

Proposed Syllabus for Economics 1100 Global Macroeconomic Issues

Professor: Edwin T Burton

Office: Monroe 262

Office Hours: TBD

Reading Material:

The Great Demographic Reversal by Charles Goodhart and Manoj Pradhan, Palgrave and Macmillan, 2020

Prerequisite: None

Description:

Economics 1100 is a two-credit seminar course on the post-pandemic global macroeconomy. The class is limited to 12 first year students.

Typically, the discussion will center a resource-scarce issue: .e.g. if you become the minister of education in a small low-income country that currently provides little or no public education, what would you do first, and what would you do last?

Other related topics are health care, transportation, etc. There will also be discussions about the most significant current global macroeconomic trends.

These include inflation, debt, economic growth and so forth.

As a discussion-based course, attendance is expected of students and not optional. Failure to attend class will negatively impact the student's grade in a

significant manner. Additionally, engagement in class discussions is expected, and while verbal participation is not required, it is strongly encouraged. Each class discussion is centered around its corresponding assigned reading, which students are required to complete prior to the start of class. Each class is two hours and thirty minutes in length, meeting once a week for the duration of the semester.

There are no quizzes, tests, or exams in ECON 1100. Rather, students are required to submit a paper at the end of the semester. Students choose the paper topic. The length of the paper should be between five and seven pages. Topics could include, for example, tackling education or health care problems in a low-income country with limited resources, stressing the country's priorities and how to assess those priorities assuming that resources are scarce. A weak paper would fail to address the trade-off issues that might be implicit in setting out priorities. A strong paper would argue for one set of priorities over another, providing an analysis of the impact of the various priorities on the economic and general well-being of the citizenry.

The principal goal of the course is to provoke discussion, with differing viewpoints put forward, and lead students to analyze major macro economic problems, as an economist might do. Because students have little or no background, the purpose of the course is to provide some exposure to global macro issues and the way economics might approach them.