

May 2024

Dear ECON150 Student:

Welcome to the on-line course ECON150L721 (Economics of Social Issues) for Summer 2024. This course is an 8-week course that begins on Monday, June 3, 2024, and ends on Friday, July 26, 2024.

Economics of Social Issues is designed to provide you with an understanding of many social issues from an economics perspective. Economics is a social science that focuses on how people (both individually and in a group) use resources in the presence of scarcity. Economists are also concerned with the distributional aspects of resources and the ramifications of resource use. The primary objective of this course is to familiarize you with basic economic concepts and theories that have been developed to explain economic issues that we face, the decisions that we make, and the policies that are implemented.

The required textbook is Issues in Economics Today by Robert Guell, 10th edition, copyright 2024, McGraw-Hill Irwin Higher Education Publisher, ISBN-13: 978-1266368509. The book is available at the Marist College Bookstore, as well as through Amazon and other book distributors for rental or purchase.

- We will be using the textbook and Marist's Brightspace platform.
- Make sure that you get the 10th edition! Throughout the course, I will refer to particular chapters, pages, and problems in the textbook and it is critical that we are in sync with each other.

As you can imagine, we will be covering a lot of material in a relatively short time. To get the most out of the course, it is crucial that you keep up with the material on a weekly basis. Each week you will be required to keep up with the assigned readings, which will consist of the textbook chapters and their corresponding lecture notes. Your knowledge of the assigned chapters will be reinforced with a weekly homework assignment. Each week you will also be expected to participate in a discussion topic. Towards the end of the semester, you will be asked to submit a written analysis of an economic situation. The analysis might involve some online research.

One of the features of an online course is the flexibility to work when you want and where you want. However, the luxury of falling behind one week and catching up in a subsequent week is not an option. In order to keep the class on an even pace throughout the course, there will be specified due dates for the assignments, discussion postings, and the written analyses. I will try to be reasonable about the due dates but there will be no exceptions for missing the deadlines. Also, any discussion postings that are made after a discussion topic closes will be ignored.

To get started, please read the Syllabus. It can be obtained by clicking on the "Syllabus" tool located on the toolbar on the left side of your screen.

Also, within the first week of class, I would like you to post a short bio-sketch in which you tell the class who you are, where you live, where you work, what you expect to get out of the course, etc.

If you have any questions or concerns, I can be reached via email at [della.lee.sue@marist.edu](mailto:della.lee.sue@marist.edu). I check my email several times each day.

Once again, welcome to the course in Economics of Social Issues!

Sincerely,

Dr. Della L. Sue  
Assistant Professor of Economics  
Department of Economics, Accounting and Finance