

Bridgewater State College
ECON XXX: Economic Issues from Around the World
Section-
Fall 2006- Sep 08-Dec 22
Syllabus (Preliminary version)

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Class meetings:
Location:
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INSTRUCTIONS FOR USING BLACKBOARD

We will use Electronic Blackboard for this course. *You are required to check your BSC e-mail and the Blackboard site regularly for announcements and updates. It is your responsibility to make sure that your BSC e-mail account is active and working.*

For help in using Blackboard, click on this link

http://blackboard.bridgew.edu/student_help/quickstart_sheets/quickstart_tips.htm.

Students can enroll themselves. These are the steps students will take to enroll in your Blackboard course(s):

1. Go to <http://blackboard.bridgew.edu>
2. Click the **Course Catalog** button
3. Locate your course name from the course listing
4. Click the **Enroll** button next to your course name
5. Enter your Blackboard username and password. Click the **Login** button
6. Click the **Submit** button to enroll in the course
7. You are now enrolled in the course. Click the **OK** button to proceed into your course.

YOU MUST ENROLL INTO BLACKBOARD BY (date). THERE WILL BE NO EXCEPTIONS TO THIS. FOR HELP WITH BLACKBOARD CALL- X2555

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Have you ever wondered how the other six-sevenths of the world live? It is not only the oceans and time difference that separates us but much more. *One in every five* people on *our* Earth survives on less than \$1 a day. Over 1.0 billion people in developing countries – one person in five – lack access to safe water and 2.4 billion lack access to basic sanitation. Malaria causes 3,000 deaths each day - 10 new cases every second - are in Africa. Three-fifths of the 115 million children out of school are girls. More than \$1 trillion is paid in bribes each year. Indoor Air Pollution (IAP) may be responsible for 2 million excess deaths in developing countries. So let us find out how economics helps us to recognize, understand and make a difference to the world around us. The basic idea behind this course is to introduce you to global economic issues. This course deals with how economics relates to current, everyday newspaper headlines and television news stories from around the world. We will focus mainly on issues related to the eight *UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)*.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

At the successful completion of this course, students will:

1. Understand economic concepts related to compelling global issues, real-world public policy decisions and their outcomes.
2. Demonstrate an understanding of economic issues, events and policy controversies and develop your own perspectives based on sound reasoning.
3. Develop basic research skills through data collection /analysis and complete projects that require use of technology and will help in improving presentation and collaborative skills.

COURSE MATERIALS

Note that there is no textbook assigned for this class. This is because the topics covered are very diverse ranging from poverty to pollution and I did not find a comprehensive textbooks dealing with all the topics that we will cover in this course.

Class handouts, PowerPoint slides for every lecture and materials posted on the Blackboard will form the main study materials. There will be pre-assigned readings for every class. Our main website is <http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/>. I will also provide a list of websites for the major topics that will be covered in this course.

LECTURE TOPICS AND READINGS

Readings are assigned from the text, and are given in the schedule below. **You are required to go through the assigned readings before each class. Please pay careful attention to the schedule given below.** This is a tentative schedule and some changes may be made from time to time. **Please mark your calendars for the Midterm and Final Exam dates.**

<u>Week # & Dates</u>	<u>Topic Schedule</u>	<u>Readings</u>	<u>Quizzes & Exams</u>
1	Discussion of the syllabus, Introduction		
2	United Nations and the Eight Millennium Development Goals		
3	Poverty and Hunger		
4	Provision of Education in the United States and the third World: A Comparative Analysis		
5	Promotion of Gender Equality, Empowerment of Women		
6	Health- Sanitation, Child Mortality and other topics.		
7	Unemployment, Income Inequality		
8	Project Presentation I		
9	HIV/AIDS, Malaria and other diseases.		
10	Externalities and the Environment		
11	Major World Development Organizations: History, Structure and Functions.		
12	Project Presentation II		
13	Develop a Global Partnership for a better world. Where are we now and where do we plan to be in 2015?		
14	Additional Topics (TBA)		
15	REVIEW FOR FINAL EXAM		
	FINAL EXAM		

THE WORLD AROUND YOU- Reading and Listening Suggestions

How do you know what you have learned? The study of Economics is incomplete until and unless we can apply it to the world around us. Monitoring the following media sources will improve your understanding of economics in everyday life and it will keep you up to date on current events.

The examples presented in class will be mostly from the current events. Your participation in the discussions will help in understanding the concepts in a better way.

Newspapers

1. BBC news <http://www.bbc.co.uk/?ok>
2. Boston Globe <http://www.boston.com/news/globe/>
3. The New York Times <http://www.nytimes.com/>

Magazines

1. Business Week www.businessweek.com
2. The Economist www.economist.com

GRADING

Your performance in this course will be graded using the following grade allocation.

Quizzes: 40% (4 quizzes, 10% each)

Class presentation: 10%

Final: 20%

Research Paper*: 30%

*Detailed guidelines about the research paper and class presentations will be provided during the first week of classes.

A	100-90
A-	89-85
B+	84-80
B	79-75
B-	74-70
C	69-65
C-	64-60
D	59-55
F	Less than 55

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Each student is advised to attend class regularly because much of the material on the weekly quizzes and exams are from class lectures. It is difficult to pass the course by reading the text on your own. In addition to formal grading, attendance and class participation will be taken into account in the determination of final grades.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

Academic honesty is expected of all students; plagiarism and cheating are not condoned and are subject to academic penalty, which may be failure for the course in which the violation took place. A record of the violation is kept and repeated offenses may result in suspension or dismissal from the college. Please refer to the Student Handbook 2005-2006 for the details.

<http://www.bridgew.edu/Handbook/PoliciesProcedures/academicmisconduct.cfm>