

# ECNS 101 – THE ECONOMIC WAY OF THINKING

Fall 2024

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<b>Office:</b>	See D2L for link.	<b>Office Hours:</b>	Thursdays, 3-5
<b>Teaching Assistant:</b>	Kasslyn Baldry	<b>Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:kasslyn.baldry@student.montana.edu">kasslyn.baldry@student.montana.edu</a>
<b>TA Office Hours:</b>	Tuesday, 1-2 PM	<b>Location:</b>	Linfield 404

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## Course Description

Economics is the study of how society manages its scarce resources; in other words, economics is the study of choices. This course introduces the principles economists have developed for understanding how choices are made, and the implications of these choices for social well-being.

This is a Montana State University Core course. The course will develop your ability to think and solve problems through the lens of economics. We will discuss many types of markets, ranging from regional markets in Bozeman and Montana to international markets, which will help you become a local and global citizen. Your ability to solve economic problems and your understanding of both local and global markets will be assessed throughout the course in homework assignments, tests, and exams.

## Textbook and Materials

Required assignments will be completed through MindTap, hosted by the software Cengage Unlimited. Purchasing access to this software includes an access code for MindTap, which is where you will find the virtual course textbook: MindTap for Mankiw's Principles of Economics, 9th Edition. A couple notes:

- Purchasing access to MindTap is required for this course to complete graded assignments including quizzes and homework assignments.
- MindTap must be accessed through the course D2L page and not through the Cengage website. Please link to MindTap by clicking on "Online, ECNS 101, Fall 2024" in the "MindTap Link" tab on the course D2L page by the end of the first week of the course. You will be prompted to purchase access, register an access code, or use temporary access. If you use temporary access, you will have about two weeks to purchase access or enter an access code; you will be able to complete assignments during this period.
- The first time you access MindTap, please enter your MSU Student ID (without the preceding dash) when prompted as this will be an identifier for inputting test and exam scores.
- MindTap will give you access to an online textbook; you do not need to purchase an online textbook from the bookstore. You are welcome to but it is not required.
- Popups needs to be enabled for the MindTap website to function properly.

## Assignments and Grading

- **Chapter quizzes (10%):** Found under the "Read the Chapter" tab on MindTap. (Note: these are not the "Quick Quizzes", which are not required and are for practice only.)
- **Homework exercises (20%):** Found under the "Do Your Homework" tab on MindTap.

- **Problems & applications (20%):** Found under the “Do Your Homework” tab on MindTap.
- **Discussion posts (10%):** Found under the “Discussions” section on D2L. Discussions will be typically every week and will focus on current events.
- **Lecture video participation (5%):** Found under the “Content” section on D2L. I want to incentivize you to engage with the course materials (especially given this course is online). For each lecture video, if you watch the entirety of the video (by the associated exam), you receive full credit.
- **Three exams (25%):** Found under the “Quizzes” section on D2L. You will have a week to complete exams. These are closed book exams and there are no makeup exams.
- **Final exam (10%):** Found under the “Quizzes” section on D2L. You will have a week to complete the final exam. There are no makeup opportunities for the final exam.

**Grading Scale:** A (93-100), A- (90-92), B+ (87-89), B (83-86), B- (80-82), C+ (77-79), C (73-76), C- (70-72), D+ (67-69), D (63-66), D- (60-62), F (<60). All grades rounded up from .45, e.g., 89.45 = 90. I will automatically round up grades at the end of the semester – please do not email me asking me to do so.

**Extra Credit and Late Work Policy:** There will be no extra credit assignments to make up for missed assignments or low grades. Montana State University has a generous withdrawal deadline of November 17th (i.e., when you can drop the course with a “W”). If you are worried about your grade, get in touch with me as soon as possible. As a general rule, late work is not accepted. That said, reasonable accommodations will nearly always be granted. Email me if circumstances arise that require additional time to complete assignments and I will likely allow it.

### Email Policy

Given this class is online, email correspondence will be our main form of communication. Generally speaking, the more information you provide in your email, the more helpful I can be. I will generally reply to emails within 24 hours. If I do not respond within 24 hours, please consider below:

- I only respond to emails that are respectful and professionally written. Like you, I have feelings. This applies to communication with TA’s as well.
- Replies on the weekend may be delayed. Given that assignments are due on the weekend, I generally check my email often but there may be instances where my reply takes longer than it would during the week.

