



TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY
COMMERCE

UNCO 1301: Economics of Sex, Drugs, & Rock n' Roll

Spring 2022

Instructors: Dr. Jared Pickens, Dr. Asli Ogunc, Dr. Greg Lubiani

Office: BA 102

Office Hours: By appointment or via Zoom

Office Phones:

Dr. Lubiani: (903) 886-5172

Dr. Pickens: (972) 546-0059

Course Meeting Times: M/W/F – 10:00 to 10:50 am; Room BA106

E-mail:

Dr. Lubiani: gregory.lubiani@tamuc.edu

Dr. Pickens: jared.pickens@tamuc.edu

Dr. Ogunc: asli.ogunc@tamuc.edu

Please send emails through the MyLeo Online message system only. This will let us know which class you are in and will keep the class more organized. Please make sure the prefix of the course is listed in the subject line (e.g. UNCO 1301).

*** THERE IS NO REQUIRED TEXTBOOK FOR THIS COURSE. ALL MATERIALS WILL BE PROVIDED BY THE INSTRUCTORS. ***

Course Description:

A Signature Course at Texas A&M University-Commerce offers first-year students the opportunity to explore unique topics in engaging learning environments. Students develop college-level skills in communication, critical thinking, and social responsibility through a rigorous intellectual experience.

This Signature Course leverages popular and relevant issues for today's young adults to relate economic concepts for an enhanced understanding and ability to apply theory to unconventional topics that affect their communities. Specifically, matters of scarcity, opportunity cost, market concentration, and black markets (among others) are applied to the areas of sex, drugs, and rock n' roll. At its core, Economics is the study of choices resulting from scarce resources. As such, it is an extremely powerful tool that is used to objectively evaluate not only financial markets, but also social and cultural concerns. **Successful students will be able to accomplish these objectives toward understanding the economy:**

1. In written, verbal, and/or visual communication, students will communicate in a manner appropriate to the audience and occasion, with an evident message and organizational structure.

2. Students will be able to analyze, evaluate, or solve problems when given a set of circumstances, data, texts or art.
3. Students will demonstrate an understanding of societal and/or civic issues.

Instructional Methods

- Class participation & discussions
- Lecture w/ PowerPoint Slides
- Assigned readings
- Student projects
- Weekly quizzes
- Videos
- Exams
- Social Media

Grading: Each student’s grade will be comprised of the following:

Attendance/Participation	20%	A = 90%-100%
Group Project/Lionizing	35%	B = 80%-89%
<u>Weekly Quizzes</u>	<u>45%</u>	C = 70%-79%
Total	100%	D = 60%-69%
		F = 59% or Below

Group Project / Lionizing Event (35%):

Students will be assigned into groups of 4-5 to work on a project for the Lionizing Event at the end of the semester. Each group will be tasked with developing a video for social media, and will be given guidance and periodic reviews throughout the semester.

Weekly Quizzes (45% each):

Students will complete quizzes every week online. The assignments will be due on Sundays at 11:59 pm.

Attendance/Participation (20%)

Students must not be passive in this course. More than before, each student should engage in classroom learning through respectfully asking questions and reflecting on the material with other class members.

Student participation will be evaluated based on attendance (on time), preparedness (have read all materials), and engagement (respectful participation in class discussions on subject matter and applications). Just as it will be when you begin your career, meeting deadlines is a base-level expectation and, alone, will not earn you a glowing review (e.g. a grade of 100% for the semester). **You must demonstrate additional value through your actions as part of the course.**

Late Assignment Policy:

Absolutely no late work will be accepted. Students that miss a due date will receive a zero for that particular assignment. If a student wants an extension for an assignment, this must be received no less than 48 hours before the assigned due date/time. Extensions are not guaranteed, and are at the discretion of the instructor. Extensions may include a late penalty.

