



**KELCE**  
**COLLEGE OF BUSINESS**  
Pittsburg State University

**Course Syllabus:**

Issues in Today's Economy  
ECON 191, Section 1  
Room: Kelce #224  
T-TH 2:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m., Fall 2022

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**Instructor:** Dr. Paul W. Grimes, Professor of Economics and Dean  
**Office:** 101-C Kelce College of Business  
**Hours:** 3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. TTH, and by appointment  
**Phone:** 235-4591 (Assistant), 235-4590 (Direct)  
**E-mail:** Via Canvas

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**Textbook**

*Economics of Social Issues*, 21<sup>st</sup> Edition by Register and Grimes is the required text for this course. An On-Line Learning Center is available to assist your study and to help prepare you for exams. This web-based portal includes practice quizzes, graphing reviews, and links to other resources. Access is provided through the Canvas learning management system under the Modules option.



**Catalog Course Description**

An issues-oriented practical guide to introductory economics. Through examination of contemporary social issues and problems, a framework of economic analysis is developed. Topics such as world poverty and development, discrimination, pollution, monopoly power, unemployment, international trade, taxes, global competition, and social security are covered. Upon completion of the course, students will be able to view current events with an economic understanding of the issues involved. Designed for non-business students: not open to students with credit or concurrent enrollment in ECON 200 Principles of Microeconomics or above.

**Prerequisites**

This is an introductory survey course with no prerequisites. ECON 191 counts as one course toward the Pitt State Pathways “E: Human Systems” requirement. Several majors and minors require economics courses beyond ECON 191 – be sure to check with your advisor and the degree audit in GUS to ensure that this course meets your plan of study needs.

## Course Outline

Approximately one textbook chapter a week will be covered in class. It is extremely important that you stay current with reading the textbook and other materials assigned by the instructor. Modification in the structure and order of the material presented may be made during the length of the semester, depending on time available and other constraints. Exams will be given after approximately four or five chapters of study are completed. The following is a rough schedule of study:

Chapter 1	Human Misery	Chapter 8	Big Business and Monopoly
Chapter 2	Economic Systems	Chapter 9	Professional Sports
Chapter 3	Price Controls	Chapter 10	International Trade
Chapter 4	Pollution	Chapter 11	Economic Growth
Chapter 5	Crime and Prevention	Chapter 12	Money and the Financial System
Chapter 6	Education	Chapter 13	Unemployment and Inflation
Chapter 7	Poverty and Discrimination	Chapter 14	Government Spending and Taxation
		Chapter 15	Social Security and Medicare

## Teaching Methods

The primary methods of instruction are lecture and interactive classroom discussion. Problem solving exercises and outside reading may be assigned throughout the semester. Everyone is expected to stay current with course assignments through the Canvas learning management system and to use the system for class communications.

## Canvas

Students are expected to check the Canvas learning management system for announcements and communications from the instructor prior to each class meeting. Canvas should be used as the primary means of communicating with the instructor and the TA. Please do not expect messages sent after normal working hours to be answered promptly.

## Attendance Policy

Class attendance is EXPECTED!! Any material covered during class time is eligible to be included on future exams. In order to be prepared, you are strongly encouraged to attend ALL class meetings. Attendance will be recorded on a random basis by the Teaching Assistant (TA). Noted excessive absence will be reflected in your final course grade. Classroom participation in discussions is most strongly recommended and encouraged.

Deadlines for dropping and adding courses are provided in the current Syllabus Supplement. The instructor will NOT drop students from this class. Any student who discontinues class attendance without officially dropping will be awarded an F grade for the semester.

## **Classroom Conduct**

Everyone is EXPECTED to arrive on time for all scheduled class meetings. It is important not to interrupt the class by arriving late or leaving early. All cell phones MUST be silenced during class. Electronic devices such as tablets and laptops may be used in class ONLY for taking notes or other activity as directed by the instructor. Any student found using electronic devices during class time for entertainment or personal communications will be asked to leave. Be considerate of others and always behave in a courteous manner.

## **Academic Integrity**

All Pitt State students are bound by the academic integrity policies of the university as described and outlined in the current Syllabus Supplement. Please familiarize yourself with these rules and guidelines. In addition, as a course offered through the Kelce College of Business, students in this class are obligated to adhere to the college's Student Code of Ethics as outlined below. Students pledge to:

- Arrive on time, remain until dismissed at all class sessions, and notify instructors in advance of anticipated absences, late arrivals, or early departures whenever possible.
- Turn off cell phones or other electronic devices while in class, unless permission to use them has been granted.
- Refrain from class disturbances.
- Refrain from use of profane or vulgar language in a threatening or disruptive manner.
- Treat fellow students, staff, faculty, administrators, and property with respect.
- Refrain from giving or receiving inappropriate assistance.
- Prepare assignment and exams honestly, refraining from such unacceptable conduct as plagiarism or unacknowledged appropriation of another's work in any academic work.
- Obey the policies, regulations, and laws of the United States of America, the State of Kansas, the Kansas Board of Regents, Pittsburg State University, and the Gladys A. Kelce College of Business.

