

## E200 - Course Syllabus

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<b>Course Number and Title:</b>	E 200 – Fundamentals of Economics: An Overview
<b>Course Schedule:</b>	August 24, 2009 to December 18, 2009 Helmke B-35, Monday and Wednesday from 3:00 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.
<b>Course Location &amp; Times:</b>	Kettler G-22, Monday and Wednesday from 4:30 p.m. – 5:45 p.m.
<b>Instructor's Name:</b>	John Kessler
<b>Office:</b>	Neff 340G
<b>Telephone:</b>	260-481-6493 (office)
<b>E-mail Address:</b>	Contact me through Blackboard mail
<b>Alternative Contact:</b>	Skype: EconJohnAZ
<b>Office Hours:</b>	Wednesday 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m., or by appointment.
<b>Campus Mailing Address:</b>	John Kessler Department of Economics Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne 2101 E. Coliseum Blvd. Fort Wayne, IN 46805-1499
<b>Required Text:</b>	James Gwartney, Richard L. Stroup, and Dwight R. Lee, <u>Common Sense Economics: What Everyone Should Know about Wealth and Prosperity</u> , St. Martins Press, 2005
<b>Electronic Resources:</b>	Blackboard – elearning.ipfw.edu  Supplemental material may, from time to time, be posted on Blackboard and so be sure to check the course website weekly.

### **WELCOME:**

Welcome to Econ 200, Fundamentals of Economics! In this course you'll develop knowledge and understanding of economics and the economic way of thinking. I look forward to working with you over the next sixteen weeks as we explore the fascinating world of economics. This is going to be an exciting semester full of new learning experiences. I look forward to getting to know all of you as the year progresses and I hope you are looking forward to a challenging year.

School is where you go to learn skills that help make you a productive citizen and grow to your fullest potential as a human being. What you make of it is up to you. There is only one way for a student to learn anything. The student must put in effort; the student must work to learn. A study showed that students who do more homework, attend school regularly, and read more do better in school (duh!). This study cost \$369,636 of taxpayer money.

The act of learning is a choice, and the student owns the process of learning. The instructor's role is to provide a learner-centered environment and access to the resources and assistance necessary for the learner to succeed. I hope we can work together to make this a class that produces rich rewards and prepares you well for the future!

## **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

“A few lines of reasoning can change the way we see the world.” – Steven E. Landsburg

The objective for this one semester course is to enable you to acquire an understanding of a few select microeconomic and macroeconomic principles that are a part of your every day environment. I will attempt in this class to teach you a new way of seeing the world. I hope that by the end of this class you will see how economics relates to every aspect of your life.

## **GRADES:**

Grades reflect effort, knowledge, completion, and timeliness on the following:

1. Exams
2. Assignments
3. Attendance

### **Exams:**

Part I Test	100 Points
Part II Test	100 Points
Final Exam	<u>200 Points</u>
	<b>400 Points Total</b>

### **Assignments:**

Part I Reading Assignment	40 Points
Part II Reading Assignment	40 Points
Part III Reading Assignment	<u>40 Points</u>
	<b>120 Points Total</b>

### **Attendance:**

Attendance is strongly encouraged. Students who attend classes will earn better grades. There will be activities that we do in class that you will not be able to make up. If you miss a class it is your responsibility to learn the content. In order to provide the proper incentive for attendance, the following grading policy is in effect:

- 0-3 Absences = no grade reduction**
- 4-6 Absences = 5% final grade reduction**
- 7+ Absences = 10% final grade reduction**

### **Totals:**

3 Tests	400 Points
3 Assignments	<u>120 Points</u>
	<b>520 Points Total for the Course</b>

The instructor reserves the right to add or change assignments as he sees fit to meet the needs of the class. There may be a variety of other assignments given throughout the semester.

## **GRADING SCALE: Grades are earned and are not given! There will be no rounding up of grades.**

A = 90 – 100 percent	(468pts – 520pts)
B = 80 – 89 percent	(416pts – 467pts)
C = 70 – 79 percent	(364pts – 415pts)
D = 60 – 69 percent	(312pts – 363pts)
F = under 59 percent	(311pts or less)

## EXAMS:

All exams will be done on the Blackboard website.

Exams will be available on the dates listed below for 24 hours. The exam will open at 12am and close at 11:59pm. There will be no class on test dates so that you may prepare and take the exams on Blackboard. **Do not wait until the last minute to take your exams in case there are computer problems.** It is expected that you will take the test during the regularly scheduled class time to alleviate this potentiality. However, you may choose to take it at a different time if you are a morning or night person and test better at those times.

You will have one chance to take the exams – you will not be able to retake a test because of a bad grade. Be sure to **SAVE YOUR ANSWERS AS YOU GO** in case of computer problems.

**Part I Test** – September 28, 2009

**Part II Test** – November 11, 2009

**Final Exam** – (4:30pm class/Kendallville students) Wednesday, December 16, 2009 from 4pm – 6pm  
(3:00pm class/Warsaw/TV students) Friday, December 18, 2009 from 1pm –3pm

The above dates are tentative. The instructor reserves the right to change the dates of any exam as necessary to meet the needs of the class. If this happens it will be announced in class and via Blackboard.

### Computer Problems:

If you have computer problems during an exam or quiz you must call IT Services at 260-481-6030 (Monday – Friday 7:30am – 11:00pm, Saturday 8am-6pm, Sunday Noon-10:00pm). They will be able to assist you and give you a confirmation number so that I know you had a problem.

