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<https://new.tamuc.edu/coronavirus/>

UNCO 1301.04E: Economics of Sex, Drugs, & Rock n' Roll

FALL 2022

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Dr. Jared Pickens, CFP® (assisted by Supplemental Instructors)

Office Location: BA 205 (2nd floor of College of Business)

Office Hours: By appointment or Mon/Wed/Fri between 12pm and 2pm.

Office/Cell Phone: (972) 546-0059

University Email Address: jared.pickens@tamuc.edu

Preferred Form of Communication: email or text

Communication Response Time: 24 hours Mon-Fri and occasional weekends. If urgent please text.

Supplemental Instructors

1. Mwahyna Katembo	mkatembo@leomail.tamuc.edu
2. Rashawna Wright	rwright18@leomail.tamuc.edu

COURSE INFORMATION

Course Meeting Times: M/W/F – 10:00 to 10:50 am; Room BA109 (Don't be late)

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

No textbooks required, but student will need access to computer with Microsoft Office® and a broadband internet connection. Students will use a collection of resources including video and texts.

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.

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Students will be able to analyze, evaluate, or solve problems when given a set of circumstances, data, texts, or art [Critical Thinking]
2. Students will communicate in a manner appropriate to audience and occasion in either written, oral and/or visual format with an evident message and organizational structure [Oral/Written Communication]
3. Students will demonstrate an understanding of societal and/or civic issues [Social Responsibility]

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

Students will need access to:

Computer (just having a phone will not work)
Broadband Internet
Microsoft Office®

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

YouTube
TikTok
Adobe Reader

Instructional Methods

We will learn via:

Lectures
Videos
Reading
Guest Speakers
Podcasts
Groupwork

Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course

- You must attend the lectures to pass this course.
- Be on time and turn phones off please. DO NOT SIT IN THE BACK ROW ☐
- Be ready to ask questions and take notes. Always take notes and be organized.
- If a student is absent from class, they should get notes from classmates.
- Communicate with your professor and SI's and if you have an issue come to us IMMEDIATELY.
- Have fun and take ownership for your success or failure in this course.

****MENTORING COMPONENT OF SIGNATURE COURSE****

Signature Courses have a new component to them called “Mentoring Friday” and “Mentoring meet-ups” are responsible for 10% of the UNCO 1301 course grade, split evenly into 6 grade items (1 item for each Mentoring Friday, and 1 item for all three mentoring meet-ups). The SI's are be responsible for instructing the material covered in the Mentoring Friday's on these dates during the scheduled UNCO 1301 class time

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

MENTORING FRIDAY DATES

Mentoring Friday's on these dates during the scheduled UNCO 1301 class time:

- 9/2: Un-Coding College: Secrets to a successful first year
- 9/23: Bringing my university life balance
- 10/14: My most epic fail: building failure immunity
- 11/11: Choosing your major and planning for your life
- 12/2: Money \$marts

GRADING

Final grades in this course will be based on the following scale:

A = 90%-100%

B = 80%-89%

C = 70%-79%

D = 60%-69%

F = 59% or Below

ASSESSMENT

Group Project / Lionizing Event (30%):

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 (40% each):

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

Mentoring Friday and Mentor Meetings (10%): Grade is split evenly into 6 grade items (1 item for each Mentoring Friday, and 1 item for all three mentoring meet-ups).

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:

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

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.

The Lionizing: a culminating event required of all sections of UNCO 1301. The instructor will determine the format of these final projects. Suggestions include poster presentations, short talks, installations, oral presentations and/or proposals, et cetera. A team of assessors will evaluate artifacts produced in the class using a rubric that will evaluate how well your project:

- Demonstrates critical thinking
- Demonstrates your understanding of your social responsibility
- Demonstrates your excellent written and oral communication skills

This assessment will not influence your grade; instead, it helps the First-Year TRAC initiative assess how well our Signature Courses are helping students meet important outcomes.

Tentative Course Schedule

Week	Dates	Due	Talking Points
1	08/29- 09/04	Academic Honesty	Introduction, Syllabus, Big 5 Assessment, Economics MF
2	09/05 - 09/11	Q1	Drugs Defined / Supply and Demand, Elasticity of S&D, Patent Laws & R/D, Pharmaceuticals
3	09/12 - 09/18	Q2	Opioid Crisis and Purdue Pharmaceuticals, Unemployment and Drugs, Incentives and Disincentives
4	09/19/- 09/25	Q3	Supply and Demand of Alcohol, Alcohol Use Disorders and Economic Costs, Alcohol Density Testing and Externalities MF
5	09/26 - 10/02	Q4	Texas and Cannabis Legalization, Economic Impact, Marginal Benefit Analysis of Cannabis Legalization in Texas, Externalities
6	10/03 - 10/09	Q5	Love, Sex, Marriage, and Divorce.
7	10/10 - 10/16	Q6	Porn industry and sex trafficking. Supply & demand and government regulations in sex industry. MF
8	10/17 - 10/23	Q7	Gender differences & discrimination. Economic growth and data.
9	10/24 - 10/30	Q8	How economists think and how to use thinking and tools related to online dating. What do economists do anyways?
10	10/31- 11/06	N/A	Copyright, collusion, and exploitation of music. Externalities and technological advances related to music. MF
11	11/07 - 11/13	Q9	"For the Love of The Game" labor markets, government subsidies and unions related to amateur and professional athletics.
12	11/14 - 11/20	Q10	"Popcorn Economics" the economics behind movie production including industry structure, business vs. art, and economic profit and probability of success.
13	11/21 - 11/27	Q11	
14	11/28 - 12/04	Q12	"Wanna Bet?" The addiction of gambling. Market efficiencies related to sports betting. The economics of casinos and gamin and regulation. MF
15	12/05 - 12/09	N/A	Work on group project.
16	12/10 - 12/14	Group Project Due	Complete group project.

NOTE: MF stands for Mentoring Friday. Please note that this schedule can and will likely change at the instructors discretion.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

LMS

All course sections offered by Texas A&M University-Commerce have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are technical requirements

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

LMS Requirements:

<https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements>

LMS Browser Support:

https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm

YouSeeU Virtual Classroom Requirements:

<https://support.youseeu.com/hc/en-us/articles/115007031107-Basic-System-Requirements>

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

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 (D2L), please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found here:

<https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>

Interaction with Instructor Statement

The instructor's communication response time and feedback on assessments are stated clearly.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures/Policies

Attendance/Lateness, Late Work, Missed Exams and Quizzes and Extra Credit

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

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.

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. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the [Student Guidebook](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx>

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum: <https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette>

TAMUC Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf>

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>

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Students with Disabilities-- ADA Statement

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

Velma K. Waters Library Rm 162

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

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: studentdisabilityservices@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 Statement

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 the [Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](#) document and/or consult your event organizer.

Web url:

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

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.

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A&M-Commerce Supports Students' Mental Health

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

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

Current semester by specific dates

**Remember to include mention of The Lionizing: TBD

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