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

Week	Dates	Instructor	Due	Talking Points
1	1/12- 01/16	Drs. Lubiani/Pickens/Ogunc	Academic Honesty	Introduction, Syllabus, Big 5 Assessment, Economics
2	01/17 - 01/23	Dr. Pickens	Q1	Drugs Defined / Supply and Demand, Elasticity of S&D, Patent Laws & R/D, Pharmaceuticals
3	01/24 - 01/30	Dr. Pickens	Q2	Opioid Crisis and Purdue Pharmaceuticals, Unemployment and Drugs, Incentives and Disincentives
4	01/31- 02/06	Dr. Pickens	Q3	Supply and Demand of Alcohol, Alcohol Use Disorders and Economic Costs, Alcohol Density Testing and Externalities
5	02/07 - 02/13	Dr. Pickens	Q4	Texas and Cannabis Legalization, Economic Impact, Marginal Benefit Analysis of Cannabis Legalization in Texas, Externalities
6	02/14 - 02/20	Dr. Ogunc	Q5	Love, Sex, Marriage, and Divorce.
7	02/21 - 02/27	Dr. Ogunc	Q6	Porn industry and sex trafficking. Supply & demand and government regulations in sex industry.
8	02/28 - 03/06	Dr. Ogunc	Q7	Gender differences & discrimination. Economic growth and data.
9	03/07 - 03/13	Dr. Ogunc	Q8	How economists think and how to use thinking and tools related to online dating. What do economists do anyways?
	03/14- 03/20	N/A	N/A	<u>SPRING BREAK (NO CLASS)</u>
10	3/21 - 03/27	Dr. Lubiani	Q9	Copyright, collusion, and exploitation of music. Externalities and technological advances related to music.
11	03/28 - 04/03	Dr. Lubiani	Q10	"For the Love of The Game" labor markets, government subsidies and unions related to amateur and professional athletics.
12	04/04- 04/10	Dr. Lubiani	Q11	"Popcorn Economics" the economics behind movie production including industry structure, business vs. art, and economic profit and probability of success.
13	04/11 - 04/17	Dr. Lubiani	Q12	"Wanna Bet?"_Market efficiencies related to sports betting. The economics of casinos and gamin and regulation. Understanding analyzing Game Theory in poker.
14	04/18 - 04/24	Drs. Lubiani/Pickens/Ogunc	N/A	Work on group project.
15	04/25 - 05/03	Drs. Lubiani/Pickens/Ogunc	<u>Group Project Due</u>	Complete group project.
16	05/09 - 05/13	Drs. Lubiani/Pickens/Ogunc	TBD	TBD

IMPORTANT: This schedule ABOVE is simply a guide and the professor has the right to change due dates if necessary. Students are responsible for updated due dates and can find updates via, lectures, D2L announcements, and e-mails.

General Comments:

1. Turn off your cell phones before coming to class. This is a classroom environment. It is disruptive to the class and disrespectful to the instructor to have a cell phone ring in the middle of class. Please double check before you come to class.
2. Texting, the use of a computer for purposes not related to class, reading of newspapers, sleeping, or any other distraction will not be tolerated.
3. Each student is expected to check his/her **university** e-mail (e.g. rt42@tamcu.edu) frequently for course announcements. E-mails **will not** be sent to personal e-mail addresses (e.g. goldlion@yahoo.com). This is to ensure privacy.
4. You will most likely need a calculator for this course. A standard calculator should be sufficient. A graphing calculator is not necessary.

COVID 19 Information

A&M-Commerce requires the use of face-coverings in all instructional and research classrooms/laboratories. Exceptions may be made by faculty where warranted. Faculty have management over their classrooms. Students not using face-coverings can be required to leave class. Repetitive refusal to comply can be reported to the Office of Students' Rights and Responsibilities as a violation of the student Code of Conduct. Students should not attend class when ill or after exposure to anyone with a communicable illness. Communicate such instances directly with your instructor. Faculty will work to support the student getting access to missed content or completing missed assignments.

Student can learn more about COVID 19 updates and statistics at the following website: <https://www.tamuc.edu/stay-healthy-lions/>

Counseling Center

The Counseling Center at A&M-Commerce, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connection to community resources for students. Students have 24/7 access to the Counseling Center's crisis assessment services by calling 903-886-5145. For more information regarding Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit www.tamuc.edu/counsel

Academic Integrity

Students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03](#)

Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/documents/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyForm.pdf>

Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form

<http://www.tamuc.edu/academics/graduateschool/faculty/GraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyFormold.pdf>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

Netiquette

The discussion boards are created to provide an opportunity for students to actively engage in meaningful conversation on a particular topic or issue. You are encouraged to provide your honest viewpoint, but be respectful of the views of your classmates.

Do's

1. Do use correct grammar and spelling.
2. Do read the prompt, reflect on what you would like to say, and review what you've written before posting!
3. Do respect the privacy, beliefs, and opinions of your classmates.
4. Do challenge each other's ideas but not each other personally.
5. Do remember to treat others as you would want to be treated.
6. Do stick to the discussion prompt at hand when posting to a forum.
7. Do use humor and sarcasm carefully. Students cannot see your facial expressions or hear any voice inflections.

Don'ts

1. Don't type in ALL CAPS. This is regarded as shouting.
2. Don't rant or rage. This is not the place to vent your anger or start a fight.
3. Don't make inappropriate comments. Objectionable, sexist, or racist language will not be tolerated.

In the discussion forums you will post assignments and discuss your work with others in the class or in your groups. These are public forums, so whatever is posted can be seen by everyone in the course, including the instructors. If you want to send a private message, use individual email. The Class Lounge discussion forum is a public space for conversation with your classmates on any topic or question.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

Browser support

D2L is committed to performing key application testing when new browser versions are released. New and updated functionality is also tested against the latest version of supported browsers. However, due to the frequency of some browser releases, D2L cannot guarantee that each browser version will perform as expected. If you encounter any issues with any of the browser versions listed in the tables below, contact D2L Support, who will determine the best course of action for resolution. Reported issues are prioritized by supported browsers and then maintenance browsers.