If a student observes someone committing dishonesty in connection with academic work, the student is encouraged to report that dishonesty to the appropriate individual (ex, faculty member, or administrator).

## **Students with Disabilities**

Please inform the instructor if you have a learning or physical disability that interferes with course requirements. Assistance and/or appropriate accommodations may be available through the contacts listed on the current Syllabus Supplement.

## **Security Statement**

In this class, students may be asked to participate in activities, such as engaging in group work, using the board, testing without personal properties in close proximity, or other collaborative exercises. These activities may require students to either be separated from their bags or be prepared to keep their bags with them at all times during such activities. Students are encouraged to read the weapons policy online (<https://www.pittstate.edu/police/policies.html#undefined1>) to ensure they understand the requirements related to concealed carry.

## **Course Evaluation Methods**

Throughout the semester three tests worth 100 points each will be given in-class. Each of these exams will cover the previous section of study. Also, a final exam will be given worth 150 points. The final will be comprehensive but emphasis will be placed on the last section of study and any untested material covered in class. All exams will be announced at least one week in advance of the test date. Total points available on exams equal 450.

In addition to the exams, students will complete five additional assignments weighted at approximately 20 points each. These assignments will consist of in-class quizzes, homework problems, essays and other practical work. Total points available for these assignments equal 100.

Make-up exams and assignments will NOT be given as a general rule. However, if you are forced to miss class due to unavoidable circumstances, a written request to reschedule will be considered. Any written request must be submitted in-person at the earliest possible time. All decisions made by the instructor whether to allow a make-up are final.

All final course grades will be based on scores from the regular exams, assignments, and the comprehensive final exam. Total performance points available during the semester equal 550. In addition, one bonus point for each recorded attendance will be added to each student's performance score. The following grading scale will be guaranteed:

90 - 100%	--	495 - 550 points	= A
80 - 89%	--	440 - 494 points	= B
70 - 79%	--	385 - 439 points	= C
60 - 69%	--	330 - 384 points	= D
Below 60%	--	0 - 329 points	= F

In determining the final course grade, classroom participation will be given consideration in borderline cases.

## Note

The instructor reserves the right to amend and to reorganize this syllabus at any time due to unforeseen circumstances.

## Course Objectives / Learning Outcomes

1. Critique the role of economics in the efforts to alleviate human misery and improve personal welfare using economic systems, price control mechanisms, and public policy.
2. Compare the various proposals for reforming public education with changes to the prevailing institutional and market conditions.
3. Examine the problems of poverty and discrimination, including possible economic solutions.
4. Appraise the economics of monopoly power, and assess whether such power is something to be feared.
5. Investigate the interplay between the market forces that impact professional sports.
6. Debate the merits of using protectionist economic policy in the realm of international trade.
7. Investigate the challenge of achieving economic growth while, at the same time, balancing the tensions created by policies aimed at keeping both unemployment and inflation at acceptable levels.
8. Examine the theoretical constructs of money and the role of the Federal Reserve System in the U.S. economy.
9. Analyze the current levels of U.S. government spending, taxation, and indebtedness.
10. Investigate the structure and future viability of the Social Security and Medicare programs.

## Pitt State Pathways

**Learning Outcome:** Students will explore global systems conscientiously.

### Essential Element

**Human Systems within a Global Context:** Humans have developed complex systems that structure interaction. It is important to understand how and why these systems developed, change through time, vary by location, and are interconnected at all levels (local/regional/global), and the implications of that interconnectedness. Competency in this element means:

- *Analyzing* the structure, development, and change of human economic, political, social and/or cultural systems over time;
- *Analyzing* the individual's role and responsibility to society at all levels;
- *Evaluating* how human systems are interconnected at all levels.

**Assessment:** As a Milestone I PSP course, the student is expected to: Explain human organizational systems using a variety of disciplinary and interdisciplinary perspectives.

### **Companion Element**

**Social Responsibility within a Global Context:** Social responsibility within a global context is the ability to recognize one's accountability to society – locally, nationally, and globally. This incorporates the importance of active citizenship through the application of concepts such as equity, inclusiveness, collaboration, and building constituency in government, civic institutions, business, and community at large. Competency in this element means:

- *Applying* the concepts associated with active, responsible citizenship;
- *Analyzing* the ethical, social, and environmental consequences of local, national, and global organizations;
- *Analyzing* the historical consequences of local or national decisions on global systems.

**Assessment:** As a Milestone I PSP course, the student is expected to: Explain the roles and responsibilities of citizens at all levels.