Sometimes a graph does not show up on an exam or quiz. If this happens, make sure you have saved the questions you have answered so far and then you can close the exam or quiz and go back and reopen it. Often just by reloading the exam or quiz this way will solve the problem. Remember that the time allowed for the exam or quiz will continue to count down while you do this so do not wait to reopen it. If this does not work then you should call IT Services for further help.

## ASSIGNMENTS:

**All assignments are due by 11:59pm on the due date.** The computer does not allow for late assignment submissions so be sure to have them in on time. **No late assignments will be accepted.**

**READING ASSIGNMENTS:** These are assignments that will test your reading of the text. You may complete these assignments any time before their due date. These are due no later than the day prior to the corresponding exam. If the exam dates are moved then these due dates will be moved as well.

**Part I Reading Assignment** – Due September 25, 2009, before the Part I Test

**Part II Reading Assignment** – Due November 10, 2009, before the Part II Test

**Part III Reading Assignment** – Due December 11, 2009, before Finals Week

## **POLICIES AND PROCEDURES:**

### **Course Changes**

The instructor reserves the right to change the delivery of course content based on the needs of the class. Any changes will be discussed in class and posted on Blackboard so be sure to check it on a regular basis.

### **Technology**

**Last minute p.c./internet technical difficulties will not be an acceptable excuse for missing homework due date deadlines.** Plan accordingly and don't wait to the last minute to turn in assignments.

I do not accept files that may be contaminated with viruses. I expect all participants in this course to have and use an updated virus scanning and fixing program that will scan upon sending and receiving files. Please set your spam blocker so that it does **not** block any participant in this classroom.

For questions regarding Blackboard or technical questions please contact the Information Technology Help Desk at 260-481-6030 (Monday – Friday 7:30am – 11:00pm, Saturday 8am-6pm, Sunday Noon-10:00pm) or online at <http://www.its.ipfw.edu/>

Personal technical issues are the responsibility of the student. If you encounter a technical issue that interferes with your class involvement, please let me know as soon as possible. I will work with you within reason to keep you involved in class, but expect all issues to be resolved within 24 hours.

### **Participation**

I expect you to participate regularly in class. This includes in-class discussions and online discussions. Your participation not only improves your chance to succeed, but also provides your classmates with your experiences and expertise. Don't be greedy—share your knowledge! Please keep all comments positive, but at the same time challenging things with which you don't agree.

Build on remarks from fellow students and pose relevant, thought-provoking questions. Share quotes, Web sites, and other complementary information. Do not cut and paste from a website. Only give the website link to ensure copyright laws are met. Cite all references that are not your own original thought, including your text. Pay close attention to the quality and timeliness of your responses. Remember that quality is still prized over quantity. Ensure that spelling and grammar are clear and understandable.

No provisions will be made for making up missed exams, assignments, or quizzes **unless** arrangements are made with the instructor in **advance**.

### **Feedback**

I will post announcements on Blackboard from time to time so be sure to check it every week.

I will also contact you via Blackboard mail if there is any need for feedback at other times. This may include feedback on discussion comments, answer to questions sent to me, or any other communication necessary to assist you in the learning process.

### **Academic Honesty**

I highly value academic honesty. You must always submit work that represents your original words or ideas. For any words or ideas used in a class posting or assignment submission which do not represent your original words or ideas, you must cite all relevant sources and make clear the extent to which such sources were used. Words or ideas that require citation include, but are not limited to, all hard copy or electronic publications, whether copyrighted or not, and all verbal or visual communication when the content of such communication clearly originates from an identifiable source.

Any student participating in acts of academic dishonesty—including, but not limited to, using unauthorized “crib notes”, plagiarism, completing an exam or homework for another student, or any of the above — will be given zero points for that assignment and may be subject to receiving an F for the course. Any written assignment which appears to be a copy of another student's work will necessitate that each student involved receive a zero score for that assignment.

### **Withdraw Policy**

If a student must drop the course for any reason, it will be the responsibility of the student to withdraw from the course before the withdrawal deadline. **August 30<sup>th</sup>** is the last day to withdraw for a full refund and **October 30<sup>th</sup>** is the last day to withdraw for no refund.

### **Writing Center**

Save time and write better papers for any class through free individual consultations in the Writing Center, Kettler G19. Bring assignments, questions, ideas, and a draft (if you have one). Consultants can help you get started, write more clearly, revise, edit, and cite sources responsibly. Come as you begin a paper and as you revise. Drop-ins are welcome if time is available, but appointments, made online through TutorTrac, receive preference. For TutorTrac, online consulting, and resources to make your writing process easier, go to [www.ipfw.edu/casa/writing](http://www.ipfw.edu/casa/writing). Questions? Call 481-5740.

Writing Center Hours:

Monday – Thursday      10am to 6pm

Friday                      10am to 2pm

Sunday                      1pm to 5pm

### **Disabilities Statement**

If you have a disability and need assistance, special arrangements can be made to accommodate most needs. Contact the Director of Services for Students with Disabilities (Walb, room 113, telephone number 481-6658), as soon as possible to work out the details. Once the Director has provided you with a letter attesting to your needs for modification, bring the letter to me. For more information, please visit the web site for SSD at <http://www.ipfw.edu/ssd/>