Supported browsers are the latest or most recent browser versions that are tested against new versions of D2L products. Customers can report problems and receive

support for issues. For an optimal experience, D2L recommends using supported browsers with D2L products.

Maintenance browsers are older browser versions that are not tested extensively against new versions of D2L products. Customers can still report problems and receive support for critical issues; however, D2L does not guarantee all issues will be addressed. A maintenance browser becomes officially unsupported after one year.

Note the following:

- Ensure that your browser has JavaScript and Cookies enabled.
- For desktop systems, you must have Adobe Flash Player 10.1 or greater.
- The Brightspace Support features are now optimized for production environments when using the Google Chrome browser, Apple Safari browser, Microsoft Edge browser, Microsoft Internet Explorer browser, and Mozilla Firefox browsers.

Desktop Support

Browser	Supported Browser Version(s)	Maintenance Browser Version(s)
Microsoft® Edge	Latest	N/A
Microsoft® Internet Explorer®	N/A	11
Mozilla® Firefox®	Latest, ESR	N/A
Google® Chrome™	Latest	N/A
Apple® Safari®	Latest	N/A

Tablet and Mobile Support

Device	Operating System	Browser	Supported Browser Version(s)
Android™	Android 4.4+	Chrome	Latest
Apple	iOS®	Safari, Chrome	The current major version of iOS (the latest minor or point release of that major version) and the previous major version

Device	Operating System	Browser	Supported Browser Version(s)
			of iOS (the latest minor or point release of that major version). For example, as of June 7, 2017, D2L supports iOS 10.3.2 and iOS 9.3.5, but not iOS 10.2.1, 9.0.2, or any other version. Chrome: Latest version for the iOS browser.
Windows	Windows 10	Edge, Chrome, Firefox	Latest of all browsers, and Firefox ESR.

- You will need regular access to a computer with a broadband Internet connection. The minimum computer requirements are:
 - 512 MB of RAM, 1 GB or more preferred
 - Broadband connection required courses are heavily video intensive
 - Video display capable of high-color 16-bit display 1024 x 768 or higher resolution
- You must have a:
 - Sound card, which is usually integrated into your desktop or laptop computer
 - Speakers or headphones.
 - *For courses utilizing video-conferencing tools and/or an online proctoring solution, a webcam and microphone are required.
- Both versions of Java (32 bit and 64 bit) must be installed and up to date on your machine. At a minimum Java 7, update 51, is required to support the learning management system. The most current version of Java can be downloaded at: [JAVA web site http://www.java.com/en/download/manual.jsp](http://www.java.com/en/download/manual.jsp)
- Current anti-virus software must be installed and kept up to date.

Running the browser check will ensure your internet browser is supported.

Pop-ups are allowed.

JavaScript is enabled.

Cookies are enabled.

- You will need some additional free software (plug-ins) for enhanced web browsing. Ensure that you download the free versions of the following software:
 - [Adobe Reader](https://get.adobe.com/reader/) <https://get.adobe.com/reader/>
 - [Adobe Flash Player](https://get.adobe.com/flashplayer/) (version 17 or later) <https://get.adobe.com/flashplayer/>
 - [Adobe Shockwave Player](https://get.adobe.com/shockwave/) <https://get.adobe.com/shockwave/>
 - [Apple Quick Time](http://www.apple.com/quicktime/download/) <http://www.apple.com/quicktime/download/>
- At a minimum, you must have Microsoft Office 2013, 2010, 2007 or Open Office. Microsoft Office is the standard office productivity software utilized by faculty, students, and staff. Microsoft Word is the standard word processing software, Microsoft Excel is the standard spreadsheet software, and Microsoft PowerPoint is the standard presentation software. Copying and pasting, along with attaching/uploading documents for assignment submission, will also be required. If you do not have Microsoft Office, you can check with the bookstore to see if they have any student copies.

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@tamuc.edu.

Note: Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a TAMUC campus open computer lab, etc.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

Brightspace Support

Need Help?

Student Support

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your Instructor.

Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778 or click on the **Live Chat** or click on the words “[click here](#)” to submit an issue via email.



System Maintenance

D2L runs monthly updates during the last week of the month, usually on Wednesday. The system should remain up during this time unless otherwise specified in an announcement. You may experience minimal impacts to performance and/or look and feel of the environment.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Syllabus Change Policy

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance in Webinar or through email.

University Specific Procedures Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. (See current Student Guidebook).

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum: Netiquette

<http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html>

ADA Statement Students with Disabilities

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

Texas A&M University-Commerce

Gee Library- Room 132

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: Rebecca.Tuerk@tamuc.edu

Website: Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

<http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

Nondiscrimination Notice

Texas A&M University-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

Campus Concealed Carry

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun.

Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations. For a list of locations, please refer to

((<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>) and/or consult your event organizer). Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.