include a range of topics that may be triggering, emotionally distressing, and difficult for some students. Engaging with topics such as slavery and human suffering is essential to this discipline. History seeks to understand the experiences and thought processes of former generations, whether for good or ill. Sometimes the language and word choices used by people in the past may be insensitive or politically incorrect today. Nevertheless, the goal of history is to understand the past within its own context and time. If a reading, image shown in class, or discussion is truly troubling to anyone, please do not hesitate to talk to your instructor. In such circumstances, an alternative reading [or other course material] can be assigned.

Evaluation overview:

4 examinations @ 100 points each	400
8 biweekly discussion periods @ 50 points each	400
Personal financial plan project	100
total	900 points + any extra credit

Grading scale:

Percentage	Grade
.940-1000	A
.900-939	A-
.870-899	B+
.830-869	B
.800-829	B-

.770-799	C+
.730-769	C
.700-729	C-
Below 700	D*

Textbook and other class materials:

Students need only acquire one book from the bookroom: Dirk Mateer, Lee Coppock, and Brian O’Roark, *Essentials of Economics*. Students will never be expected to bring this textbook to any in-person class session.

Readings and other sources for in-class discussion will be provided by the instructor, in most cases as a pdf document posted to the course Canvas site, or as a link to an online text, image, video or other source. Some materials may be distributed as hard copies in class, either before or during discussion.