

**University of Central Oklahoma**  
**Department of Economics**  
**Economics of Social Issues (ECON 1203)**  
**Course Syllabus – Spring 2019**

**Instructor:** Travis Roach  
**Place and Time:** Business 212, TR 12:30-1:45  
**Office:** Thatcher Hall 221  
**Office Hours:** M 5:30-8:30, T 2:00-4:00  
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“Give me a one-handed economist! All my economists say, 'on one hand  
... on the other.'” - President Harry Truman

**Reading Material**

- Freakonomics Podcasts
- AEA Research Highlights

\* In lieu of purchasing a textbook you will volunteer ten hours of your time over the course of the semester at a non-profit organization of your choosing.

**Course Description**

This course applies fundamental economic principles to the understanding of domestic and global issues such as poverty, treatment of minorities, immigration, agriculture, health, crime, labor markets, competition and monopoly, international trade and finance, and other important topics.

**Transformative Learning Objectives**

The University and the College of Business are committed to providing students transformative learning experiences in six core areas: **discipline knowledge; leadership; research, creative and scholarly activities; service learning and civic engagement; global and cultural competencies; and health and wellness.** This class supports these goals by providing significant opportunities for the acquisition of discipline knowledge, and opportunities for introduction through transformation in all five remaining core areas.

**Learning Outcomes**

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. Exercise tools of economic analysis in confronting issues from poverty, to crime, to environmental degradation.
2. Analyze and compare competing arguments regarding social economic policy.

3. Demonstrate knowledge of the factors affecting discrimination in the workplace and in policy-making.
4. Integrate empirically-based research into burgeoning issues facing society.

### **Methods of Assessing the Expected Learning Outcomes**

The expected learning outcomes for the course will be assessed through exams, in-class application activities, graded and non-graded quizzes, class discussion and participation, and homework.

### **Description of How Grades are Determined**

#### ***Exams***

There will be one midterm exam and a final Exam. Each exam will be comprised of short answer questions that apply topics learned in class.

Each of these exams will be worth 20% of your final grade (a total of 40%)

#### ***Class Activities/Quizzes/Homework***

These will weigh 20% of your final grade. Individual assignments will be discussed with you in class.

#### ***Reflection Writing Assignments, Data Visualizations***

This is a semester-long task that will have multiple iterations. The total weight for this category is 20%.

#### ***TED Talk***

This is a highly structured and well-researched presentation that will occur near the end of the semester. Details will be discussed throughout the semester. The total weight for this category is 20%.

#### ***Grading Scale***

A = 89.5% - 100%  
B = 79.5% - 89.49%  
C = 69.5% - 79.49%  
D = 59.5% - 69.49%  
F = 0% - 59.49%

Exams =	40% (20% each)
Class Activities =	20%
Writing, Data Viz =	20%
TED Talk =	20%

### **Examination Calendar**

First Exam:	Early March
Second Exam:	Late April

## Outline of Major Course Events and Assignments

Week	Deliverables	Major Events
<b>1</b> (Jan 14)		
<b>2</b> (Jan 21)		
<b>3</b> (Jan 28)	<b>DV</b> - Data Viz 1	
<b>4</b> (Feb 4)	<b>RWA</b> - Reflection 1	
<b>5</b> (Feb 11)	<b>HW</b> - TED Talk topic selection	
<b>6</b> (Feb 18)	<b>DV</b> - Data Viz 2	
<b>7</b> (Feb 25)	<b>HW</b> - Letter to OK representative	
<b>8</b> (Mar 4)	<b>HW</b> - TED Talk sources list	
<b>9</b> (Mar 11)		Test 1
<b>10</b> (Mar 18)		Spring Break!!
<b>11</b> (Mar 25)	<b>RWA</b> - Reflection 2	
<b>12</b> (Apr 1)	<b>HW</b> - TED Talk outline	
<b>13</b> (Apr 8)	<b>DV</b> - Data Viz 3	
<b>14</b> (Apr 15)		
<b>15</b> (Apr 22)		Test 2
<b>16</b> (Apr 29)		TED Talks
<b>17</b> (May 6)	<b>RWA</b> - Reflection 3	TED Talks

### Notes

- Students are expected to assist in maintaining a classroom environment which is conducive to learning. In order to assure that all students have an opportunity to gain from time spent in class, unless otherwise approved by the instructor, **students are prohibited from using cellular phones, eating or drinking in class, making offensive remarks, using laptops for nonrelated class activities, reading newspapers, sleeping or engaging in any other form of distraction.** Inappropriate behavior in the classroom shall result in, minimally, a request to leave class.
- Attendance is **REQUIRED** and will be **MONITORED** throughout the semester. Incidences of excessive absence will be dealt with in a manner consistent with University policy and procedures.
- The University of Central Oklahoma complies with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the American with Disabilities Act of 1990. Students with disabilities who need special accommodations must make their requests by contacting Disability Support Services, at (405) 974-2516. The DSS Office is located in the Nigh University Center, Room 309. Students should also notify the instructor of special accommodation needs by the end of the first week of class.
- Student Absence for Observation of Religious Holy Days. A student who is absent from classes for the observation of a religious holy day shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment scheduled for that day within a reasonable time after the absence if, not later than the fifteenth day after the first day of the semester, the student had notified the instructor of each scheduled class that the student would be absent for a religious holy day.
- Students are expected to have their ID's with them in class. The instructor reserves the right to ask a student to show his/her ID, especially during exams.
- Any instance of cheating will result in an (F) for the course. The instructor reserves the right to pursue the matter further.