

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 at the time, around 1200. 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?

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. Also, significant time during scheduled in-person class meetings will be available to go over and clarify general questions about readings, assignment instructions, evaluation criteria and policies, etc.

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 for every scheduled class meeting.

InQuizitive online work:

Quiz-like online “InQuizitive” exercises based on the textbook will be accessible from the course Canvas site. An online version of the textbook will also be accessible from the course Canvas site.

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 will be able to reference their own, personal, handwritten notes during examinations.)

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 an emergency, 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 will be able to reference their own, personal, handwritten notes during examinations.)

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, historical topics, source materials, 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 diversity and inclusion statement:

Ball State University aspires to be a university that attracts and retains a diverse faculty, staff, and student body. We are committed to ensuring that all members of the community are welcome, through valuing the various experiences and worldviews represented at Ball State and among those we serve. We promote a culture of respect and civil discourse as expressed in our Beneficence Pledge and through university resources found at <http://cms.bsu.edu/campuslife/multiculturalcenter>.

2. Indiana Academy attendance policy statement:

It is the policy of the Indiana Academy that any absence from class is unexcused, except for illness, death in the family, college or school-related activities, and extenuating circumstances. When a student is absent from a class, the instructor reports the student absence to the Faculty Attendance Coordinator [Ms. Drumm] in the Office of Academic Affairs. Unless the absence is excused by a school official, it is considered unexcused. The decision as to whether an absence is excused is not determined by the instructor. Four (4) or more unexcused absences will lead to academic and residential consequences beyond the scope of this class [as] determined by the Office of Academic Affairs (i.e., residential groundings, parent/principal conference, and/or detention).

3. 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.

4. 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:

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| 4 examinations @ 100 points each | 400 |
| 15 "InQuizitive" online quizzes @ 20 points each | 300 |
| 8 biweekly discussion periods @ 50 points each | 400 |
| Personal financial plan project | 100 |
| total | 1,200 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. Students will also have access to an online version of this textbook, using the course Canvas site. This text will be key for completing the InQuizitive exercises that supplement our in-class work and discussions.

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.