### Undergraduate Resources

- **Undergraduate Study Rooms:** There is an undergraduate economics study room in Linfield Hall 404 and a computer room in Linfield Hall Room 409A. They are open Monday - Friday from 8 am to 5 pm.
- **Teaching Assistants:** In addition to my office hours, a TA is available to help you with the material and homework. You are welcome to email them for assistance as well.
- **Optional Directed Study Lab:** An optional one-credit directed study lab is available for ECNS 101 students this semester. Interested students should enroll in ECNS 105 Study in the Economic Way of Thinking. Students in ECNS 101 are not required to enroll in this course, but the course will provide supplemental weekly meetings taught by peer instructors. ECNS 105 is a graded, one credit course, based on attendance and completion of assignments. Research from previous semesters indicates that students who enrolled in the study labs performed better on exams, showed greater improvement in exam scores, and were less likely to drop out over the course of the semester than did other ECNS 101 students. **Because of this, enrollment in ECNS 105 is strongly recommended.**

### Additional Information:

1. If you desire accommodations for a disability, please contact me to discuss. Requests for accommodations for disability must be received and authorized by me no less than two weeks in advance of need in order to allow adequate time to review and make appropriate arrangements. No accommodation should be assumed until authorized.
2. I follow the policies in the MSU Policy and Procedure Manual with regard to cheating, plagiarism, and academic dishonesty. A grade of zero will be given for any assignment or examination on which the student is in violation of a policy, and the incident will be reported to the Office of the Dean of Students. I reserve the right to refuse to sign a drop form if cheating has been committed on an examination.
3. I expect you to follow the MSU Student Conduct Code. No form of harassment is tolerated.
4. I adhere to the policies in the MSU Catalog on assigning grades of incomplete. I only award a grade of incomplete upon the student proving there was such a hardship that would render it unjust to hold the student to the time limits previously assigned for the completion of his/her work.
5. Any student desiring to observe a religious holiday must contact me before the absence. Regarding assignments due on a religious holiday, it is preferable that they be submitted before observance; however, the due date will be extended to the next school day following the holiday if the student chooses.
6. I adhere to the policies in the MSU Catalog on change of grades. Final grades will not be changed except in the case of clerical error on my part or if it was fraudulently obtained. I will not allow additional time to complete the work of a course or allow the student to submit work or to take or retake examinations after the conclusion of the semester.
7. I encourage students to come to my office hours and get assistance on understanding various concepts. Please keep me informed of any extraordinary circumstances that may hinder your academic success in this course. If you cannot attend my office hours due to scheduling conflicts, please email me to set a time that is convenient for you.
8. The information in this syllabus, including the schedule and grading scale is not concrete. Any changes to the syllabus will be discussed in class.
9. MSU strives to create a culture of support and recognizes that your mental health and wellness are equally as important as your physical health. When you experience difficulties emotionally, mentally, and personally, there are several resources on campus:
  - [Medical Services](#)
  - [Suicide Prevention](#)
  - [Substance Use](#)
  - [Counseling & Psychological Services](#)
10. Lauren's Promise: **I will listen and believe you if someone is threatening you.** Lauren McCluskey, a 21-year-old honors student athlete, was murdered on Oct. 22, 2018, by a man she briefly dated on the University of Utah Campus. We must all take actions to ensure this never happens again. Any form of sexual harassment or violence will not be excused or tolerated at Montana State University. If you are experiencing sexual assault, relationship violence, or stalking, you can take the following actions:
  - If you are in immediate danger, call 911.

- Report it to me, and I will connect you to resources.
- Seek confidential sources of support and help:

### Class Summary and Schedule

Week	Content	Book Chapter
Aug. 19 - 25	Course Introduction	—
Aug. 26 - Sept. 1	Introduction to Economics	Chapt. 1
Sept. 2 - Sept. 8	Thinking like an Economist	Chapt. 2
Sept. 9 - Sept. 15	Interdependence and Gains from Trade	Chapt. 3
Sept. 16 - Sept. 22	<b>Exam 1</b>	—
Sept. 23 - Sept. 29	The Market Forces of Supply and Demand	Chapt. 4
Sept. 30 - Oct. 6	Elasticity and Its Applications	Chapt. 5
Oct. 7 - Oct. 13	Supply, Demand, and Government Policies	Chapt. 6
Oct. 14 - Oct. 20	<b>Exam 2</b>	—
Oct. 21 - Oct. 27	Consumers, Producers, and Efficiency of Markets	Chapt. 7
Oct. 28 - Nov. 3	Externalities (Part 1)	Chapt. 10
Nov. 4 - Nov. 10	Externalities (Part 2)	Chapt. 10
Nov. 11 - Nov. 17	Public Goods and Common Resources	Chapt. 11
Nov. 18 - Nov. 24	<b>Exam 3</b>	—
Nov. 25 - Dec. 1	<b>Fall break</b>	—
Dec. 2 - Dec. 8	Course Review	—
Dec. 9 - Dec. 15	<b>Final exam</b>	—